Submitter ID:

File No:



Further Submission

on Proposed Natural Resources
Plan for the Wellington Region



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Clause 8 of Schedule 1, Resource Management Act 1991.

Please complete this form to make a further submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region (PNRP). All sections of this form need to be completed for the submission to be accepted.

A further submission may only be made by a person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest, or a person that has an interest in the PNRP greater than the interest that the general public has, or the Wellington Regional Council itself. A further submission must be limited to a matter in support of, or in opposition to, a submission made on the PNRP.

For information on making a further submission see the Ministry for the Environment website: www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/rma/everyday-guide-rma-making-submission-about-proposed-plan-or-plan-change

Return your signed further submission to the Wellington Regional Council by post or email by 5pm Tuesday 29 March 2016 to:

Greater Wellington Regional Council Further Submission on Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region Freepost 3156 PO Box 11646 Manners Street Wellington 6142 Regionalplan@gw.govt.nz

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FreePost Authority Number 3156







Greater Wellington Regional Council
Further Submission on Proposed Natural Resources Plan for the Wellington Region
Freepost 3156
PO Box 11646
Manners Street
Wellington 6142

FORM 6: FURTHER SUBMISSION FORM

This is a further submission in support of, or opposition to, a submission on the PNRP.

A. DETAILS OF FURTHER SUBMITTER

FULL NAME
ORGANISATION (* the organisation that this submission is made on behalf of)
Meridian Energy Limited
ADDRESS FOR SERVICE (INCLUDING POSTCODE)
P O Box 2146
Christchurch 8140
Attention: Andrew Feierabend, Statutory & Compliance Strategy Manager
PHONE FAX
03 357-9731
EMAIL
Andrew Feierabend@MeridianEnergy.co.nz
Only certain people may make further submissions
Please tick the option that applies to you:
□I am a person representing a relevant aspect of the public interest; or
☑I am a person who has an interest in the PNRP that is greater than the interest the general public has.
Specify below the grounds for saying that you are within the category you have ticked.
Meridian Energy Limited owns and operates regionally significant renewable energy generation infrastructure within the
Wellington Region and has made a submission on the Proposed Natural Resources Plan including submission points on
provisions that are the subject of submissions by others. Meridian has an interest in the submission points made by others
and in the provisions that provide for or restrict the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of regionally
significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities
Service of your further submission
Please note that you must serve a copy of this further submission on the original submitter no later than five working days after
this further submission has been provided to Wellington Regional Council.
If you have made a further submission on a number of original submissions, then copies of your further submission will need to be served on each original submitter.
Signature: Date: 23 - 03 - 2016 -
Signature: Date: 33 - 33 - 2016
Signature of person making further submission or person authorised to sign on behalf of person making the further submission. A signature is not required if you make your submission by electronic means.
Please note
All information contained in a further submission under the Resource Management Act 1991 becomes public information. All
further submissions will be put on our website and will include all personal details included in the further submission.
P ADDEADANCE AT HEADING

B. APPEARANCE AT HEARING

Please select from the following:

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	do	not	wich	to	ha	hoard	in	cupnort	of	mil	further	submission:	or
	uo	HOL	WISH	w	DE	llealu	111	Support	UI	IIIV	lululei	SUDIIIISSIUII.	UI

- ☑I do wish to be heard in support of my further submission; and, if so,
- ☑I would be prepared to consider presenting this further submission in a joint case with others making a similar further submission at any hearing.

Please enter further submission points in the table on the following pages

C. FURTHER SUBMISSION POINTS

Please complete the following table with details of which original submission points you support and/or oppose, and why, adding further rows as necessary.

