

Whanau Pihawai West

23 April 2008

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GREYMOOUTH

To: West Coast Regional Council & Buller District Council

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Consent List

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Mokihinui River | | Earthworks and Vegetation | |
| consents RC07150/1 – RC07150/6 | ☐ | consents RC07150/14 – RC07150/19 | ☐ |
| Inundation Area | | General Construction | |
| consents RC07150/7 – RC07150/8 | ☐ | consents RC07150/20 – RC07150/23 | ☐ |
| Staging Area | | Access Roads, Walking Tracks and Recreational Activities | |
| consents RC07150/9 – RC07150/10 | ☐ | consents RC07150/24 – RC07150/26 | ☐ |
| Substation and Transmission | | | |
| consents RC07150/11 – RC07150/13 | ☐ | | |

Buller District council consents

Buller District Plan - Relevant Resource Consent Applied For:

<p>Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/160-A</p>	<p>Dam, Staging Area & Associated Infrastructure.</p>	<p>To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance to construct, use and maintain a roller compacted concrete dam, diversion channel, penstocks, powerhouse, substation, tail race, staging area (including aggregate extraction pit, stockpiling area, production plant, buildings exceeding bulk and height, settling ponds, diesel generators, water tanks), rock quarries, haul roads, permanent access roads, parking areas, tracks, substation and transformers, communication system; and associated infrastructure on and adjacent to the bed of the Mokihinui River. Noise and vibrations emissions from construction and lighting.</p> <p>Located approximately at the grid reference: NZMS 260 L28: 2916-6096</p>	<p>In perpetuity</p>
<p>Land Use Consent. Consent Number RC07/160-B</p>	<p>Inundation Area</p>	<p>To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance to establish, repair and maintain the lake; and associated infrastructure including but not limited to slope stabilisation structures.</p> <p>Located approximately at the grid reference: between: reference between: NZMS 260 L28: 2916-6096 and 3974-6201</p>	<p>In perpetuity</p>
<p>Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/160-C</p>	<p>Walking track</p>	<p>To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance to construct, use and maintain an access track on the true left bank of the Mokihinui River; and associated infrastructure. To erect information signs about the dam and heritage sites</p> <p>Located approximately at the grid reference: between: NZMS 260 L26: 2907-6072 and 4143-6208</p>	<p>In perpetuity</p>

Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/180-D	Dam Access Road & Power Supply	To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance: to upgrade, use and maintain the existing Mokihini-Seddonville road and bridges from the intersection with State Highway 67 to the construction site, erect new bridge at Burkes Ck; and to construct, use and maintain 33kV power poles and lines; and associated infrastructure. Located approximately at the grid reference between: NZMS 260 L26: 2366-6355 and 2913-6066	In perpetuity
Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/180-E	Transmission Poles, Lines, Substation and Access Tracks	To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance: to construct, use and maintain 110 kV transmission poles, lines, substation, storage and use of hazardous substances, and lighting and access tracks. Located approximately at the grid reference between: NZMS 260 L26: 2916-6096 and L29: 1347-3909	In perpetuity
Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/180-F	Boat ramp/jetty	To undertake earthworks and vegetation clearance to construct, use and maintain the boat launching ramp and jetty facility, and associated infrastructure adjacent to the lake. Located approximately at the grid reference: NZMS 260 L28: 2936-6075	In perpetuity
Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/180-G	Log Boom	To erect, use and maintain a log boom on the surface of the lake and associated infrastructure, including log handling facilities. Located approximately at the grid reference: NZMS 260 L28: 2936-6075	In perpetuity
Land Use Consent Consent Number RC07/180-H	Hazardous Substances	To use and store hazardous substances during the construction and the operation of the scheme. Located approximately at the grid reference: NZMS 260 L28: 2916-6096	In perpetuity

Meridian Energy Limited seeks to extend the statutory lapsing period for all the above resource consents to 10 years.

Our Background and Interests: We are tangata whenua living on the Te Tai o Poutini. We have whakapapa connections from our ancient tupuna onto Tuhuru and his eldest child Nihorere to the awa Mokihinui. We regularly tramp and re-create in our rohe and enjoy the natural connectedness of this place.

Submission on AEE Rev V2:

AEE 1.2 WB commends the applicant for its broad consideration of alternative energy generation and conservation beyond the scope of this application.

