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24 APR 2008

THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS**

*Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991*

**TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL**

**PO BOX 66**

**GREYMOOUTH**

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



THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

PH: 0508 8000 118  
Fax: (03) 768 7133

**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): HUTT VALLEY CANOE CLUB INC

Postal address: P O BOX 44-021

LOWER HUTT

d/- GLEN MCCAULEY

Wk Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: 021 760306

Wk Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: glen@ensik.co.nz

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]

The project will involve damming a wild gorge with associated loss of wild water amenity and natural flora and fauna

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

We wish the west coast Regional Council to decline the current proposal which involves damming and permanent inundation of the natural river bed

**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):                     *Al McCauley*                      
 \_\_\_\_\_

Date:           20/4/08          

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

To: West Coast Regional Council

From: Hutt Valley Canoe Club

Date: 20 April 2008

**Re: Meridian Energy Limited – Application for Resource Consent wrt Mokihinui Hydro Proposal.**

**Submitter Details:**

Name of Party: Hutt Valley Canoe Club Inc

Contact Name: Glen McCauley, Conservation Officer

Contact Phone: 021 760 306

Email: glen@erisk.co.nz

Postal Address: HVCC, P O Box 44-021, Lower Hutt

Alternative Contact: Alan Bell, Secretary, bellac@xtra.co.nz; 027 444 7779, same postal address as above.

**Applicant Details:**

Name of Applicant: Meridian Energy Limited

Application Numbers: RC07150/1-RC07150/26 wrt Mokihinui River

Details of Application: Construction, operation and maintenance of a hydroelectric power scheme and associated transmission lines on the Mokihinui River.

**Our Submission.**

**Submitter Details.**

Hutt Valley Canoe Club (HVCC) is an active club of 45 whitewater paddlers who come from all walks of life but who share the enjoyment of kayaking and the outdoors generally. HVCC kayak on rivers throughout New Zealand.

**Reasons for making a submission.**

HVCC is concerned that more and more of our wild rivers are being targeted for hydro-electricity using schemes involving inundation. Water may be renewable but rivers are NOT renewable. It is possible to generate electricity from rivers without inundation but the proposed Meridian scheme on the Mokihinui will inundate. We therefore oppose the scheme.

The proposed MHP and associated infrastructure of this scheme will result in the inundation of a unique and wild gorge, the loss of which can never be offset by a manmade lake. The riverbed above the dam will be inundated with permanent loss of whitewater amenity and naturally occurring flora and fauna. The effects of this proposal will be highly significant and they will be permanent.

Water is renewable but rivers are not. The generation of hydroelectricity using high dams should be outlawed. It is possible to generate electricity from rivers using run of river schemes wherein there is no loss of riverbed and surrounds. Generation without inundation is the only reasonable method for future hydro schemes in New Zealand.