



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: Dave Ritchie
[Full Name]

ADDRESS: P.O. Box 99
[Full Postal Address] Mokihini

APPLICATION NUMBER: RC07150/1 - 126

1. I support/or oppose [delete one]
the application M.E.L (Meridian) [State name of applicant]
for a Dam [State type of resource consent applied for]
Mokihini
[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]
See attached

3. The reasons for making my submission are:
[State in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons]
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4. I wish the consent authority to make the following decision:
[Give details, including the nature of any conditions sought]

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.

20/4/08

Date

Contact Details

Address for service of person
making submission.

027 222 7406

Telephone No. (daytime)

Telephone No. (evening)

Fax No.

Mobile No.

[Name and telephone number if different from above]

Contact person:

dave@hpp.ac.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.

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

To: West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council

Cc: Meridian Energy Limited

From: Dave Ritchie

Date: 20 April 2008

Re: RC07150, Mokihinui Hydro Power Scheme

Submitter Contact Details

Name of Party: Dave Ritchie

Contact Phone: 027 222 7406

Email Address: daveri@tpp.ac.nz

Postal Address: PO Box 99 Hokitika

- 1. I oppose the application by Meridian Energy Limited** for the construction of the Mokihinui Hydro Power Scheme as detailed in the resource consent applications numbered RC07150/1 – RC07150/26
- 2. The particular aspect of the application I oppose is:**
The construction of the dam and consequent inundation of the Mokihinui River between Mokihinui Forks and the Welcome Creek road end.
- 3. I make the following submission in opposition to the application:**

a) *Details of Submitter*

I have been a paddler and paddling instructor for 20 years. I am familiar with most of the rivers on the West Coast of the South Island from a paddling perspective and consider the MEL assessment of the effects on the paddling environment in the Mokihinui to be inaccurate.

b) *Reasons for making submission*

My primary reasons for opposing the proposed hydroelectric scheme are:

- As noted in the Assessment of Environmental Impact document *“Whitewater kayaking and rafting are the most important activities in the gorge”* and *“The most significant effects of the proposal are the change to the rafting and white water opportunities in the catchment”*
- The proposed scheme will result in the loss off of a river section which is navigable by the majority of paddlers, the type of which is not available elsewhere on the West Coast.

- The proposed scheme will negatively impact upon the access to the upper section of the river. Assuming the logistics of the trip remain desirable, costs and helicopter increase will increase.
- The applicant does not propose suitable mitigation for the removal of the white water or the negative effects on access to the upper river.

Loss of whitewater amenity on entire River:

- The lower Mokihinui River will be lost and proposal will most likely result in less usage of the upper Mokihinui River,
- Under the proposal, the dam on the Mokihinui would flood the beautiful granite gorge and valley most of the way back to Lake Perrine. The grade 3 whitewater would be lost and significant recreational opportunities would go with it.
- Kayaking and canoeing on the class 4 upper Mokihinui River would also be affected due to access difficulties. There is no mitigation proposed for this.

Lack of suitable mitigation:

- Proposed track networks do not compensate for the loss of a whitewater resource. No mitigation is offered for this loss.

Incorrect assessment of significance of the Mokihinui River for recreation:

- Consultation by the applicant was not sufficiently wide, with only 2 kayakers consulted regarding the whitewater amenity.
- The Mokihinui is a very important part of the spectrum of West Coast rivers. The West Coast is renowned internationally for its whitewater rivers and many domestic and international tourists come to the West Coast because of this.

3 I seek that the application be declined in its entirety.

4 I wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Date _____