

Our reference: APP-20233670  
Enquiries to: Bianca Sullivan  
Email: bianca@environmentmatters.co.nz  
resourceconsents@es.govt.nz



13 May 2024

Meridian Energy Limited  
PO Box 4146  
Christchurch 8140

Tēnā koe Kate

***Request for Further Information under Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991 – Meridian Energy Limited***

Thank you for lodging an application for resource consents to construct a new channel to enable a permanent diversion of part of the flow of the Waiau Arm, and the associated removal of bed material and gravels, together with any maintenance and ancillary activities.

Thank you for the additional information you provided on 15 March 2024. I have since reviewed the submissions that were received and need further information to better understand your proposal before I can make a recommendation on your application.

Please provide, in accordance with Section 92(1) of the Resource Management Act, the following information:

**Effects on Bluecliffs**

1. Several submissions were received which made connections between the coastal erosion at Bluecliffs and the controlled flow regime in the Lower Waiau River resulting from operation of the Manapouri Power Scheme. Among other things, the submitters seek that the discharges from the Manapouri Lake Control structure progress towards a more natural flow regime in the Lower Waiau River.

The application documents do not consider the effects of the proposal on the Bluecliffs community and surrounding coastal environment.

Do you consider that the effects of the altered flow in the Lower Waiau River on coastal geomorphology at the Waiau River mouth, including effects of coastal erosion on the Bluecliffs community, are within the scope of these consent applications?

If your answer is no, could you please provide your reasoning and any relevant supporting information?

If your answer is yes, could you please provide an assessment of the effects of the proposed activities on the geomorphology of the river mouth environment, including potential effects on the Bluecliffs community.

#### Effects on native fish

2. Please provide further information to support your assessment of effects on At Risk and Threatened native fish, given the lack of recent fish records in the area, the acknowledged significant values present, and the sensitivity of these species to sediment effects.

#### Effects on native birds

3. Please provide an evaluation of the indigenous avifauna occupying the sediment deposition sites for nesting, feeding or roosting and the effects of the project on these species.

Please provide an evaluation of the use of the wider area affected by the project by bird species for roosting and the effects of the project on this activity.

Can you provide further explanation for why the effects on bird species of conservation concern (Data Deficient, At Risk or Threatened species) is considered minor and a description of what "minor" means in the context of the evaluation.

Please also provide the source documents that support your assessment, in particular McClellan 2001, McClellan 2002 and Whitehead 2021.

You must, by 4 June 2024 either:

- Provide the information, or
- Agree to provide the information, or
- Refuse to provide the information.

The time taken between this email and our receipt of the information will not be included in our total processing timeframes for the application.

Please contact me if you have any questions. I can be contacted on 021 057 4794, or via email on [bianca@environmentmatters.co.nz](mailto:bianca@environmentmatters.co.nz)

Alternatively, Environment Southland staff can be contacted Monday-Friday 8.00–4.30 on 0800 76 88 45 or this email address. Otherwise, if you need more information:

- go to <https://www.es.govt.nz/environment/consents> or
- go to <https://environment.govt.nz/publications/applying-for-a-resource-consent/>

Ngā mihi



Bianca Sullivan  
**External Processing Officer**