Though the 100000 tons of concrete, 1.38 million tons of concrete aggregate, and associated lake inundation areas and vegetation clearances add up to a large carbon foot print.

AEE 1.3.2: Physical Foot Print please confirm the context of the claimed foot print of 380ha, It is our view that the project footprint will be the entire lake, Dam and Power House structure and catchment below the dam affected by varying river flows and sediment constraint into the local coastal zone. This will very likely impact on coastal erosion patterns creating a more reflective footprint of over 1000ha.

AEE 1.4.2:

- * DoC deemed Stewardship Land (approx. 221ha). Stewardship Land is managed for the protection of its natural and historic values but has no special protection status;

The land required though stewardship designation and of no specific designation has no lesser conservation value by virtue of that than any other conservation land refer: Conservation act 1987.

- **Stewardship area** means a conservation area that is not—
 - (a) A marginal strip; or
 - (b) A watercourse area; or
 - (c) Land held under this Act for one or more of the purposes described in section 18(1) of this Act; or
 - (d) Land in respect of which an interest is held under this Act for one or more of the purposes described in section 18(1) of this Act:

That the area under application is not gazetted anything else does not mean it is not, it has not yet been assessed for such gazettal.

Minister may confer additional specific protection or preservation requirements

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) to (4) of this section, the Minister may, by notice in the Gazette describing the land concerned, declare any land or interest in land, held under this Act for conservation purposes to be held for the purpose of a conservation park, an ecological area, a sanctuary area, a wilderness area, for any other specified purpose or purposes, or for 2 or more of those purposes; and, subject to this Act, it shall thereafter so be held.

AEE 1.4.3 Generation capacity for West coast: this debate is somewhat spurious given the fact that the charged grid acts like a net with pressure points at demand node points. Accepting most of the SI power goes from the southern hydro generators to the Bluff smelter and the north Island when available the West coasts proposition is not large as a

% of the whole and transmission. Losses are inevitable over a grid distribution system with a small number of large generation sources meaning power will consistently flow around the grid. The grid is being upgraded to relieve the pressures on it and any power generated at Mokihinui will be available to the entire grid.

AEE1.4.4: Transmission line: This will run across some magnificent wild landscape including ecological area, requiring significant vegetation clearances of 200m and road forming.

(Is the amount of new tracks quoted in 3.3.6 at 420metres correct, please confirm)

Though some of it is modified landscape due to opencast coal mining, much of the Waimagaroa area is of prime outstanding landscape recommended for protection under the Ngakawagh PNA programme report and excellent tramping country, where kiwis can be herd in the wild.

AEE 4.7. Landscape and natural character:

The site is relatively isolated and remote, and is not located within the West Coast's salient landscape features, namely the Southern Alps and the coastline. The site is in an area which is not on the 'beaten tourist track' and therefore is located in a low profile setting.

WPW would dispute this assessment as it is these very remote undeveloped aspects that increase its value to the New Zealand cultural landscape setting. To use this to devalue the landscape is wrong. The area is well known and its remoteness inspires challenge and adventure among us.

AEE 4.7.1 Mokihinui Gorge:

WPW supports this assessment and it is this constrained entry to more open country above the gorge that defines the beauty and wildness of this place.

Refer West Coast CMS:

The Mokihinui River Gorge displays a high level of landscape homogeneity. Because of the overriding similarity of landform through which the gorge passes, the view into it displays considerable landscape homogeneity. It therefore displays a high level of visual intactness that is reinforced by the bold simplicity of bush covered ridges, mountains and valleys.

There is an interface between the water body and the surrounding terrain, and the river is characterised by rapids and pools throughout the length of the gorge. A further characteristic of the river is its narrow proportions. This results from the steep and narrow valley that it flows through. The high mountains on either side contribute to this effect. The narrow width of the river emphasises the incised nature of the gorge.

Freshwater rivers

A national assessment undertaken in 2004 identified the most natural and representative river systems that contain a reasonably comprehensive range of New Zealand's freshwater ecosystems, communities and species, including threatened species (Chadderton *et al* 2004). These catchments contribute most to New Zealand's remaining freshwater biodiversity. Rivers in the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy whose entire catchments have been classified as nationally significant include: the Kaituma River, Mokihinui River, Heaphy River, Fox River, Grey River headwaters, Maruia River, Upper Buller *Kawaitiri* River, Ahaura River, Cascade River, Karangarua River, Turnbull River, Okuru River, Waiaroto River, Arawhara River, Paringa River, Haast River (includes Landsborough River), Hokitika River, Cook River, Okāroto River and Cockabulla Creek. The Buller *Kawaitiri* River is the second highest ranked catchment in New Zealand by natural heritage score.

