



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: BUKER PORT SERVICES Ltd
[Full Name]
ADDRESS: Po Box 335
[Full Postal Address] Westport
APPLICATION NUMBER: RC 07150

1. I support/~~or oppose~~ [delete one]
the application MERIDIAN ENERGY [State name of applicant]
for a Resource Consent [State type of resource consent applied for]
to construct & operate a hydro electric dam [State proposal or activity of applicant]

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

Please see attached commentary


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

Please see attached commentary

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

Support in full the proposal

5. ~~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]



authorised

Signature of person making
submission or person

to sign on behalf of person
making submission.

17/04/08

Date

Contact Details

PO Box 335 Westport

Address for service of person
making submission.

03 789 4077

Telephone No. (daytime)

03 789 7871

Telephone No. (evening)

Fax No.

021 664 354

Mobile No.

Dave Skinner

Contact person:

[Name and telephone number if different from above]

dave.skinner@holcim.com

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.



BULLER PORT SERVICES LTD

**Buller Port Services Ltd
Harbour Office**
Palmerston Street
PO Box 335, Westport
New Zealand
Phone: +64 3 788 8086
Fax: +64 3 789 6269
Email: westportharbour-nz@xtra.co.nz
Website: www.westportharbour.co.nz

Submission in Support of Proposed Meridian Hydro Electric Dam on Mokihinui River.

Buller Port Services Ltd 17 April 2008 : Support is offered for the complete proposal.

Reasons for Making the Submission.

The view of Buller Port Services (BPS) as the operator of the Westport Port and Harbour, is that the Meridian Energy proposal will be a significant factor to ensure the retention of key industry in the region. As the operator of a strategic resource for the region, BPS are a company reliant on product for export and import via the port. This product is currently supplied by Holcim NZ and Solid Energy NZ and there have been enquiries from other producers, in particular coal producers, expressing interest in exporting product via the port. Each of these industries are reliant on electrical energy and are relatively significant users.

The Meridian Energy proposal addresses two issues that impact on business decisions and impact on decisions made re potential future industrial development. The first issue is security of supply, a factor key to allowing any industry to operate efficiently. Supply disruption to local business has in the past been an issue with outages along the transmission link. Currently at peak periods this supply can be delivered via a link from the North Island. Losses on transmission from this link have reportedly been as high as 50% and with a local supply the expectation is that these losses will be minimised and the supply risks will be largely negated.

Supply limitation is an issue that is a major factor in industrial expansion decisions. Whilst not appearing to affect anything at present, the proposal future proofs industrial development with the provision of the additional electrical capacity. Restrictions in transmission lines at present limit the potential expansion of business in the region. With an increased capacity and supply, business will be able to comfortably plan for expansion. Indeed, this I understand is a major factor in Holcim NZ's potential plans for expansion in Westport, possibly within the next 5 years.

The BPS view is that having a reliable electricity supply will encourage the existing industries to remain in the region and additionally be an incentive for further industry to locate to our resource rich region. Port business may thus be retained or even expanded.

A further point in support relates to that of employment in the region. BPS currently rely on only two local options particularly for engineering, with some business having to be completed with engineering operations in Nelson or Christchurch. With the Meridian Energy proposal, it would be assumed that engineering operations could expand locally thus presenting more options locally for our own engineering requirements. This would certainly be less expensive than the way BPS currently operate.

As an environmentally conscious business operation, Buller Port Services support the proposal utilising NZ's renewable resources and its alignment with NZ's Energy Strategy. In the literature supplied thus far, Meridian appear to be a respectable company with good values and a proven track record in this type of development. At this point, it is to be noted that the level of community consultation has been well accepted.