Details of the	Original	Position	Part(s) of the submission	Reasons	Relief sought
submission you are	submission		you support or oppose		
commenting on	number	Whether you		Why you support	The part or whole of
		support or	Indicate which parts of	or oppose each	each submission point
Name of person/	The original	oppose the	the original submission	submission point.	you wish to be allowed
group making	submission	submission.	(which submission points)	8	or disallowed.
original submission	number can		you support or oppose,		
and postal address.	pe found on		together with any		
	the submitter		relevant PNRP provisions.		
	address list.				
e.g. Joanne Bloggs 12 Pine Tree Avenue Redwood	e.g. e.g. submitter S102 Oppose	e.g. Oppose	e.g. Oppose all of submission point S102/41	e.g. The submission point does not recognise	e.g. Disallow the parts of S102/41 relating to
_	_		_	_	_



GWRC PROPOSED NATURAL RESOURCES PLAN FOR THE WELLINGTON REGION: FURTHER SUBMISSION POINTS OF MERIDIAN ENERGY LIMITED (*MEL*):

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
DEFINITIONS				
	Biodiversity Offset	NZTA S146/008	Requests amendment to delete requirement for no net loss and net gain such that all proposals are considered on their merit	Support: MEL has an interest in the application of the principle of biodiversity offsetting within the Wellington region and nationally and, in particular, in the 'no net loss' approach. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
	Biodiversity Offset	Minister of Conservation S75/006	Requests amendment to emphasise no net loss and preferably a net gain of biodiversity on the ground.	Oppose: MEL has an interest in the application of the principle of biodiversity offsetting within the Wellington region and nationally and, in particular, in the 'no net loss' approach. Requests: Disallow the submission.
	Operational requirement	Vector Gas S145/011 NZTA S146/027	Request amendment: 'When an activity needs to be carried out in a particular location or way in order to be able to function safely, effectively and efficiently.	Support: The requested amended wording is a sensible addition in the context of regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
	Regionally significant infrastructure	Wellington Electricity Lines Limited S126/006	Requests addition of: • facilities for the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity a network (as defined in the Electricity Industry Act 2010).	Support: The submission makes a valid point about the correct reference to relevant legislation. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
	Regionally Significant Infrastructure	Powerco S29/060	Requests addition of: 'Facilities for the generation and/or transmission of electricity where it is supplied to the national electricity grid and/or the local distribution network. This includes supply within the local electricity distribution network'	Support: It is appropriate to explicitly include provision for electricity supply to the national grid and the local distribution network. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
OBJECTIVES				
Objectives	Requested new Objective	NZTA S146/064	Add new objective: 'Discharges associated with regionally significant infrastructure are managed through the adoption of the best practicable option.'	Support in part: Experience has demonstrated that adoption of the best practicable option approach is appropriate and sustainable for electricity generation activities as examples of regionally significant infrastructure. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Objectives	Requested new Objective	NZTA S146/043 Vector Gas Ltd S145/016	Add new objective: 'To recognise that regionally significant infrastructure represents appropriate use and development in all environments where there are	Support in part: Regionally significant infrastructure represents appropriate use and development in many environments and is subject to functional needs and operational requirements. MEL wishes to

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
			functional needs or operational requirements.'	participate in any hearings about the wording of such an additional objective. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve a similar outcome.
Objectives	Requested new Objective	NZTA S146/042 Vector Gas Ltd S145/016	Add new objective: 'The safe, effective and efficient use, operation, maintenance, upgrade and development of regionally significant infrastructure is provided for.'	Support: Given the importance of this infrastructure, it is appropriate that the policy framework explicitly recognises and provides for new and existing regionally significant infrastructure. The One Plan Objective 3-1 provides a useful operative example and is worded: 'Have regard to the benefits of infrastructure and other physical resources of national importance by recognising and providing for their establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading.' Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Objectives	Requested new Objective	Wellington International Airport Ltd S282/005	Insert new objective: 'Development of regionally significant infrastructure: Provide for an enable the development and growth of regionally significant infrastructure.'	Support: Given the importance of this infrastructure, it is appropriate that the policy framework explicitly recognises and provides for new and existing regionally significant infrastructure. The One Plan Objective 3-1 provides a useful operative example and is worded: 'Have regard to the benefits of infrastructure and other physical resources of national importance by recognising and providing for their

