

Fax to : West Coast Regional Council

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Date : 21.4.08

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SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS
Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL
PH: 0508 8000 118
Fax: (03) 768 7133

TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL	Copy to:
PO BOX 66	Meridian Energy Limited
GREYMOUTH	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): (Dr) Jacqueline Hemmingson

Postal address: 52A SIMLA CRES, Khandallah,
WELLINGTON 6035

Wk Ph: _____ Hm Ph: (04) 4792541 Cell: _____

Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: _____ Email: jhemmingson@xtra.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]

See attached sheet for reasons.

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

To decline all of the resource consent applications listed.

Submission of Dr JA Hemmingson- Reasons for opposing Meridian's application

- The number of pristine areas containing highly endangered species requiring very specialised habitat, such as whio /blue duck (large areas of secluded torrent river) are becoming very close to being insufficient to maintain the survival of such species.
- The current native biodiversity of NZ is close to collapsing into a decline even more rapid than that which has taken place over the last twenty years.
- The more obvious decline exemplified by our native bird and plant life has been accompanied by an equally rapid decline in less obvious populations, such as lizards (geckos and skinks), insects (butterflies, moths, bees etc) and native aquatic species.
- New Zealanders have a great capacity to come together to support projects that they consider to be important to their health and wellbeing and an ability to empathise with the plight of others, whether it be of people, animals or the natural environment, when it is brought to their attention. Both of these are currently underutilised assets. Most will adopt modest lifestyle changes, such as more care with energy use and waste generation and disposal, both for their own and the greater good of the world they wish their children to inherit. For example kerbside recycling and the many mainland island projects that have sprung up in recent years.
- The headlong plunge into a hectic life of virtual reality and its effects on children's health and wellbeing is becoming a focus of public attention and a realisation that divorce from interaction with the real world and the natural environment is harmful.
- Consequently, approvals for large scale schemes (for short term gain) which impact adversely and irreversibly on the environment are not supported by changing public attitudes and should not be given. Mitigation claims by the applicant are not convincing and not even supported by their own research (Landcare report).
- New Zealanders are capable of developing innovative, low impact solutions to their problems rather than plunging on mindlessly repeating the mistakes of the past and a little 'pain' is a great stimulus to finding these solutions.

