

SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO BOX 66

GREYMOOUTH

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): JUHA HEINANEN

Postal address: A777 LEPPALA, 99800 IVALO,
FINLAND

Wk Ph: _____ Hm Ph: _____ Cell: +358 40 7058050

Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: _____ Email: JH@TUTPRO.COM

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]

NEED TO PROTECT VERY FEW REMAINING FREE
WILDERNESS WATERCOURSES (SEE ATTACHED
TEXT)

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

UNCONDITIONALLY REJECT THE APPLICATION
(SEE ATTACHED TEXT)



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)

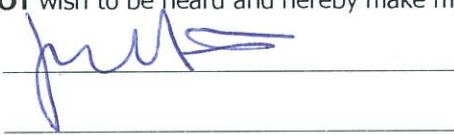
My/our submission **only** concerns the resource applications ticked below (tick)

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

DEPENDS ON WHEN HEARING TAKES PLACE, I.E IF I AM IN NZ AT THAT TIME

Signature(s):



Date: 24.3.2008

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

Earthworks and Vegetation consents RC07150/14 – RC07150/19

Inundation Area consents RC07150/7 – RC07150/8

General Construction consents RC07150/20 – RC07150/23

Staging Area consents RC07150/9 – RC07150/10

Access Roads, Walking Tracks and Recreational Activities consents RC07150/24 – RC07150/26

Substation and Transmission consents RC07150/11 – RC07150/13

SUBMISSION ON MOKIHINUI RIVER HYDRO PROPOSAL

I have been visiting Mokihinui valley as a tourist several times during past six years. I like the area because Mokihinui River is one of VERY few remaining South Island clear water wilderness rivers that have reasonable flow volume, run freely to the sea, and are not affected by farming or human habitation. Mokihinui is a prime example of the kind of nature that foreign tourists expect to see while visiting New Zealand.

In addition to Mokihinui, in the northern half of South Island there is only two other such wilderness rivers left: Aorere and Karamea. Out of these three, Mokihinui has the smallest human impact (only about 5km, whereas the corresponding figure in Karamea is about 10 km and in Aorere about 40 km). In the southern half of South Island I only know one such watercourse (Waurairahri), but there may be a couple of more which I have not heard of due to their remoteness. In total, we are talking about at most half a dozen notable size free wilderness watercourses left in South Island.

Last year during my visit to Mokihinui I was stunned when I saw people drilling rock at the entrance to Mokihinui gorge. I asked in Seddonville from locals about the drilling and was told that Meridian Energy is looking for a site for a large dam that would create a long reservoir behind it. This January I then read in a West Coast newspaper that plans were ready to start building the dam as early as 2010.

In my part of world (Finland, Norway, Sweden) it would be totally out of question to even propose to build a dam in any remaining free river. In fact, I believe that most (if not all) such rivers are already explicitly protected by national or European Union laws. Even without any protection laws, building a dam in a free river would be impossible due to enormous public opposition. Last dam that was build in a Nordic free river was in Alta River in Norway in 1979-1981 and it would have not been possible without Norwegian army keeping out outrageous local people from stopping the work (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alta_power_station).

With this kind of cultural background, a proposal to dam Mokihinui River sounds unbelievable to me. It simply should not be possible in any CIVILIZED country in 2010 to destroy permanently a free wilderness river. This should be especially impossible in New Zealand considering the small number of such rivers that are still remaining and the green image the country is trying to display to the rest of the world. I don't understand how the same New Zealand people, who are considering killing of whales by Japanese a crime against nature, are ready without a blink of an eye to kill a whole wilderness river, that exist in much fewer numbers than whales.

If the dam is built in Mokihinui, Mokihinui will experience the same fate as Cobb River did. Above the dam there will be a brown water stinking reservoir that looks awful at the times it has been drained low. Below the dam, trout population will suffer and fisherman don't anymore come to Mokihinui valley. The most important thing, however, is that the wilderness river itself is lost forever.

If North Island is allowed to use South Island as its colony and, as result, some West Coast river needs to be dammed, then I suggest that Meridian Energy dams Buller River, because it nature value has been lost already long time ago to farming and other human interests.

Buller is longer and has larger volume thus giving much bigger power output than tinkering with Mokihinui. But perhaps Meridian Energy has calculated that Mokihinui is easier prey due to its remoteness and fewer people will notice its destruction.

In summary, damming pristine Mokihinui River would be a VERY serious crime against nature. Meridian Energy's hydro proposal on Mokihinui should thus be unconditionally and permanently rejected by New Zealand authorities. If Meridian Energy gets consent on Mokihinui, they will surely soon follow the suit and propose also damming of Karamea and Aorere leaving nothing but dammed rivers and cow shit for future generations.

March 24, 2008



Juha Heinanen
Utsjoki, Finland
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