

Form 9 - Application for resource consent

Section 88, Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)

To: Environment Southland, Private Bag 90116, Invercargill 9840

1 Meridian Energy Limited applies for the following types of resource consent:

- A water permit under Section 14 of the RMA,
- A discharge permit under Section 15 of the RMA, and

being all necessary permits to undertake the activities described below and more fully described in the attached Assessment of Effects on the Environment.

2 The activity to which the application relates (the proposed activity) is as follows:

Meridian Energy Limited (Meridian) releases flows through the Manapōuri Lake Control Structure to the Lower Waiau River (LWR) in accordance with existing resource consent conditions, and a protocol for the controlled release of supplementary flows. Flows released into the LWR by Meridian are characterised by volume and purpose, and include lake and flood flows, recreational flows, and flushing flows. Each type of flow release has some benefits for river health.

The current channel depth and alignment, and accumulated bed material and gravel in the Waiau Arm, immediately upstream of the MLC, have been identified as a physical constraint detrimentally affecting the conveyance and reliability of providing flows, particularly flushing flows.

The proposal allows for the removal of bed material and gravel in the Waiau Arm and achieve better outcomes for river health in the LWR by improving flow conveyance and reliability through the MLC.

The proposal involves the construction of a new channel which is parallel to, and outside the permanently active bed of, the current main channel in the Waiau Arm. Approximately 225,000 m³ of gravel and bed material, over a length of approximately 1 km, will be excavated and disposed of on Meridian-owned land near the new channel.

Once constructed, periodic maintenance of the new parallel channel and the Waiau Arm channels above and around MLC will be required (however, this is expected to be infrequent).

Although the construction period is expected to be approximately 10 months, the resource consents are sought for a 35-year term. This will provide for any ongoing maintenance activities associated with the parallel channel and the Waiau Arm channels above and around MLC. The 35-year term also allows for the permanent partial diversion of water into the parallel channel.

A full description of the activities is included in the attached Assessment of Effects on the Environment.

3 The site at which the proposed activity is to occur is as follows:

The site of the proposed activities is at and around the Manapōuri Lake Control Structure, including the Waiau Arm, located at the confluence of the Waiau Arm and Mararoa River. The approximate grid reference is E 1186068, N 4935096.

All construction and maintenance activities are located on land owned and occupied by Meridian, legally described as Section 1 Survey Office Plan 12223 (364070).

A full description of the site is included in the attached Assessment of Effects on the Environment.

4 The full name and address of each owner or occupier (other than the applicant) of the site to which the application relates are as follows:

Not applicable – Meridian Energy Limited is the owner and occupier of the site.

5 The other activities that are part of the proposal to which the application relates are as follows:

The proposal involves a number of land use activities, including within the bed of a lake (the Waiau Arm), which would ordinarily be subject to Sections 9 and 13 of the RMA. However, under Section 4 of the Manapōuri Te Anau Development Act 1963 (MTADA), Meridian is authorised to undertake certain activities which are necessary or requisite to the operation of the MPS or ancillary works. Under that authority Meridian is not seeking land use resource consents for the Project, however, the environmental effects associated with these activities have been robustly assessed in these applications and will be appropriately managed.

A full description of the activities subject to MTADA are included in the attached Assessment of Effects on the Environment.

6 No additional resource consents are needed for the proposal to which this application relates.

7 Attached is an assessment of the proposed activity's effect on the environment that –

- (a) Includes the information required by clause 6 of Schedule 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
- (b) Addresses the matters specified in clause 7 of Schedule 4 of the Resource Management Act 1991; and
- (c) Includes such detail as corresponds with the scale and significance of the effects that the activity may have on the environment.

8 Attached is an assessment of the proposed activity against the matters set out in Part 2 of the Resource Management Act 1991.

9 Attached is an assessment of the proposed activity against any relevant provisions of a document referred to in section 104(1)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991, including the information required by clause 2(2) of schedule 4 of that Act.

10 **The following further information required to be included in this application by the district plan, the regional plan, the Resource Management Act 1991, or any regulations made under that Act:**

The attached Assessment of Effects on the Environment provides the relevant information required, including appended reports as detailed below.

| Appendix | Description | Author |
|---|--|--------------------------------|
| A – Application Forms | These resource consent application forms | n/a |
| B – Record of title | Record of title for the MLC site | n/a |
| C – Construction Methodology | Detailed construction methodology for the proposed activities subject to this AEE | Damwatch Engineering Limited |
| D – Freshwater Assessment | Effects on hydrology and water quality, plant communities, macroinvertebrates, fish, and birds | NIWA |
| E – Phytoplankton Risk Assessment | Assessment of risk of phytoplankton blooms in the Waiau Arm immediately upstream of the MLC following excavation of a new parallel channel | NIWA |
| F – Terrestrial Vegetation Wetland Assessment & Freshwater Advice on Construction Effects | Effects on terrestrial vegetation and wetlands in and within the vicinity of the Project area including freshwater advice on manging construction effects. | Boffa Miskell Limited |
| G – Groundwater Assessment | Effects on the hydrogeological environment, particularly regarding potential dewatering activity | Land Water People |
| H – Landscape Assessment | Effects on natural character, rural character, and landscape and visual values | Boffa Miskell Limited |
| I – Construction Noise Assessment | Effects of construction noise on sensitive receptors | Marshall Day Acoustics Limited |
| J – Objectives and Policies assessment | Assessment of the Project against the relevant objectives and policies of relevant statutory documents | Tonkin + Taylor |

Signature on behalf of Meridian Energy Limited



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Date: 21 December 2023

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