The Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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Buller District Council
P O Box 21
WESTPORT 7825

West Coast Regional Council
P O Box 66
GREYMOUTH 7840

Resource Consent Stockton Plateau Hydro Development

This submission is from the Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ

The Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand (Inc) (FMC) is a long established umbrella organisation for over 100 mountaineering and tramping clubs. It represents directly about 12,000 club members and also the interests of many other New Zealanders who share FMC's desire to protect our wild landscapes.

1. We SUPPORT the applications for resource consent to build the proposed Stockton hydro scheme.

2. In particular, we support:

    a. the use of already modified landscape of the Stockton plateau to generate renewable electricity, in stark contrast to the nearby Mokihinui Hydro Proposal by Meridian Energy, which would destroy an unmodified and highly valued wild river gorge;

    b. the improved water quality of the Ngakawau river through diversion of polluted waters from this catchment and into the reservoirs.

3. We are concerned that existing public access could be reduced. We require that any impeded access on the Stockton plateau because of this scheme be re-routed to allow continued access. This includes the track from the Stockton gate to the Repo, and access to conservation land in the area.

4. We are concerned at the reduced flow of the Ngakawau River and the Mangatini Falls which feature on the Charming Creek Walkway, however we believe these impacts, while significant, are offset by the improvement in water quality of the Ngakawau River. They are also dwarfed relative to the loss of the Mokihinui river gorge under Meridian's hydro proposal.

5. FMC's mandate also extends to protecting conservation, and we expect that environmental and conservation impacts of the scheme as raised by the Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird, and other groups – including loss of flora and fauna to create the reservoirs, the management of acid mine drainage and the impact of the discharge on the marine environment – will be adequately assessed and mitigated.

In summary, provided environmental concerns (particular the impact on conservation values) can be adequately mitigated and existing public access can be maintained, we believe that this proposal is a laudable example of hydro-electric generation that does not destroy wild rivers, recreational opportunities and irreplaceable biodiversity.

We wish to be heard in support of our submission.

Phil Glasson
Secretary

cc Hydro Developments Ltd