

Christine and Stephen Rose
355 Foster Rd
RD 1
HUAPAI

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
16 APR 2008
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THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Saturday 12 April 2008

West Coast Regional Council
PO Box 66
GREYMOUTH 7805
info@wrc.govt.nz

Chief Executive		
Mgr Operations		
Mgr Community & Environment	✓	
Mgr Corporate Services		

Buller District Council
PO Box 21
WESTPORT 7866
info@bdc.govt.nz

To whom it may concern,

Resource consent application for the Meridian Energy hydro-electricity scheme on the Mokihinui River

We submit in opposition to the application by Meridian Energy to dam the Mokihinui River for hydro-electricity generation. We have been regular visitors to the West Coast of the South island for decades. We value the experience of these ecosystems, their habitat, and unspoilt character. Even if we had never visited the area however, we still believe that this complex ecosystem is one that needs to be enhanced or at least protected in its existing state. This is a matter of significant importance regardless of its use value given the high ranking of its intrinsic values. We are aware for example of its ranking as the seventh most important river in the country under the Waterbodies of National Importance assessment.

The sheer scale of the works in this catchment make the proposal unsustainable and indefensible. The fact that a 85 metre dam is proposed, that 14 kilometres of gorge will be flooded and that 330 hectares of forest will be drowned will lead to more than minor adverse impacts on ecosystems, biodiversity, natural character, freshwater habitat, species, animals and plants, that can not possibly be mitigated and will be irreversibly damaged forever. Given that these threatened values include habitat for and inhabitation of blue duck, long finned eel, weka, great spotted kiwi, kereru, kakariki and the long tailed bat, all endangered or threatened indigenous species, the application should be declined.

This area is one of great beauty and value. This proposal will displace and destroy animal inhabitants and devalue the area for humans of current and future generations. Kiwi, bats and blue duck particularly are already under significant pressure, intact and complex ecosystems such as this must be preserved to ensure species' populations and habitats have resilience for current tenuous existence and future recovery.

There are alternative renewable and sustainable ways of generating electricity other than damming our precious rivers.

We ask that the Resource Consent applications be declined in their entirety.

Yours truly,



Christine and Stephen Rose
BA,Hons, Cert Env Law.