

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 GREYMOUTH	Copy to: Meridian Energy Limited PO Box 2454, Christchurch.
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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 Ra Ata Iuta

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2602 ACT, Australia

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Wk Fax: _____ Hm Fax: _____ Email: ~~raata~~ r_inta@hotmail.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]

I believe that the value of the proposed dam area has been undervalued
in terms of total cost-benefit over the life of the dam.
I am also greatly concerned over the poor data that have been
used to justify the commencement of the dam project.

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

I oppose the entire application

RECEIVED
5 JULY 2008
THE WEST COAST REGIONAL COUNCIL

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: 23/04/2008

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

There is much mention of the economic costs involved in construction and maintenance of the dam but there appears to be little mentioned about an estimation of its useful lifetime. This has ramifications on the high potential impact classification on the residents downstream of the dam once the dam is no longer useful. There is no mention of disposal of the dam. This has extremely negative effects on the long-term house prices in the area.

The argument that the area is remote and not highly visited by tourists, and therefore has less intrinsic value as a consequence, is fallacious. In the long-term, these are exactly the properties that make New Zealand as a nation an exponentially popular tourist destination. The river is highly rated recreationally for its white-water rapids which would be entirely compromised by the dam. There is extremely high long-term potential for sustainable eco-tourism in the area.

I suspect the peak load of sedimentary and vegetable matter flow rate was most probably underestimated. A worst case scenario, would involve a large earthquake or unusually high rainfall, resulting in multiple slips that might compromise the structural integrity of the dam. There is little or no mention of means to shore up slips or to ameliorate the resulting damage, which can result in tonnes of material being deposited in a very small amount of time, creating a peak sediment load. The geology in the region is highly permeable and therefore the possibility of seepage due to high porosity is expected to be high over the lifetime of the dam. There appears to be an over-reliance on carbon offset as a proxy for other environmental measures.

The Long Finned Eel and other migratory fauna would be unable to migrate unaided to the open sea. There is a claim that there would be personnel to manually transport fauna in baskets. However, I strongly suspect that this is not enforceable and most probably would not occur in practise (not to mention the method of gathering the said fauna would most probably be sub-optimal in terms of efficiency). Similarly, I am sceptical of the claim that the dam will operate as close as possible to 'run of river' during whitebait season (1 September through 15 November). The definition of 'as close as possible' is likely left to Meridian Energy to dictate on their own terms. There is also the high possibility of the spawning of introduced fauna species into the lake area, displacing the native species (similar to e.g. the extremely negative effect of carp in many Australian catchments). The lake would also provide a breeding ground for sandfly and mosquito larvae, which are already a nuisance in the area, and this would adversely affect tourist activities. Because of the low flow rate within the lake area, there is a much higher risk of *Didymo* becoming established in the area.

Finally there is little good data in support of the claims made with the MHP, which, not surprisingly, are biased favourably towards building the dam whenever there is uncertainty in the facts. This is highly irresponsible and misleading. The environmental effects on the river system, both up and downstream of the dam location, will certainly be affected. The effect on the Mokihunui River mouth area will be profound, resulting in decreased land availability in the Mokihinui township. Conclusions stating that impact would be minor on the area downstream of the dam are patently false. For example, the massive reduction in water (and sediment) flow rate variation alone affects the type and nature of flora and fauna within the river.

If in the unfortunate circumstance this proposal is approved we reserve the right to have further input to mitigation, remediation, and avoidance of adverse effects.