Also

The gazetted Tasman Wilderness Area (see Section 3.6.2.4) and Kahurangi and North Mokihinui remote zones (see Section 3.6.2.5) are protected for their particular values and provide opportunities for self-reliant recreation on nature's terms; consequently they have few facilities or services.

WPW contends: The improved access resulting from the lake will threaten the recreational wild land values expressed in the CMS and valued by our members.

4.2.2.7 Recreation and tourism in 2017

Categories⁵³ of recreational opportunities available in the Kawaitiri Place include:

- the Tauranga Bay intense interest site (see red dot on Map 13);
- frontcountry sites located adjacent to formed and maintained roads (see green dots on Map 13);
- backcountry remote zones (see yellow areas on Map 13); and
- remote zones (see purple areas on Map 13)

People are attracted to the wide range of recreational opportunities which Kawaitiri Place offers and are able to use a variety of access methods to explore natural areas and discover historic treasures. Key features include the Buller *Kawaitiri* and Mokihinui rivers, with their white water rafting opportunities.

4.2.2 DESIRED OUTCOME FOR KAWATIRI PLACE

Section 4.2.2 describes what the Kawatiri Place will be like in 2017 if the direction of this CMS is followed.

4.2.2.1 Place description

The Kawatiri Place includes the coastal districts from Kongahu Point (midway along the Karamea Bluff) in the north to Westport in the south, and inland includes the ranges and valleys north of the Buller *Kawaitiri* River as far east as Newton Creek in the upper Buller gorge and virtually the entire catchment of the Mokihinui River (Maps 12-15). The southern boundary of this Place follows the Buller *Kawaitiri* River from Inangahua township to the Coast Road turnoff, then down the Coast Road to the Nile River, just north of Charleston. A small area near the Matiri Range is gazetted as Kahurangi National Park (see yellow area on Map 12 and Section 4.2.1.9 above). Kawatiri contains the second largest town on the West Coast *Te Tai o Poutini*, Westport (population 5,800 as at 2007).

CMS Mokihinui gorge

4.2.2.5 Geodiversity, landforms and landscapes in 2017

Kawatiri is the most geologically complex part of the Conservancy with the greatest diversity of landforms and varied landscapes. Among its most distinctive features are the deep gorges carved through the coastal ranges by the Buller *Kawaitiri* and Mokihinui Rivers and the rolling uplands of the Denniston and Stockton coal plateaus. The assemblage of parent rocks includes

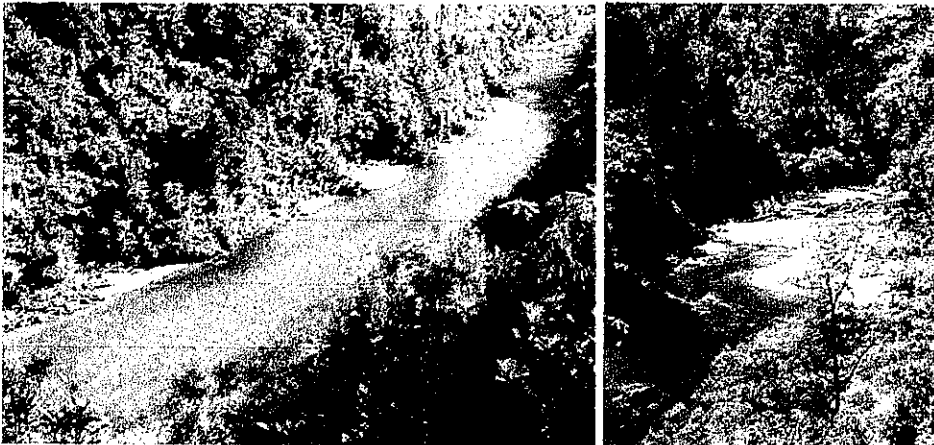
WPW supports the maintenance of the track / route network, much of it is of high historic recreation value and is considered in the CMS:

Other frontcountry tracks include the short Clasm Creek track near Seddonville, an old benched miners' track to the historic Britannia Mine in the coastal hills between Granity and Waimangaroa, and the first section of the old inland route to Karamea via the Mokihinui gorge. The latter track continues through the gorge to the Mokihinui Forks.

