

SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



**THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**
PH: 0508 8000 118
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TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**PO BOX 66
GREYMOUTH**

Copy to:
Meridian Energy Limited
PO Box 2454,
Christchurch.

Applicant: Meridian Energy Ltd

Application Numbers: tick boxes overleaf

Closing Date for Submissions on the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal: (Wednesday 23 April 2008)

(Please print clearly) Title: Mr Mrs Miss Ms (Please circle the appropriate title(s) or write below)

My/Our Full Name(s): EDITH CAROLYN SMITH

Postal address: P.O. Box 460

ASHBURTON

RECEIVED

23 APR 2008

**THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL**

Wk Ph: _____ Hm Ph: 03 3084440 Cell: 0211 314 931

Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: 03 3084440 Email: pandasmith@callsouth.net.nz
please phone first.

I/we support the application numbers ticked on the back of this form (tick one)

~~I/we~~ oppose the application numbers ticked on the back of this form

The reasons for my/our submission are as follows (further information attached (tick for yes)
[State in summary the nature of your submission, giving reasons]

WE OPPOSE MERIDIAN ENERGY'S RESOURCE CONSENT TO
CREATE HYDRO POWER IN THE MOKIHINUI VALLEY
BECAUSE OF OUR CONCERNS ABOUT THE ADVERSE
EFFECTS THE PROPOSAL WILL HAVE ON THE ECOLOGICAL,
NATURAL CHARACTER, WILDERNESS, CONSERVATION, BIODIVERSITY
& FRESHWATER ECOLOGY OF THE RIVER
THE IMPACTS CANNOT BE FULLY MITIGATED

I/we wish the consent authority to make the following decision [Give details, including the nature of any conditions]

DECLINE ALL CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Use the tick boxes below to indicate the resource consent applications your submission concerns.

I/we make my/our submission concerning **all** the resource consent applications below (tick)
My/our submission **only** concerns the resource applications ticked below (tick)

I/we **wish to be heard** in support of my/our submission (tick one)
I/we **DO NOT** wish to be heard and hereby make my/our submission in writing only

Signature(s): [Signature]

ASHBURTON FOREST - BIRD

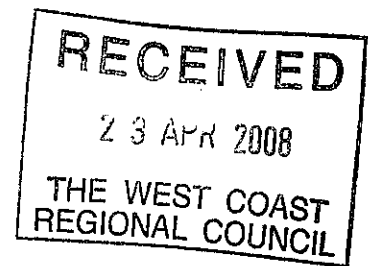
Date: 22 4 08

If this is a joint submission by 2 or more individuals, each individual's signature is required)

I/we have served a copy of my/our submission on Meridian energy Limited as per Section 96(4) of the RMA (tick)

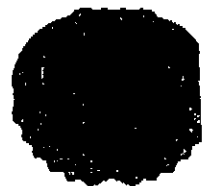
Consent List

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



Edith Smith
 P O Box 460
 ASHBURTON
 20th April 2008

West Coast Regional Council
 P O Box 66
 GREYMOUTH



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 SOCIETY OF
 NEW ZEALAND INC

SUBMISSION ON THE MOKIHINUI RIVER HYDRO PROPOSAL BY MERIDIAN ENERGY

The Ashburton Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society represents over 200 members who support the nationwide organisation and its mandate to secure protection for New Zealand's natural scenery and landforms and native species and habitats and ecosystems.

We oppose Meridian Energy's Resource Consent application to create a hydro development proposal on the Mokihinui River in its entirety.

Reasons:

Historical: Meridian investigations to develop the Mokihinui River follow studies dating back to the 1960s

Public opinion and values about loss of natural features has changed considerably since then. Meridian should surely have been aware of the current widely held attitude which highly values New Zealand's natural history and by ignoring this the company is acting in a provocative manner.

People History: Today human habitation makes continuing impacts on its own history and we see many important and especially local and regional features, lost. The Mokihinui Valley has its own history involving its own people who spent time there. The Maori and miners and early visitors have had their own unique connection with the Mokihinui and this must be acknowledged and valued.

Sustainability: Meridian's sustainability policy is a cornerstone to their operating philosophy yet they do not seem to apply sustainability to New Zealand's natural history. It seems very contrary to embark on such a project with sustainability supposedly held in such high regard when a special place of nature, landscape and history will be lost to all New Zealanders. Meridian argue that they apply the sustainability philosophy to power production. On the West coast coastal wind power could provide local West Coast needs. It would be good to see the research into this before proceeding with the Mokihinui Dam. Other sustainable power production Meridian could pursue is solar and tidal energy.

River Flows: Meridian states that 16 cumecs will be sufficient to maintain a healthy river when the river flows on average at 90 cumecs. Where does the Government Sustainable River policy recommend reducing a river flow by such a degree. It suggests that Meridian is unaware of the Policy or is paying it scant regard.

This huge loss can only degrade the natural features of the Mokihinui River itself as it continues to impact as the river flows further downstream to its mouth.

Fish: Natural migration throughout the catchment will be restricted. The Dam will affect longfinned eels and the white bait population as their essential up river migration will be shut off by the dam.

The eels and whitebait are a very important part of New Zealanders both local and visitors West Coast experience.

Birdlife: Birds of the Mokihinui include tomtits, bellbirds, robins, grey warblers, fantails and the morepork. These as Meridian notes, are not threatened species but that gives no



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justification to reduce their habitat. The abundant birdlife of the West Coast is one of its wonderful attractions. There less common in the area certainly deserve habitat protection. Endangered blue duck are undergoing expensive breeding programmes yet Meridian does not consider this natural blue duck habitat of value. Removal of these birds to alternative sites is not always successful.

Vegetation: The deep gorge, riverine vegetation and natural ecology will be changed forever by this proposal. The apparent emphasis by Meridian on commonality of the ecology with that of the rest of the West Coast seems to be an attempt to devalue it. West Coast vegetation is one the most important attractions of the whole area. This is especially so of the unspoiled remote places.

Should the presence of a threatened species be the only justification to protect a strikingly beautiful valley?

Recreation: Meridian suggest the lake will be an excellent recreational feature for flat water kayaking.

Unfortunately for them their proposal has highlighted to all New Zealanders what a scenically dramatic and interesting wilderness area the Mokihinui is. This will bring more trampers, walkers, 4WD, birders, ecologists along to enjoy the natural wilderness of the gorge track and access to the area.

The deep gorge through the mountainous reaches of the Mokihinui, riverine vegetation and the natural ecology will be gone forever.

People value and enjoy the isolation and sense of remoteness that the Mokihinui offers. It should be there for our future generation to enjoy.

We would like to encourage Meridian Energy to consider energy proposals in places that will have less impact on New Zealand's remote scenic and very special places. We ask that their application be declined in its entirety.

Edith Smith