

MOKIHINUI HYDRO PROPOSAL

SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991



THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

PH: 0508 8000 118
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TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

PO BOX 66

GREYMOUTH

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):

LANCE RICHARD BROAD

Postal address:

32 PERTH ST, NGAIO 6035

WELLINGTON

RECEIVED

- 3 APR 2008

THE WEST COAST
REGIONAL COUNCIL

Wk Ph: _____

Hm Ph: _____

04 479 1618

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]

- 1) NEGATIVE GEOTECHNICAL PROSPECTS IF DAM CONSTRUCTED.
- 2) IRREVERSIBLE ECOLOGICAL DAMAGE
- 3) LOSS OF SIGNIFICANT RECREATIONAL RESOURCE
- 4) LEGACY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH DAM CONSTRUCTION.

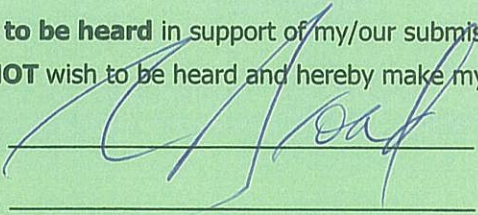
I/we wish the consent authority to make the following decision [Give details, including the nature of any conditions]

REJECT ALL CONSENTS

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): 

Date: 25/03/08

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
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

32 Perth St
Ngaio
Wellington 6035

25 March 2008

West Coast Regional Council
PO Box 66
388 Main South Rd
Greymouth

Dear Sir/Madam

MOKIHINUI HYDRO PROPOSAL

I would like to express my strong opposition over the proposal by Meridan Energy to construct a dam in the Mokihinui gorge.

I find myself being a somewhat reluctant repository of over 80 years of local knowledge concerning the Mokihinui (meaning big raft of caddy sticks) river. My own acquaintance with the river extends over 40 years while my late father's inculcations extend this by another 40 years. Personally, I have spent nearly 2 years of my life in the Southern alps employed as a field botanist and have a good practical knowledge of many of the major river systems.

I believe the Mokihinui catchment has serious geotechnical risks associated with it. The Murchison earthquake in 1929 radically altered the river and created Lake Perrine downstream from *the forks* - the confluence of the north and south branches, where the river was dammed by a huge slip. Although marked on LINZ topographic map series L. Perrine is now a dry lake. It existed as a genuine lake for only a short period after the 1929 earthquake. Significantly, when men from Seddonville wanted to blast the dam across the river that created L. Perrine they could only gain access via the Mt Glasgow tops because the gorge was hugely obstructed by slips which had caused 2 deaths. Again in the 1968 Inangahua earthquake, the Mokihinui gorge area suffered damage from slips. The gorge remains an active region in terms of slip formation. Given the lessons from history, it is my view that although it may be technically possible to construct a dam in the *welcome bay* area, the upstream portion that it floods can not be adequately protected from slips. Future earthquakes giving rise to large scale slips could seriously compromise the ability to operate an effective hydro-electricity scheme.

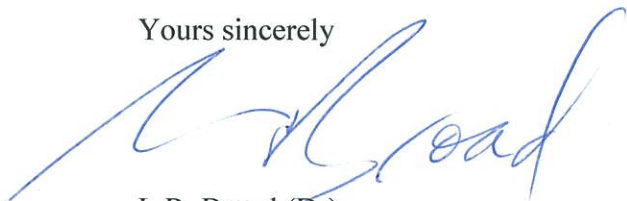
An argument has been put forward by the Buller mayor that Meridan's proposal would service local demand for electricity. Such argument does not take into account that there will be a significant downward step change in electricity usage within the Buller district when the Holcim cement factory at Cape Foulwind ceases operation. The life expectancy for this plant is envisaged to be less than 5 years due to restrictions in limestone availability.

The Mokihinui gorge offers recreational opportunities that are of immense value. It is well used by trampers, hunters, fishers and canoeists and I suggest that the associated recreational pursuits would be compromised by the construction of a dam. The fishing for brown trout is acknowledged internationally as a world class resource. Placing a dam on a river detracts from the wilderness experience which is currently available. Currently the catchment provides a valued habitat to several endangered species: blue duck, spotted kiwi, long-tailed eels, bats, western weka, etc. Habitat restriction leads to lack of genetic biodiversity with well documented results.

I think it is reprehensible of Meridan Energy to suggest large scale hydro development within such a fragile environment as a solution to New Zealand's energy needs. This technology clashes directly with our modern understanding of these ecosystems. The development would be largely irreversible in an ecological sense. In an environmental economic sense, the initiative would have a high legacy cost in terms of lost recreational and biodiversity potential. This is too high a cost for current and future generations.

I would like to see the Mokihinui protected by a water conservation order.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L.R. Broad', written in a cursive style.

L.R. Broad (Dr)