

BULLER DISTRICT COUNCIL
22 APR 2008
Per

RECEIVED
24 APR 2008
THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL



**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: GRAMHAM HOWARD
(full name)

Address: 17 DROWAITZ RD - WESTPORT
(full postal address)

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

Phone No: 03-789-8767

Fax No: _____

Email: _____

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)

PTD

I/we seek the following decision from the Local Authority: _____
(give precise details)

To grant the application by Meridian Energy to build and run a hydro power generating plant on the Mokinihui River as they propose. To build the tracks and other outdoor areas in their proposal and maintain them for use by the general public.

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

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

* I/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.

J. Howard (signature(s) of person making submission) 15-4-08 (Date)

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

I/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

* IF HELD IN WESTPORT OR MOKINIHUI AREA.

A hydro power station in the Buller area should give an assurance of supply to the region, possibly lower our power charges, give a wonderful aquatic sports area plus, as Meridian Energy Ltd. have outlined in their proposal, open up the Mokihinui area for greater outdoor recreational possibilities eg. Fishing, hunting, tramping and family activities, thus encouraging more visitors to the Buller District and longer stays.

*Much has been said about loss of habitat for endangered species if Meridian Energy's application is granted but one must wonder about the validity of the conservationists claims (only 500 rare snails at Stockton yet **over six thousand have been found to date and more are still being found** as just one example.) Most wild life will shift to higher ground as water rises, most fish and ducks will shift to areas in a lake that suit them and Meridian appear to have covered the migratory fish with a catch and lift system. It must also be doubted how many whitebait spawn in the fast flowing waters of the Rough & Tumble area of the Mokihinui river or even venture that far up the river.*

From the scenic point of view there are dozens of rivers on the Coast that have scenic views equal to or better than those on the area of the Mokihinui river that would be flooded.

The loss of app. 330ha. of vegetation (bush etc.) is minute when compared with the hundreds of thousands of ha. of native bush and vegetation in Conservation/National Park area on the West Coast of New Zealand.

Wind farms have, at times, been said to be the answer to New Zealand's electricity requirements but in reality it could be said they are nothing more than another part time generating system that needs a back up.

Hydro power generation is probably the most eco friendly and safest form of power generation there is in the world today.

*The benefits to the Buller District and the whole of New Zealand by Meridian Energy generating electricity on the Mokihinui River **far outweigh** the small loss of native forest and touted disadvantages to wildlife.*
