

# Safe distances

Working safely around our Networks Overhead Assets



# Presenters

**Zoe Jamieson** : HSE Business Partner  
Taranaki & Whanganui regions



# We bring electricity and gas to 1.1 million customers across the North Island

There's a lot that goes into bringing light and heat to your home or business. We're proud to play an important part thanks to the lines, cables and pipes we own.

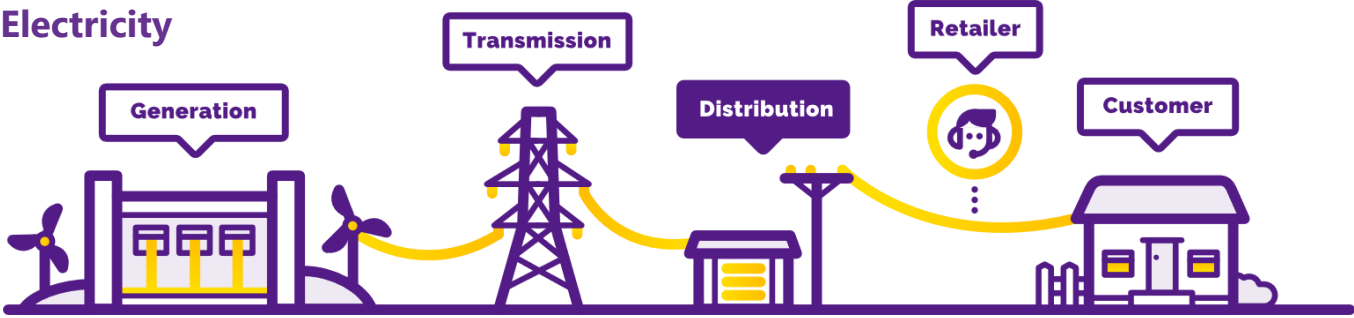
\*based on FY19 figures

# Our part in bringing energy to you

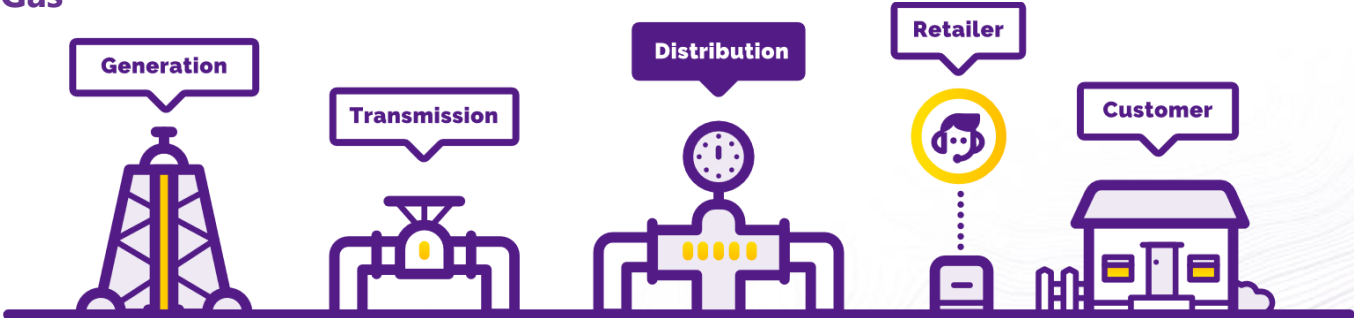
Powerco are a Distributor – its our job to look after the assets like the powerlines, power poles and ground mounted Transformers.

Keeping these assets working, upgraded & repaired (after faults) means you, your business and the shops can continue using electricity