Backcountry-remote and remote zones

The Mokihinui catchment is managed primarily to provide the kind of challenging remote backcountry opportunities enjoyed by experienced New Zealanders and is maintained accordingly. A marked route is provided to the Mokihinui Forks Hut. In the north branch of the river the North Mokihinui remote zone provides opportunities for self-reliant recreation (e.g. hunting and tramping) on nature's terms and consequently has few facilities or services (see Section 3.6.2.5). The Goat Creek Hut provides accommodation in the south branch of the Mokihinui. Backcountry tramping tracks give access to areas such as the Glasgow Range and up Lyell Creek. No additional tracks or huts are constructed by the Department, but the potential for a marked route linking the Mokihinui and the Lyell is recognised.

Kayaking and rafting the rapids of the upper Butler and Mokihinui gorges are popular activities (see Section 3.6.5.6). Management of the Mokihinui catchment protects the opportunity for people to experience the remoteness, peace and natural quiet of the area and its natural, historical and cultural heritage values.



AEE 4.8 Public Access and Amenity: WPW supports this view, but would dispute whitebaiting being the main activity, given its seasonal nature, as being the main recreational activity.

The main recreational use of the Mokihinui River is whitebaiting (below the SH67 bridge). There is also some whitewater kayaking and rafting, angling, mountain biking, hunting and tramping in the Mokihinui River area.

All activities require a high level of personal commitment and advanced planning when they occur above the dam site. This is due to the poor quality of the access track on the true left bank (Mokihinui River Track) from the Welcome Creek Road end, which is poorly formed and maintained. Rock falls have made the track dangerous, and in places the track is slippery when it rains.

Though the effects on whitebaiting by the proposal may be significant the degradation of the other outdoor recreations are also significant.

AEE

6.10 Recreation and Public Access

Appendix 17 of the AEE assesses in detail the actual or potential effects of the MHP on recreation effects, public access and amenity, and also include the methods to avoid, remedy or mitigate these effects; and the benefits derived from the proposal. An overview of the assessment of effects of the MHP on recreation, public access and amenity is outlined below.

6.10.1 Recreation Effects

No activity occurring between the dam site and The Forks has been rated as nationally significant. Angling, tramping and hunting in the proposed lake area are no more than of regional significance. Whitewater kayaking and rafting are the most important activities within the gorge, but are not of national significance. The Mokihiroi River between the Mokihiroi Forks and the Welcome Creek road end is of no more than regional significance for recreation.

The most significant effects of the proposal are the change to the rafting and white water opportunities in the catchment. While the North Branch will remain raftable and kayakable, including the short section between The Forks and the top of the lake, the need for alternative transport to the downstream end may diminish use of this section. However, should a boat transport service develop in the lake, the opportunity will still be available.

The white water setting in the main stem of the River will be removed. This cannot be avoided, but it is at least in part remedied or mitigated by a range of alternative recreational opportunities which will be created, including new kayaking and rafting opportunities.

Track redevelopment will enable increased walking and mountain bike access along the River to The Forks. Potential boat access options would reduce the need for anglers, particularly domestic anglers, to rely on the more expensive option of helicopter delivery, and this may see the reduction of one business opportunity with the creation of another.

Jet and power boating on the lake, if it were to be allowed at all (managed by BDC and DoC), would most likely require some form of control to limit the effects of noise on the remote experience opportunity in the catchment. This new form of recreation could potentially represent a new activity of some importance in the region. Hunters would benefit especially. Casual, independent recreational visitors to the catchment, besides white water rafters and kayakers, would be attracted to a more amenable and accessible setting.

Generally, the proposal will result in minor effects on relevant tourism service providers operating within the catchment.

The remote or wilderness fishery above The Forks, in the upper catchment, may have national significance for angling. There will be less than minor adverse effects on this area.

WPW does not support the premise above. The tramping in the area is of National significance and by virtue of its remoteness and challenging aspects this significance is enhanced.

The more of these areas that are modified generates a cumulative negative effect on our recreational heritage values and experiences. This natural area is nationally significant to tramping as attested by the numerous letters and campaigns to protect it from such severe modification.

AEE

6.10.2 Public Access

The MHP will have no adverse effects on existing public access to and along the true right bank of the Mckihinui River from the Forks to the mouth, or the true left bank between the Staging Area and the mouth. Access to the coastal marine area as result of the proposed scheme will also not be impeded.

