

## **SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS**

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991

**TO:THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL** Copy to:

Meridian Energy Limited

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**Applicant:** Meridian Energy Ltd **Application Numbers:**

*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*

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22.4.08

We oppose the application numbers above.

The reasons for our submission are as follows:

- The application will have significant adverse affects to water quality from damming and diversion.
- Will destroy and modify a significant natural river system thereby altering the natural character of the immediate and surrounding areas.
- The activities will have an adverse affect on aquatic lifeforms within the main and adjoining river systems.
- Will create adverse affects from discharges of contaminant into air and waterways.
- Has the potential to create hazards within the river systems.
- Will create adverse affects from construction works in the river beds and associated earth works.
- Will destroy the landscape values of an area that is considered significant.
- Will permanently alter the biodiversity within the immediate and surrounding areas.
- Will forever alter the habitat for endangered species such as Kaka, Pekapeka and Whio.
- Is out of keeping with the adjoining use of the Kahurangi National Park and Wangapeka track

- Will destroy traditional migration from taonga species such as tuna, inanga and piharau as well as sever the whakapapa ties of Tangata Whenua.
- Has the potential to alter the heritage landscapes of Tangata Whenua.
- Has the potential to alter significant landscape values of Tangata Whenua.
- It is not consistent with the Section 5 of the R.M.A. 1991 and in particular does not meet the tests in sec 6(e), 7(a)(d) (f) sec 8.

Comments:

The 330 hectares the application covers is considered by the Department of Conservation as the seventh most significant river for biodiversity alongside NIWA who has identified the Mokihinui River as nationally important for aquatic biodiversity values.

The felling of native forest and the destruction that this application covers cannot be mitigated. How is mitigation to take place? Is there a replacement river system of that magnitude? Can the species be ever replaced? We have grave concerns regarding environmental offsetting and fail to see how the applicant can justify its actions particularly when taking into consideration their own scientific report tabled in parliament by Green Party Conservation Spokesperson Metiria Turei MP on the 15th April 2008.

We argue that mitigation is a fundamental cornerstone of the RMA 1991 and this application has to be considered within the confines of the RMA despite the Government policy of renewable energy targets.

We recognise that there is pressure to bring more energy onstream by renewable energy projects, but it must not be at a cost that compromises significant pristine areas such as the Mokihinui.

We argue that maintaining the area in its present state represents the best interest or public good and that energy reduction alone counters the need for the energy gained by this application.

We argue that there are other alternatives that could be considered; that would satisfy the public good argument rather than this application that creates a manufactured landscape in an area of such magnificence.

**We wish the consent authority to make the following decision**

Decline this application in its entirety.

We wish to appear at the hearing.

Further detailed submission will be advanced at the hearing.

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