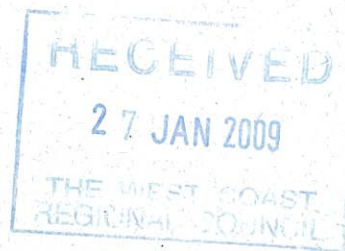




West Coast Regional Council
P O Box 66
GREYMOUTH



Attention: Planning Department

Name: West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board
Address: C/O Department of Conservation
Private Bag 701
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Submission on Resource Consent Applications by Hydro Developments Ltd. for the Stockton Plateau Hydro Project:

- **Resource Consent Applications RC 08149/ 1 to 42 (West Coast Regional Council)**
- **RC 08/131 A to G (Buller District Council)**

1. The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board is a statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation.
2. It has the power under Section 6N 2(a) of the Conservation Act 1987 to 'advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process'.
3. The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board **supports** this proposal for the following reasons:
 - The Board recognises that this scheme represents the production of energy from a renewable resource and in the process should succeed in effectively managing ongoing environmental pollution problems relating to acid mine drainage.
 - In reaching its supportive position the Board considered positive outcomes and adverse effects. The Board's commentary on these follows:

Positive outcomes

- The scheme involves generation of electrical energy from renewable resources avoiding the adverse effects of extraction and consumption of fossil fuels.
- The proposed transmission of electricity by existing transmission lines avoids adverse effects on the landscape from the construction of new transmission corridors.
- Added to this is that the scheme will make a significant contribution to West Coast electricity generation.
- The intention to use the electricity locally avoids energy losses which would result from transmission over long distances.
- Visual intrusion on the landscape will be minimised by building underground and tunnelling.
- Scheme has the potential to be expanded.
- A solution to an existing pollution problem will be achieved by dispersal and dilution of acid mine drainage through a new ocean outfall. As a result the adverse effects of acid mine drainage on the watercourse ecology will cease as well as the costly chemical control currently being employed.
- The land being used has been highly modified in the past through extensive mining. As a result the resulting two reservoirs should not detract from the visual amenity. The Board does not consider the affected landscape to be naturally outstanding and so does not ask for the protection Section 6(b) of the Resource Management Act would offer.
- The project has considerable local support.

Adverse Effects

The Board notes the following adverse effects of the proposal and requests that where practicable, conditions be put in place to limit these:

- The loss of public conservation land is significant as the conservation estate is finite and the loss is long-term. However the fact that it is highly modified land is a mitigating factor in that conservation values are not high with respect to landscape flora and fauna. Conversely there are historical factors associated with the previous land use. The Board would recommend that a land exchange for a portion of land of higher conservation value would be a good outcome.
- The remnants of the Electric Locomotive Line will be adversely affected by the proposal. It is agreed by all that the losses through

inundation and road re-alignment will be significant and permanent. Whilst the present increased interest will allow accurate recording of these remnants for future educational and interpretive use, it is difficult to envisage any meaningful mitigation. The Board asks that every effort is made to minimise the adverse effects on this original electric locomotive line due to its rarity value; being the first of its kind in New Zealand.

- The outflow of the water used for electricity generation will be acidic and adversely affect the marine ecology of the surrounding sea and seabed.

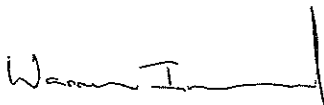
The commissioned report suggests that the dilution of the acidic outflow will rapidly reduce the acidity, toxicity and turbidity such that any adverse effects will be confined to an acceptably small envelope of ocean and seabed. However there are clear indications in the report that there are uncertainties related to the desk-top exercise which reached these conclusions and that careful monitoring of the effects of the outfall needs to be on-going and may determine the need for modification of the design of the diffusing system at the outfall.

The Board requests that conditions for consent require monitoring of the diffusion effects as well as considering alternative designs for the diffusion equipment which would cope with dilution difficulties which are feasible but not predicted in the computer modelling.

Summary

The Board supports this proposal. It considers that there are considerable benefits from this hydro-electric scheme, including a significant generation of power and a long term management of an ongoing environmental issue (historic acid mine drainage) with relatively minor adverse effects.

The Board wishes to speak to this submission at any hearing arranged in connection with these resource consent applications.



Warren Inwood
Chairperson

26 January 2009