The transmission line, and Cedar Creek substation construction and operation will not adversely affect public access, including the Charming Creek and Coalbrookdale walkways.

Public access to and along the Mckihinui River from the Staging Area to the upstream end of the lake will need to be controlled during construction of the dam and associated infrastructure, and whilst trees are being cleared from the lake. This means that public access to and along the existing walking track on the true left bank could be restricted for up to five years. This is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

Construction of the dam and associated infrastructure will take three years to complete. Due to the nature of the construction activities (heavy machinery, blasting etc) the public will need to be fully excluded from this area.

It is considered that the adverse effects on public access associated with the restrictions outlined above will be minor because:

- The existing track is in poor condition, and is dangerous in places;
- It is used infrequently;
- Stopping and restricting public access will be temporary;

The track will be significantly upgraded as part of this proposal. The benefits associated with this upgrade are outlined below.

WPW does not support this premise above: not only will the dam construction phase deny access for 3 years, when completed the values people visited the area for will be largely under water. Sure the access to the new lake filled valley will be there, but we have plenty of these already created by earthquake slips. It is the significance of the gorge and the challenge, described as dangerous in places, like many of our roads we continue to use and enjoy.

AEE

6.10.3 Actual of Potential Benefits

Opportunities which could be provided by the new lake and walking track proposed with the MHP include:

- Enhanced pedestrian and mountain biking access along the Mckihinui River Track (which is also proposed by the draft OMS);
- A potentially popular flat water "sea-kayaking" and canoeing opportunity on the proposed lake, with associated commercial support (canoe and kayak hire, guiding);
- Potential water taxi service on the lake to below The Forks (subject to obtaining any necessary approvals), potentially obviating some helicopter activity in the backcountry-remote setting and enabling whitewater rafting and kayaking on the North Branch;
- Heritage asset developments via the relocation and interpretation of currently inaccessible and poorly-known mining artefacts;
- A lake angling opportunity with ready pedestrian and potential boat access (subject to obtaining any necessary approvals).

WPW does not support the premise of enhancement as described above:

Certainly some new activities will be available in the place of the current gorge, but these are contrived, engineered and available at other sites, including the sea nearby.

Many of these activities could be provided now if there was a will and funding to do so. This another example of the environment justifying and funding its own modification via a so called improvement, an improvement that in effect is not real but engineered, “build it and they will come” supposition. Our countries natural inherent values are a draw card the world over to constantly and irrevocably remove them is not sustainable behaviour, but document of decline.

WPW would like to see far more mitigation than just providing a little more than what is there now in the way of pedestrian recreation plus a sheet of flat water lake. The lake it’s self and associated motorised noise will present a real loss of natural values.

West Coast Regional Policy Statement:

WPW is of the view that this lack of sustainability of the proposed scheme is contrary to provisions within the RMA and RPS (West Coast Regional Policy Statement 2000) including;

14.1 Recognise the importance of an adequate supply of energy resources for the needs of people and communities on the West Coast, provided that this is not inconsistent with other policies in this RPS.

14.2 Promote sustainable management and efficient use of energy within the region.

Many of our homes are the coldest and least healthy in the country, surely we would be better to invest in their energy conservation and distributed solar hotwater and PV generation, reducing demand on the grid and our finite valleys.

14.3 Cooperate with any crown initiatives and policies where practicable, that seek to promote greater energy conservation, efficient and use of renewable energy sources including the governments Voluntary agreement Scheme for net reduction of CO2 emissions.

WPW also has concerns that the amount of natural and modified forest and vegetation cover required to be removed or inundated. This is of an amount that will permanently impact on net CO2 sinking and this has not been accounted for as has the whole carbon content of the project. Refer www.dams.org

Heritage: WPW also has concerns that the proposal has issues in relation to the degradation of heritage aspects of the sidle tracks.

In Whanau Barbers view

The application is not consistent with Heritage Objective 6 of the West Coast RPS.

Objective 6: To Avoid, remedy or mitigate actual or potential adverse effects on resource use, development or protection on heritage and archaeological sites and values that contribute to the West Coast's distinctive character and sense of identity.

