

**BEFORE THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED**

**BY THE SOUTHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL (ENVIRONMENT SOUTHLAND)**

**UNDER**                      The Resource Management Act 1991

**AND**

**IN THE MATTER OF**                      A Resource Consent Application by Meridian Energy Limited  
(APP-20233670)

**And**

**IN THE MATTER OF**                      Submission by Te Ao Marama Inc (on behalf of Te Rūnanga o  
Ōraka Aparima)

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**SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE OF DEAN WHAANGA AND STEVIE-RAE BLAIR ON BEHALF  
OF TE RŪNANGA O ŌRAKA APARIMA, 17 SEPTEMBER 2024**

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1. Our names are Dean Whaanga and Stevie-Rae Blair and have set out our experience and position in our evidence. We have provided evidence for Te Rūnanga o Ōraka Aparima.
2. We take our evidence as read but have some parts of that evidence which we would like to summarise. We provided a neutral submission as an act of good faith to further ascertain the effects on our values by this application. We have undertaken a Cultural Impact Statement to help inform this.
3. We acknowledge that within Te Ao Māori we are unable to separate the cumulative effects of the MLC from the current application. There have already been significant effects on our values. The assessment reached the point that the application is due to the MLC and therefore there are significant effects on Ngāi Tahu values. This is because of the ki uta ki tai lens being applied over our takiwā and the water, gravels, sediments etc are not able to transport down the river as they should, hence the need for this application.
4. We have been engaging with Meridian regularly since the MLC:LIP has been notified and recently within the last week to discuss the implementation of the recommendations from the Cultural Impact Statement.
5. We also would like to reiterate that rūnanga support the outcome to improve the reliability of flushing flows however there are residual effects on our values that are unable to be mitigated by this application.
6. Together Meridian and TAMI have identified a way, through our existing relationship and in good faith to provide a pathway to enhance Ngāi Tahu values and support the aspirations of Ōraka Aparima for the project site and potentially other sites in the catchment. This process will be undertaken outside of the consent process.
7. Meridian has provided us with the latest set of conditions, and we have commented on these. These are attached to this summary. We have provided comments for a variety of reasons but in general terms where we see there is a need for TAMI to provide feedback into the management plans, where we would like to receive information that is gathered for this project and where we would like to participate in monitoring.
8. The only point of disagreement is the consent duration. We have recommended that the application is approved for 20 years. Our Iwi Management Plan, Te Tangi a Tauira, identifies that 25 years is the maximum that should be consented due to

intergenerational effects and making decisions for our next generation. It also is due to technology changes and improvements over time. While there are review clauses within consents, Iwi are generally not involved with this, so the consenting process is the way in which we can fulfil our kaitiaki obligations. Therefore, due to these reasons we have recommended that the application is approved for 20 years.

9. We would like to be involved in any further refinement of consent conditions.

**Dean Whaanga and Stevie-Rae Blair**  
**17 September 2024**