

**SUBMISSION ON A RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION  
SECTIONS 93(2) & 96 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**



To: Buller District Council  
C/- West Coast Regional Council  
PO Box 66  
Greymouth

Copy to: Meridian Energy Limited  
PO Box 2454  
Christchurch



**APPLICANT:** MERIDIAN ENERGY LTD

**Closing date for submissions is Wednesday, 23 April 2008**

**Submitter Details**

Name: Annette and Michael Hamblett  
(full name)

Address: 11 Hewitts Road, Christchurch 8014  
(full postal address)

Correspondence to be sent to the following name and address: (if different to above)

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone No: 03 3650560

Fax No: N.A.

Email: mhamblett@xtra.co.nz

I/we **support** the application numbers ticketed on the back of this form  (tick one)  
I/we **oppose** the application numbers ticketed on the back of this form

My/our submission is that: \_\_\_\_\_  
(state in summary the nature of your submission. Clearly indicate whether you support or oppose  
the specific proposal, or wish to have amendments made, giving reasons)

We are in opposition to the application  
because of the loss of biodiversity,  
modification of natural values,  
recreation effects, loss of historical  
values and wilderness loss.

(See attached sheet for details.)

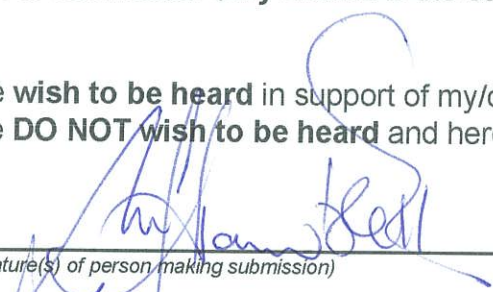
We seek the following decision from the Local Authority: \_\_\_\_\_  
(give precise details)

That the consent authority decline the application in its entirety.

Use the tick boxes to indicate the resource consent application(s) your submission concerns. Write a clear tick in the appropriate box(es).

We make my/our submission concerning **all** the consent applications listed below   
My/our submission **only** concerns the consent applications ticked below

We **wish to be heard** in support of my/our submission.   
I/we **DO NOT wish to be heard** and hereby make my/our submission in writing only.

  
(signature(s) of person making submission)

20.4.08  
(Date)

 20/04/08  
(If this is a joint submission by 2 or more individuals, each individual's signature is required)

We **have** served a copy of my/our submission on Meridian Energy Ltd as per Section 96(4) of the RMA

Consent list:

- RC07/180-A Land use activities associated with Dam, Staging Area & Associated Infrastructure
- RC07/180-B Land use activities associated with the Inundation Area
- RC07/180-C Land use activities associated with the Walking track
- RC07/180-D Land use activities associated with the Dam Access Road & Power Supply
- RC07/180-E Land use activities associated with Transmission Poles/Lines, Substation & Access Tracks
- RC07/180-F Land use activities associated with the Boat ramp/jetty
- RC07/180-G Land use activities associated with the Log Boom
- RC07/180-H Land use activities associated with the Use and Storage of Hazardous Substances

We oppose the application by Meridian Energy Ltd relating to a purpose hydro scheme on the Mokihinui for the following reasons:

### **Loss of biodiversity and modification of natural values**

The proposed dam will require Meridian to flood the Mokihinui Gorge. The gorge is a wilderness area with significant beech forests and ancient podocarps. The proposed transmission lines go through two 'ecological areas', designated as such for their high natural heritage values. We are opposed to the loss of this rich wilderness area.

The Mokihinui River is ranked seventh in the national database of water bodies of national importance because of its natural values. NIWA has identified the Mokihinui River as 'nationally important for aquatic biodiversity values'. Water quality is excellent, which is very rare for rivers of the size of the Mokihinui in New Zealand. When creating the lake for the scheme it is highly likely that there will be a number of slips going into the lake. It is difficult to see what could be done to avoid or remedy these.

Wildlife in the river and surrounding forests include whitebait (koaro predominantly), long finned eel, giant kokopu, blue duck (whio), long-tailed bats, Powelliphanta snails, kereru, and western weka. Habitat for 16 threatened species will be adversely affected. By removing some of their habitat, these species risk becoming more endangered than they are at present.

The dam would prevent many fish (including 12 native species of which four are endangered) from getting out to sea to breed. Long fin eels are at high risk as a species already exploited in other places.

We are concerned that according to a report table in Parliament, Meridian's own commissioned report, looking at ways the biodiversity impacts of the dam could be offset, stated the proposed hydro-dam will be disastrous for biodiversity.

### **Recreation use and historical values**

The area that would be affected by the proposed dam is enjoyed by a range of people for river recreation, particularly white water kayaking, rafting and fishing, as well as for hunting, tramping, mountain biking and by those with an interest in historical routes. (The old pack route will be affected if the proposal proceeds.) The proposed scheme will very likely have effects on fishing through land disturbance, changes in flows and fish passage problems. Current access is not difficult for people, as claimed by Meridian.