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
				establishment, operation, maintenance and upgrading.' Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Objective 12		Spark NZ S98/005	Add new Objective 12A: 'Recognise that some existing and future regionally significant infrastructure has a functional need and/or operational requirement to be located and/or operated in a particular environment.'	Support in part: The PNRP includes definitions and policies that acknowledge the functional needs and operational requirements of regionally significant infrastructure. MEL has an interest in the wording of any such additional objective and notes that One Plan Policy 3-3 provides a potentially useful example. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Objective O19		CentrePort S121/026 KiwiRail Holdings S140/018 Horticulture NZ S307/016 Wellington International Airport S282/011 Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/030	Amend: 'The interference—adverse effects from use and development on natural process is minimised avoided, remedied or mitigated.'	Support in part: The suggested alternative wording accords better with the framework of the RMA. The expression 'interference' has no clear meaning in this context. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Objective O38		NZTA S146/060 Dairy NZ and Fonterra S316/039 Mahaki Holdings S370/088 and the identical submissions of	Delete Objective O38	Support: MEL opposes Objective O38. Requests: Allow the submission point and delete Objective O38.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference others (please note this further submission point applies also to the identical submission points made by multiple others)	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
Objective O38		Mahaki Holdings S370/044 and the identical submissions of others (please note this further submission point applies also to the identical submission points made by multiple others)	Amend: 'Identified special amenity landscape values are maintained and where possible identified or enhanced over time.'	Oppose: MEL opposes Objective O38 and has requested its deletion. Requests: Disallow the submission point and delete Objective O38.
Objective O38		Rangitane o Wairarapa Inc. S279/048	Provide a schedule of special amenity landscapes	Oppose: MEL opposes Objective O38 and has requested its deletion. Requests: Disallow the submission point and delete Objective O38.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
SCHEDULES				
Schedule G		Environmental Defence Society Inc. S110/017	Amend to include a clear distinction between mitigation and offsets based on the goal of each response action.	Neither support nor opposition: MEL has an interest in the application of the principle of biodiversity offsetting within the Wellington region and nationally. Requests: MEL wishes to participate in any hearings that address the wording of the principles in Schedule G (biodiversity offsetting) and requests that any amendments accord with the amendments requested in MEL's own original submission.
		GBC Winstone S66/026	Delete 3 (additional conservation outcomes), 4 (a) (demonstrate positive effects) and 6 (no net biodiversity loss)	the application of the principle of
		Minister of Conservation S75/207 and S75/208	Amend and include direction for good practice in biodiversity mitigation	Neither support nor opposition: MEL has an interest in the application of the principle of biodiversity offsetting within the Wellington region and nationally. Requests: MEL wishes to participate in any hearings that address the wording of the principles in Schedule G (biodiversity offsetting) and requests that any amendments accord with the amendments

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision: requested in MEL's own original submission.
POLICIES				
Policies	Requested New Policy	NZTA S146/078 Vector Gas Ltd S145/027	Add a new policy: 'Resource consent durations for regionally significant infrastructure applications required under ss 13, 14 and 15 of the RMA will generally be granted for the maximum period of time unless reasons are identified during the consent process that make this inappropriate.'	Support: The proposed approach is appropriate for regionally significant infrastructure. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policies	Requested New Policy	NZTA \$146/075	Add a new policy: 'Adverse effects shall generally be managed by: (a) Avoiding effects; (b) Where effects cannot be practically avoided, remedying them; (c) Where effects cannot be practically remedied, mitigating them; and\where residual adverse effects remain, it may be appropriate to consider the use of off-sets'.	Support in part: The proposed 'cascade' approach is broadly appropriate. However, the focus should be on avoiding significant adverse effects and on remedying or mitigating other adverse effects as opposed to a focus on all effects. Requests: Allow the submission point in part, amending the expression 'effects' to read 'adverse effects' and, in (a) amending the wording to 'avoiding significant adverse effects'. Alternatively, such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policy P4	Minimising adverse effects	NZTA S146/076	Requests amendments including consideration of the operational requirements and functional needs of regionally significant infrastructure (and other improvements to wording)	Support: Consideration of operational requirements and functional needs for regionally significant infrastructure should be explicit in the policy framework.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
				Requests: Allow the submission point or further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policy P4	Minimising adverse effects	Ravensdown S310/023	Requests amendments including consideration of the operational requirements and functional needs of regionally significant infrastructure	Support: Consideration of operational requirements and functional needs for regionally significant infrastructure should be explicit in the policy framework. Requests: Allow the submission point or further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policy P9	Public access to and along the c.m.a. and the beds of lakes and rivers	Chorus NZ Ltd S144/010 Spark NZ S98/010	Except where it is necessary to: (d) Protect Regionally Significant Infrastructure	Support: The request is appropriate and consistent with the RPS approach. Requests: Allow the submission point or further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policy P12	Benefits of regionally significant infrastructure	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/079	Amend to clarify that the operation, use, maintenance and upgrade can still have adverse effects that need to be managed; and add a new policy to ensure that new or increases in scale or extent of existing regionally significant infrastructure and REG shall avoid adverse effects on sites in Schedules A to F, H and J.	Support and oppose: It is acknowledged that adverse effects need to be managed. However, the single approach of avoidance only of all effects on sites within the named Schedules is not consistent with the framework of the RMA. Requests: Allow the submission point in part but disallow the requested amendments that would require avoidance of all adverse effects.
Policy P13	Regionally significant infrastructure	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/080	Amend to clarify that the operation, use, maintenance and upgrade can still have adverse effects that need to be managed; and add a new policy	Support and oppose: It is acknowledged that adverse effects need to be managed. However, the single approach of avoidance only of all effects on sites within the named

