

Hydro Developments Ltd.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Proposed Stockton Plateau Hydro Project by the applicant Hydro Developments Ltd.

This is a submission to the Buller District Council and the West Coast Regional Council.

My sister and I and our families have a historical association with the Stockton Plateau. Our mother's family comes from Millerton and we have owned a house at Millerton for 36 years. We use this regularly as a family bach.

We visit the Weka Ck, Mangatini and Mine Creek catchments via the Repo Track at least 12 times a year for recreational purposes. (In the past we drove to Tin Town and entered the area from there). We spend a lot of time exploring the rivers and in particular taking visitors to admire the spectacular "upper" Mangatini Falls and associated river and stream beds. We generally access this by walking down Weka Ck and up the Mangatini . We also take family and friends to show them the first electric locomotive site above the Haul Rd, bird watching (particularly for Fern Birds and in the evening listening for Kiwis), botanizing and photography. If other people are visiting the area we recommend they go there to admire the scenery and lack of people in such a beautiful area.

With in the MAPPS Park we walk the Pack Track which goes through part of the Mine Ck catchment and swim in the Mine Creek Pools as sign posted.

The Weka Ck, Repo Basin is the only area of the plateau accessible to the public by track with out gaining permission from SENZ and the only access area that you can visit the electro locomotive line in.

Both Weka Ck and the Mangatini (even with the Mangatini in its variety or coloration and conditions) are stunningly beautiful water ways that run through the Ngakawau Ecological District (N E D) and were included in the N E D as representative of coal measure vegetation and landforms.

Solid Energy is improving the quality of the Mangatini with its lime addition and sediment catching ponds and this is leading to the improvement of the Ngakawau River system.

We oppose in part the plan for the Stockton Plateau Hydro Project

On a general scale we think there is an opportunity to generate electricity using these waters however we have concerns over the following consents.

Buller District Council

Land Use Consent: Disturbance of a Historic Coal Tramway .Rule 7.7.7.2 and 7.9.1.1.

The significance of the first electric locomotive in N Z is an important part of our history. This is the only part of the electric loco line that can be accessed without permission from SENZ and is an integral interest on the Repo Basin walking track. The part of the line that is followed has a bridge, rails and sleepers, and is benched and easily identifiable as a historical feature. The inundation by the reservoir or covering by realignment of the haul road of this historical site would be a significant loss to our heritage and we oppose the destruction of it.

West Coast Regional Council

Land Use Consent: Earthworks/vegetation removal for project infrastructure at all stages of project. Rule 6.1.3.3 and 6.1.6.1.

I agree with the mitigation proposal suggested in section 8.3 Terrestrial Fauna Effects. As suggested it is important that consideration is taken on timing of work, base line monitoring and follow up, also access ways and escape routes for fauna around canals.

It is important there is a checking system on vehicles and machinery coming into the area for both weed and insect pests (i.e. White Tail Spiders), also that a comprehensive weed control and monitoring programme is put into place.

Land Use Consent: Earthworks/vegetation removal-roading. Rule 6.1.5.3 and 6.1.6.1

As above and the possibility of seed introduction into the area is high. It is important that these areas are stabilized, vegetated (appropriately) and weed control and monitoring at present and roading once in place is of high priority.

Water Permit. Take, use dam and divert Weka Ck, Upper Mine Ck and Mangatini River. Rule 12.6.2a/12.1.7, 12.4.6 and 12.4.7.

Weka Ck, Mine Ck and the Mangatini River below their proposed modification sites are all stunningly beautiful waterways, (it is worth paying them a visit) and an area on the Plateau that is accessible to the public. Their pools, waterfalls, terraces and landforms are unique even in the plateau catchment.

The identification of the aquatic bryophyte *Blindia lewinskyae* in Weka Ck is of significance and the moss is intolerant of drying out and tolerant of acid conditions.

We would like to see a residual flow left in each of these waterways at low flow levels as well as flood and normal flow periods. I.e. at Mangatini/Aj intake, Mine Ck intake and Weka Ck dam spillway.

I would also like to see flood flows (spill off) to more closely represent flood flows of waterways in unaltered state.

The stream beds and associated flows are included as an integral part of the N E D and were chosen in the state they are and therefore are best left with some residual flow to maintain their character.

The Acid Mine Drainage levels of Weka and Sandy Creek are low in comparison to the Mangatini and significant work is being done to reduce AMD levels by SENZ in the Mangatini catchment. This helps negate the in river AMD levels and fines content if these rivers are left with some residual flow.

Water Permit: Take and use for hydro generation from Weka Reservoir Rule 12.6.2.6/12.1.7.

As for above water permit I would like a residual flow going out from the dam into Weka Ck at all times.

Discharge Permit Land: Silt storage areas for fill locations adjacent to William and Weka Reservoirs'. Rule 28.

It is important that these are only temporary storage areas and I would like a time frame put on length of stay and a firm site for permanent storage identified.

There are some additional points that I would like to be taken into consideration.

Recreation and Public Access

The walking track into the Repo Basin is the only tracked easily accessible and short uncontrolled route into the area. It will be affected by the proposed Weka Dam and realignment of the haul road.

It is important that this access point i.e. kept open during and after the proposed developments and is kept as right of access as opposed to the stated "mitigation of closure signs and realignment of track as soon as practical after construction."

The diversion of Mine Creek will affect the Mine Creek Pools that are recognized by MAPPS. This area is used for picnics and swimming and as a scenic walk. This was not identified in the report.

We think a reduction of the Mangatini's flow into the Ngakawau by 60% is too much. The residual flow of 40% will not fulfill the scenic qualities of the waterfall and the falls are one of the main contributing factors to the Charming Creek Walkway. Although we support the mitigation plans for replanting damaged vegetation around the falls we do not think it will fulfill the role of viewing the fall themselves. Even in the state the falls are in at present people find them spectacular and a greatly diminished flow will detract from the experience.

Mine Creek

Looking at the plans it is unclear to us whether water is only going to be taken from the most eastern branch of Mine Creek and will not effect the other branches of Mine Creek that also pass through the MAPPS Reserve and Pack Track. Please could this be clarified?

Granity Tunnel Vents and Intakes.

The vents/intakes on the Granity Tunnel at Mine Ck, Granity Ck and Miller Stream are suggested as possible water intakes. It is unclear to us as to whether this is the intention of the proposal or not..

We would like to be heard in support of our submission.

Yours truly,

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