

Mohikinui Hydro Proposal

SUBMISSION ON PUBLICLY NOTIFIED APPLICATIONS CONCERNING RESOURCE CONSENTS

To:
West Coast Regional Council
388 Main South Road
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Greymouth



1. Full name of submitters - Elizabeth Claire Weir and Colin John Morris
2. This is a submission on the applications from Meridian **Energy Limited** for 34 resource consents.
3. The type of consent is: **Land use consents and discharge permits**
4. The location of the consents is: **The Mohikinui River, approx. 3km upstream of Seddonville and 11km upstream of the river mouth.**
5. The proposed activity is: **Construction of a dam on the Mohikinui River.**
6. The specific part(s) of the application that my submission relates to are:
All of the applications in their entirety
7. Our submission in **OPPOSITION** is:

We oppose this application on the grounds that too many of New Zealand's wild places are being exploited. Wild rivers are the refuge of many native bird species, fish and flora and the number and quality of habitats for these species is rapidly dwindling. We do not believe that the adverse environmental effects that would ensue can be minimised or mitigated. Large areas of native, untouched bush would be disturbed and destroyed - this is not acceptable.

New Zealand is one of the few remaining countries that affords its citizens and visitors the opportunity to experience an environment rich in natural beauty and diversity. The tourism industry relies on the 'clean green image' – one that the country is struggling to uphold. A dam on the Mohikinui River will only make it harder to uphold that image. Dams on rivers also pose a threat to human communities living downstream. The catastrophic effects of dam failure are too great to put communities at risk. Living beneath a dam adds an unnecessary level of stress and discomfort to the residents' lives while providing that affected community with no direct benefits. There is no 'tolerable risk' that is acceptable when lives are at stake.

8. We ask that the West Coast Regional Council **decline all applications**
9. We **WISH** to be heard in support of this submission

Signature of submitter - *Liz Weir* *Colin Morris* April 20 2008

Liz Weir and Colin Morris
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