



SUBMISSION ON AN APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT UNDER SECTION 96 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

NAME OF SUBMITTER: Annette and Michael Hamblett
[Full Name]

ADDRESS: 11 Hewitts Road
[Full Postal Address] Merivale, Christchurch 8014

APPLICATION NUMBER: RC07/180-A to H

1. ~~We~~ support/^{we} oppose [delete one]

the application by Meridian Energy [State name of applicant]

for a resource consents [State type of resource consent applied for]

associated with damming the Mokihiui River for a hydro scheme. [State proposal or activity of applicant]

2. The particular parts of the application I ~~support~~^{we} or oppose are:
[Clearly indicate which parts of the application you support or oppose or wish to have amendments made to]

All the resource consent applications.

3. The reasons for making my submission are:
[State in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons]

We oppose the application because of the loss of biodiversity (including threatened species, modification of natural values, recreation effects, loss of historical values and wilderness loss. (See attached sheet for details.)

4. I wish the consent authority to make the following decision:
[Give details, including the nature of any conditions sought]

To decline the application in its
entirety.

5. ^{We} **I do wish to be heard** in support of my submission.
~~**I do not wish to be heard**~~ in support of my submission.
[Delete one]

M Hamblett 20/04/08

authorised

Signature of person making
submission or person

to sign on behalf of person
making submission.

_____ Date

Contact Details

11 Hewitts Rd, ChCh 8014 Address for service of person
making submission.

03 3650560 Telephone No. (daytime)

03 3650560 Telephone No. (evening)

N.A. Fax No.

N.A. Mobile No.

_____ Contact person:
[Name and telephone number if different from above]

mhamblett@xtra.co.nz E Mail Address (If available)

NOTE: A copy of your submission must be served on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after service of your submission on the consent authority.

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.