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THE WEST COAST

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**SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS**

*Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991*



THE WEST COAST  
REGIONAL COUNCIL

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<b>TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL</b>	Copy to:
<b>PO BOX 66</b>	Meridian Energy Limited
<b>GREYMOUTH</b>	PO Box 2454, Christchurch.

<b>Applicant:</b> Meridian Energy Ltd	<b>Application Numbers:</b> tick boxes overleaf
<b>Closing Date for Submissions on the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal: (Wednesday 23 April 2008)</b>	

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

My/Our Full Name(s): Janice Ellen Lowe

Postal address: 59 Izard Rd Khandallah  
Wellington 6035

Wk Ph: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Ph: 04 479 6158 Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Wk Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Hm Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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]

I oppose the applications for the reasons given in  
the attached sheet.

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

I wish the authority to decline the applications.

### **Submission of JELowe - Reasons for opposing Meridian's application**

This hydro scheme involves building a dam 80m high and 300m wide, and creating a lake 14k long, in what is now a scenic gorge.

#### **Forest and wildlife**

The gorge proposed to be drowned has excellent forest cover and abundant passerine birdlife. The fastflowing river supports pairs of the endangered whio. Such stretches of water, which are essential for whio, are becoming more and more scarce as pressure increases on NZ's water resources. Meridian's fact sheets contemplate the possible loss of up to three pairs of whio if their habitat is destroyed. That is a significant loss in terms of their conservation status. The actual number lost may of course be higher.

Great spotted kiwi, native falcon, and *powelliphanta* snails are also present in the area. As to the birdlife, Meridian suggests that natural relocation to the Ecological Reserve and to Kahurangi National Park is an answer. It is doubtful that ecological matters are ever as simple as this.

Concerning the abundant and varied fishlife in the river, Meridian's claim that adverse effects would be no more than minor requires close scrutiny.

#### **Recreation and tourism**

Access and recreational use may be quite difficult now but that could change. Pristine areas like this one will become more and more valued – and valuable – as time goes on. The valley is comparatively close to a main road. It could be opened up significantly more for recreation and tourism in the future. On the other hand, hydro development would alter the landscape for ever.

#### **General**

Large hydro schemes of this sort should no longer be built in NZ because of the high environmental cost. Any new hydro schemes should be small, with only limited environmental impact. If big hydro schemes are permitted to eat away at the natural environment, there will be little of it left for future generations to work in and enjoy.

Energy conservation and waste minimisation have a big role to play in helping the country to meet its energy requirements.

**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): *Jamie Lunn*

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