Heritage Policy 6

6.1 Promote the identification and protection of heritage values of the region, which include the following:

- a) Archaeological site;.*
- b) Places or areas of special historical, cultural or architectural interest or significance;*
- c) Places or areas of intrinsic, recreational or amenity value of visual appeal;*

Matters to be considered when considering heritage places or sites include:

- a) The extent to which the place reflects important or representative aspects of New Zealand history;*
- b) The level of association of the place with events, persons or ideas of importance in the history of the (district / region);*
- c) The importance of the place to Poutini Ngai Tahu*
- d) The level of community association with, or public esteem for, the place;*
- e) The potential of the place for public education;*
- f) The level of technical accomplishment or value, design of the place including the rarity of technical accomplishment or design;*
- g) The symbolic or commemorative value of the place;*
- h) Whether it is an historic place known to date from early periods of the districts settlement i.e., such items are likely to be included in the schedule;*
- i) The rarity of the type of historic place;*
- j) The extent to which the place forms a key part of a wider historical and cultural complex or historical and cultural landscape.*

1. The outstanding concerns that WPW has about the proposal can be summarised as follows:

- The impacts on the mauri of the awa as a result of dam blockage to the waters, mata, tuna and maunga gravels reaching the oceans to replenish the coastlines and mitigate already hazardous erosion.
- Tailrace generating flows: WPW has concerns that the frequent daily effects on the Mokihiui awa down to the mouth of the awa will be more than minor and

the protection of the kaiawa and recruitment of native fish and erosion of islands and banks is of concern.

- Use of Cultural Health Index: WPW would like the Mokihiui assessed using this regime in its current state and under any proposed regimes prior to granting consents re flow regimes. This is a recognised method by both tangata whenua and MfE. The awa is frequented by fishers along much of its length, and effects of the fishery ,manu, and natural character from the mountains to the sea using the CHI needs to be undertaken in order to satisfy section 6 of the RMA.
 - Natural Character: WPW has concerns that the natural character of the valley systems including the artificial lake will be negative, to offset this WPW respects the applicants vocalised intention to reforest. Details and this should be conditional on the granting of the consents provided it can be shown that this can mitigate the natural forest loss. The Landcare report indicates that this is not likely.
 - Heritage: The natural channel and ara / track is of high heritage value, WPW is concerned that the natural navigable nature of the channel will be lost and the heritage trail will be inundated.
 - Draft Social Impact Assessment Report:Taylor & Bains March 2008: WPW are concerned the impacts on tangata whenua, mataawaka (maori) are not mentioned in this report. We would have liked to have been consulted on the cultural social issues of the MHP.
 - Impact on Soil Health: WPW would like to see how this may be impacted due to the construction works and has concerns that both this and water levels may have detrimental affects on soil health.
2. MHP in its present form, fails to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources(as required by section 5 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)).
 3. More specifically in relation to section 5, the proposal as it presently stands will:
 - Not manage the use, development or protection of natural and physical resources in a way, or at a rate, which enables the people and communities of Te Tai o Poutini to provide for their social, economic and especially their hau ora well being and for their health and safety (seismic and coastal erosion issues); ref The regional coastal Plan for the West coast lists the coast adjacent to the

Mokihinui as CHA 2 – Coastal Hazard Area 2, threatened by beach erosion. The MHP will limit maunga gravels reaching the coast thereby exacerbating this coastal hazard. This requires mitigation or avoidance.

- Be unable to sustain the potential of natural and physical resources to meet the reasonably foreseeable needs of future generations (section 5(2)(a) of the RMA);
 - Be unable to effectively safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems (section 5(2)(b) of the RMA); (refer: Landcare Report)
 - Fail to effectively avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of the proposal on the environment (section 5(2)(c));
4. In addition, it is the view of WPW that, at present, Meridian has not satisfactorily recognised and provided for:
- The preservation of the natural character of Mokihinui Awa and its margins affected by the MHP throughout its length including into the coastal zone and the protection of it from inappropriate use and development (section 6(b) of the RMA);
 - The protection of areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, taonga species (section 6(C) of the RMA); (Ref Landcare report).
 - The relationship of WPW and their culture and traditions with their ancestral lands, water, sites, wahi tapu and other taonga (section 6(e) RMA); and
 - The protection of historic heritage from inappropriate use and development (section 6(f)). (The coastlines and landforms).

WPW wishes to be heard at any Local Authority hearing or meeting in relation to this application.

Whanan P, Hawaii West

M Barber

M Barber