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<b>FAX TO:</b> West Coast Regional Council	<b>DATE:</b> 23/4/08
<b>FAX NO:</b> (03) 768 7133	<b>PAGE:</b> 1 of 3
<b>ATTENTION:</b> Resource Consents Dept.	<b>FILE NO:</b>
<b>FROM:</b> Ryan Piddington	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Submission on Meridian Energy's Mokihinui Hydro Proposal	

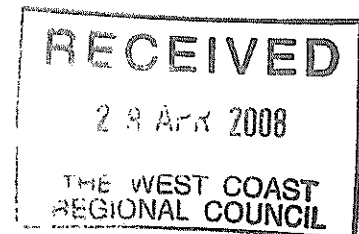
Dear Sir/Madame,

Please find attached TrustPower Limited's ('TrustPower') submission for support of the above Resource Consent Application.

Please note a copy will also be forwarded to the Applicant.

Kind Regards  
**TrustPower Limited**

Ryan Piddington  
Environmental Officer



**CONFIDENTIALITY**

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**SUBMISSION ON AN APPLICATION FOR RESOURCE CONSENT UNDER SECTION 96  
AND 127(3) OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

**To:** Buller District and West Coast Regional Council  
**Name:** TrustPower Limited  
**Address:** Private Bag 12023  
Tauranga

1. TrustPower Limited ('TrustPower') supports Meridian Energy's ('the Applicant') resource consent applications to develop a hydro dam on the Mokihinui River on the South Island's West Coast in their entirety.
2. TrustPower is an electricity generation and retail company in New Zealand. The Company has 18 Hydroelectric Power Schemes ('HEPS') and one wind farm throughout New Zealand.
3. TrustPower is currently awaiting a decision on an application for a hydro scheme in the Marlborough region and is currently in the hearing process for another hydro scheme on the West Coast. These are the Wairau and Arnold HEPS proposals.
4. TrustPower's Proposed Wairau HEPS was granted consents in 2007, however, is currently before a Marlborough District Council ('MDC') hearing committee awaiting a decision relating to the conditions of consent. The proposed Scheme comprises a canal and power station development to be located within the middle reaches of the Wairau Valley, Marlborough. The Scheme, utilising a renewable energy source, will contribute to meeting demand for electricity in the Marlborough/Tasman Region.
5. Additional energy from the proposed Arnold HEPS will assist the West Coast in meeting growing demand and free up power for supply elsewhere in New Zealand. Water flowing in the Arnold River will be drawn into a canal at the location of the existing dam at the Arnold Reservoir. The canal will convey water to a storage pond, which in turn will feed a power station, before being discharged back to the Arnold River via a regulation pond.
6. The reasons for TrustPower's submission are:
7. New Zealand's electricity consumption has grown between 1975 and 2005 at a rate of 2.8% per year. Electricity demand is forecasted to continue to grow at 1.3% per year until 2030. Based on this, 3,166 megawatt's ('MW') of additional electricity generation is required. The generation output of the Mokihinui River hydro proposal will be between 310 and 360 gigawatt hours ('GWh') from a station with a generation capacity of between 65 and 85 MW will contribute to meeting New Zealand's electricity requirements both locally and nationally for the future.

8. Hydro generation is a renewable energy resource, which when harnessed will offset the need to generate electricity from non-renewable energy sources (such as thermal generation) which produce greenhouse gases. This is consistent with section 7 of the Resource Management Act 1991, and with central government policies such as the Climate Change Response Act (2002).
9. Recent Government legislation has highlighted the need for additional new renewable generation facilities in New Zealand in order to meet target requirements of green house gas emissions reductions and also those targets for renewable generation set out in the new Zealand Energy Strategy ('NZES').
10. As part of the NZES the Government has set a target that 90 percent of New Zealand's electricity be generated from renewable sources by 2025. The Applicants proposal will contribute towards New Zealand achieving this target.
11. TrustPower wishes to be heard in support of its submission.
12. If others make a similar submission, TrustPower would consider presenting a joint case with them at any hearing.

**Signature:**

  
Kerry Watson – (Manager – Environment)

**Date:**

**Address for Service:**

TrustPower Limited  
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Attention: Mr K. Watson

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