

West Coast Regional Council
388 Main South Road
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Greymouth



Simon Stewart
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Riccarton
Christchurch

This is a submission on applications from **Meridian Energy Limited** for 34 resource consents.

The type of consent is **Land use and discharge permits**.

The location of the consents is;
The Mohikinui River approx. 3 Km upstream of seddonville and 11km upstream of the river mouth.

The proposed activity is;
Construction of a dam on the Mohikinui River.

The specific part(s) of the application that our submission relates to are;
All of the applications in their entirety

Our submission in opposition is that:

- **The proposal will have a hugely detrimental effect on the biodiversity and ecosystems of the catchment . Completely altering the habitat of many species, including some which are nationally (and indeed inter-nationally endangered) eg Blue Duck and Kiwi. A study by Collier et.al (1993) highlights the specific micro-environmental requirements of the Blue Duck and highlights the need to recognise these habitats and protect them for future conservation strategies.**
- **The proposal will have a *hugely* detrimental effect on the character of a completely natural and unmodified landscape. Such landscapes are again of national and indeed international importance.**
- **The proposal will completely alter the natural flow of the river, and will affect the water quality and the river's natural processes eg. Movement of sediment within the river. Damming a river will effectively 'starve' the down stream section of the river of sediment supply. This will cause the river to erode into its banks at a much**

accelerated rate and change the mean sediment grain size of the river bed (Kondolf 1997). Sediment grain size is known to be a major habitat determinant for many aquatic species.

- The proposal has the potential to affect coastal erosion (Kondolf 1997).
- The proposal will detrimentally affect the quality of recreational experience in the catchment.
- The development of this proposal would be contrary to New Zealand's commitment to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. As part of the New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy there should be a commitment to "*maintain and restore a full range of remaining natural habitats and ecosystems to a healthy and functioning state*" and "*enhance critically scarce habitats*", "*Do what is necessary to maintain and restore viable populations of all indigenous species*" NOT to DESTROY THEM.

I seek the following decision from the West Coast regional Council:
Decline all applications.

I WISH to be heard in support of my submission.

Signature of submitters

x Simon Stewart



23/04/2008

Date.....

Address of submitters:

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References.

COLLIER KJ, MORALEE SJ, WAKELIN MD. 1993. FACTORS AFFECTING THE DISTRIBUTION OF BLUE DUCK HYMENOLAIMUS-

MALACORHYNCHOS ON NEW-ZEALAND RIVERS. *Biological Conservation*, 72: 119-126

Kondolf, GM. 1997. Hungry water: Effects of dams and gravel mining on river channels. *Environmental Management*, 21: 533-551