## Electricity



## Gas



# Our electricity network

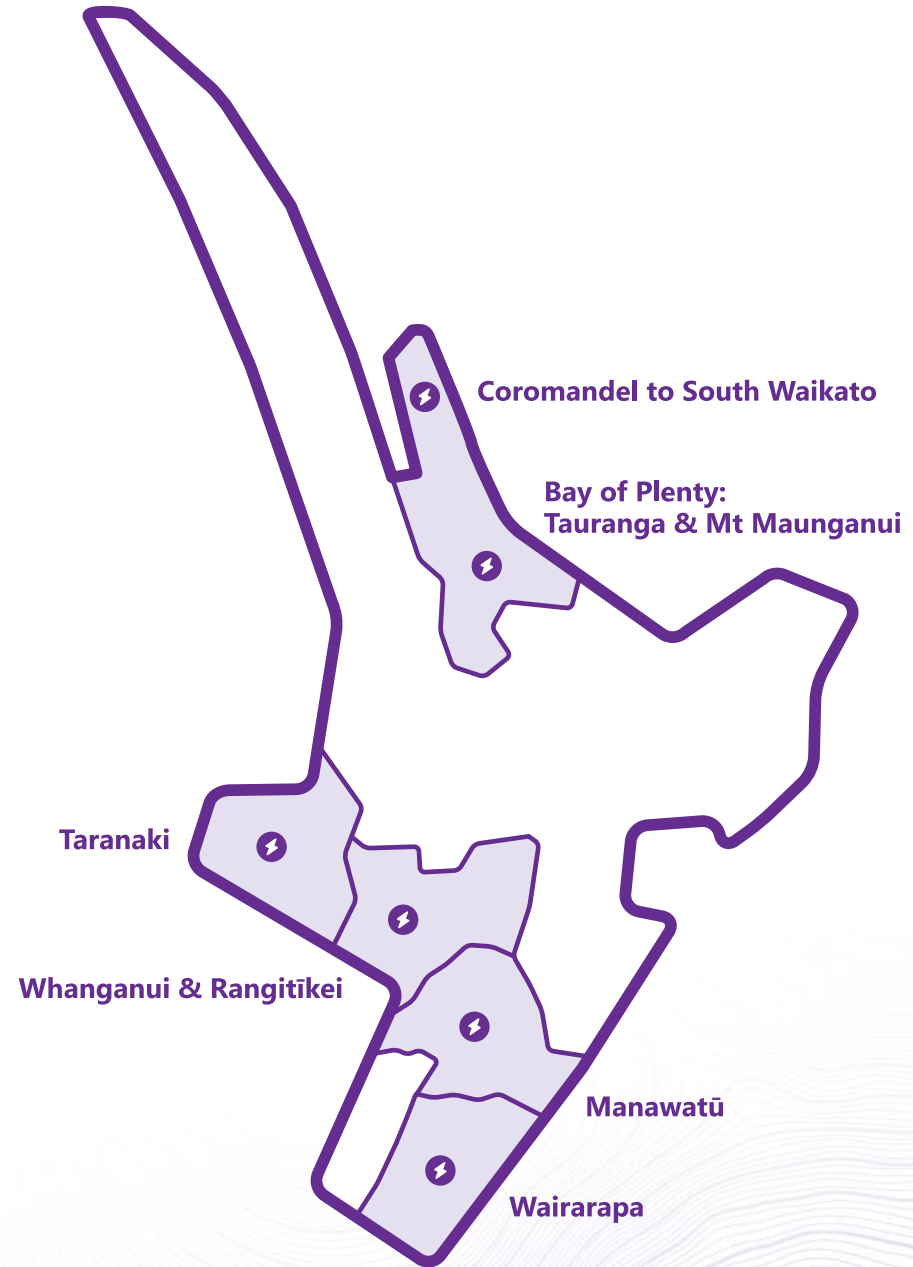
Powerco is New Zealand's largest electricity utility by the area we serve.

28,441

Kilometres of lines and cables covered by our network.

344,000

Homes, businesses and industries connected to us.





# Look up! Beware of overhead power lines

## The Troy Hall story

Bay of Plenty orchard worker Troy Hall survived two electric shocks after getting too close to overhead lines while working.

Watch his story about respecting the power of electricity.

<https://www.powerco.co.nz/who-we-are/our-campaigns/orchard-safety>





# West Auckland scaffolder left double amputee after electric shock credits survival to family's love



By Lane Nichols

23 Jul, 2022 05:00 AM 6 mins to read

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West Auckland scaffolder Jahden Nelson in his Middlemore Hospital bed with daughter Valley Rose, 3, on the left, and son Kaiser, 2. Photo / Supplied


A scaffolder who had both arms amputated after suffering an electric shock on a West Auckland building site says he's slowly healing and happy to be alive for the sake of his three young children.



# Father killed after crane touched overhead powerlines in Auckland suburb of Greenhithe

4:08 pm on 13 August 2023

Share this     

By Bernard Orsman of  nzherald.co.nz



Wesley Talakai with his wife Tasha and two boys. Photo: Supplied / NZME

The father of a Christian homeschool family, Wesley Talakai, is the person who died when a raised crane touched power lines in the Auckland suburb of Greenhithe last weekend.



# NZ ECP 34 – What is it?

The NZ Electrical Code of Practice – a legislative requirement under the Electricity Act, focused on electrical safe distances and keeping people safe.





# Key points of the code (ECP34)

- Ensure structures remain well clear of overhead lines
- Consider the risk of encroaching on safe distances when engaging contractors (roofing, scaffolding, sign installers, etc.)
- Consider how maintenance providers will complete tasks on buildings or structures
- **Minimum approach distances (MADs)** are clearly set out in the code and will vary dependent on the voltage (kV) and type of line
- **Councils do not enforce these rules** as part of the building process or compliance sign off

## Building near power lines

If constructing a building near power lines, **NZEC:34 – Electrical Safe Distances** sets out minimum distances required between the building or structure and overhead power lines.



# Close Approach Consent

Permission for people other than Powerco approved contractors to work within the minimum safe distances of our network

- Consent form found on Powerco's website – [powerco.co.nz](https://www.powerco.co.nz)

**IMPORTANT: A Close Approach Consent does approve the design and positioning of any permanent structure in relation to the lines**







# Online safety resources – [powerco.co.nz/safety](https://powerco.co.nz/safety)

We have electricity and gas public safety resources, including minimum safe distances, on our website and [worksafe.govt.nz](https://worksafe.govt.nz)

## Working together to stay safe

We want everyone who lives and works near our networks to be safe. Whether you use electricity, gas or both it's important to be aware of the overhead lines above you, and the cables and pipes underground so you can keep clear of them and avoid being harmed. Make sure you know what to do in an emergency, and if you see anything you're concerned about let us know.



### Electricity safety

Taking care of the electricity assets on your property, trimming trees and building near lines.

[Learn more](#)



### Gas safety

Taking care of your gas assets and what to do if you smell gas.

[Learn more](#)



### Safety around our networks

Keeping clear of overhead lines and underground cables and pipes.  
Arranging temporary disconnections.

[Learn more](#)



### Powerco assets on your property

How we work with you if we have gas or electricity equipment on your property.

[Learn more](#)



## Emergency

If there's imminent danger, such as fallen lines or a gas leak, call us immediately (24/7).

## What to do

Electricity

0800 27 27 27

# Thank you

[powerco.co.nz](http://powerco.co.nz)