



SUBMISSION ON RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATIONS

Section 96 Of The Resource Management Act 1991

TO: THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

**PO BOX 66
GREYMOUTH**

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): Morgan Cameron Jones

Postal address: 12 Croftfield Place, Westmorland,
Christchurch 8025

Wk Ph: _____ Hm Ph: 03-338-1933 Cell: 021 058 0950

Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: _____ Email: Morgan13@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]

I do not want a dam constructed on the Mokihinui River because of the overall damage to the environment and wildlife.

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

To reject all consents regarding the Mokihinui Hydro Proposal.

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): M. J. Jones

Date: 18-04-08

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

Submission on Mokihinui River Hydro Proposal - Consent RC07150

At the age of six years I was involved in an accident that left me profoundly blind. Fortunately my parents had already taken me on many trips to the West Coast and I had already spent considerable time in the Mokihinui and Ngakawau River regions. Today at aged 20 years the scenery of this area is still vivid in my mind.

Recently I learned that Meridian Energy had submitted an application for resource consent to dam the headwaters of the Mokihinui River. At present I am studying towards a BSc, majoring in Ecology, at Canterbury University. Consequently I was distressed to learn of this proposal, as I am well aware of the ramifications to the environment.

I have walked the Charming Creek Walkway prior to and since my accident. It is a wonderful experience for someone like me to be able to escape from the noise of technology and soak in the sounds of nature. My understanding is that a transmission line will follow the Charming Creek Walkway and Ngakawau Gorge. Even for someone who is blind I can understand that this will be unpleasant to the eye. The Recreation and Tourist Assessment of Effects Report clearly under values the significance of Charming Creek Walkway. It identifies that the track is a national walkway, as classified by Conservation Authority, but suggests that this "does not infer national status for recreation". Every time I have walked the track, it has been very popular both with New Zealanders and international tourists. My family frequently rents a holiday house situated at the Ngakawau end of the track, just opposite the car park, consequently I am well aware of the level of interest in this track. It is sadly obtuse if the Regional Council cannot appreciate that a walking track of this standard will, over time, be both nationally and internationally recognised for its outstanding scenery and historical attributes.

I am also aware that in the process of building the pylons a lot of damage will occur to the surrounding vegetation. It will also impact on the distribution of some of New Zealand's most endangered native birds.

The West Coast does not trade so much on its towns, but on the beauty and recreational value of its natural environment. By building a dam in the Mokihinui River they will be desecrating a sustainable source of revenue. It

would make more sense to improve access to the area and upgrade the walking tracks thus attracting more visitors to the area. The Regional Council would do better spending money on marketing this area as a recreation and nature lovers paradise.

Most countries have endured human occupation for thousands of years. In New Zealand the earliest humans settled only 750 years ago but in this short space of time humans have caused more damage to New Zealand's native biota than almost anywhere else in the world (Now only 25% of our native forest remains.) These days people are more aware of the impact humans are having on the environment and efforts are being made to counteract these effects and protect what remains. How can New Zealand live up to its clean, green image if Regional Councils support the construction of man made dams that destroy natural habitats, just to gain a bit more power?

Maybe the real objective is providing more power to Solid Energy who already has a very poor carbon footprint? If so, this is not a good scenario for New Zealand's international profile.

Morgan Jones
18/04/08