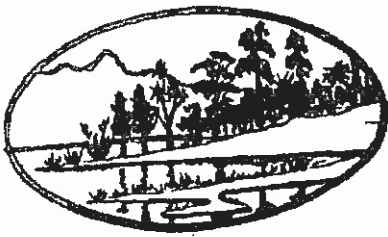


BULLER



CONSERVATION GROUP
INCORPORATED

Submission on HDL proposal

Our group is sympathetic toward small scale hydros that minimise damage to the environment and cause limited social disruption. We are also supportive of schemes that reduce transmission losses and have the potential for lowering power prices to local consumers. However in the case of this application we have taken the position of neither supporting nor opposing since we do have some concerns as follows.

- 1. Destruction of ecosystems:** A significant area of coal plateau ecosystems will be flooded or otherwise destroyed by roads, dam walls, tunneling, etc. While we applaud the applicant's offer to protect a coastal rainforest we'd also like to see a pest and weed control program in the vicinity of the project.
- 2. Pollution of the sea:** We are opposed to polluted water being discharged to the ocean. Water should be cleaned of Acid Mine Drainage and sediment before it enters the tunnels to the power stations. It would be even better for water to be cleaned to the standard of natural creeks of the coal plateau (eg Upper St Pats Str) before it enters the reservoirs.
- 3. Clean Streams.** We would like to see clean streams like Upper St Pats and Weka Ck, now rare on the coal plateau, excluded from the project and allowed to follow their natural course to the Ngakawau River and the sea.
- 4. Public Access:** It is most important that public access provided by the current Stockton to Tin Town (Darlington) Track remains open at all times. The Weka Reservoir and the proposed re-alignment of the haulroad to Stockton Mine will destroy the last few hundred meters of this important access track which serves the Repo Basin, Ngakawau Ecological Area, Blackburn Pakihi, and Happy Valley. The track will need to be re-routed and a new haulroad crossing provided.

Pete Lusk

27 Jan 2009



Buller Conservation Group Submission HDL Hydro.

Upper Weka Creek



Upper St Pats Str. Happy Valley