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
			to ensure that new or increases in scale or extent of existing regionally significant infrastructure and REG shall avoid adverse effects on sites in Schedules A to F, H and J.	Schedules is not consistent with the framework of the RMA. Requests: Allow the submission point in part but disallow the requested amendments that would require avoidance of all adverse effects.
Policy P13	Regionally significant infrastructure	NZTA S146/083 Vector Gas S145/029	Amend to include use, operation, maintenance, upgrade <u>and development</u> of regionally significant infrastructure.	Support in part: MEL agrees that the development of new, as well as the operation/maintenance/upgrading of regionally significant infrastructure should be provided subject to avoiding, remedying
		NZTA S146/083	Also add: 'The development of new regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities to meet the needs of the community are beneficial and are generally appropriate.	or mitigating adverse effects. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome, acknowledging the need to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.
Requested New Policy		Transpower NZ S165/010	Policy 13A: 'Managing environmental effects of new National Grid infrastructure. When considering the environmental effects of new infrastructure associated with the National Grid, or major upgrades of the existing National Grid, decision makers shall have regard to: (a) The benefits of the infrastructure to meet the needs of present and future generations. (b) The extent to which any adverse environmental effects have been	Support: The proposed matters for consideration are generally appropriate for regionally significant infrastructure. Requests: Allow the submission point or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
			avoided, remedied or mitigated by the route, site and method selection; and the constraints imposed by the technical and operational requirements of the National Grid.	
Policy P14	Activities incompatible with regionally significant infrastructure	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/081	Amend to clarify that the operation, use, maintenance and upgrade can still have adverse effects that need to be managed; and add a new policy to ensure that new or increases in scale or extent of existing regionally significant infrastructure and REG shall avoid adverse effects on sites in Schedules A to F, H and J.	Support and oppose: It is acknowledged that adverse effects need to be managed. However, the single approach of avoidance only of all effects on sites within the named Schedules is not consistent with the framework of the RMA. Requests: Allow the submission point in part but disallow the requested amendments that would require avoidance of all adverse effects.
Policy P25	Natural Character	NZTA S146/090 Vector Gas S145/033	Amend: 'Use and development shall avoid, remedy or mitigate significant adverse effects on natural character in the coastal marine areaand in the beds of lakes and rivers, and avoid remedy or mitigate other adverse effects of activities taking into account (c) Whether it is practicable to protect natural character from inappropriate use and development through the use and development is appropriate after considering: (i) Using an the use of alternative locations, or	Support in part: The proposed approach is broadly appropriate for regionally significant infrastructure and for renewable energy generation activities. Requests: Allow the submission point and add to part (iv) 'and renewable energy generation' along with regionally significant infrastructure.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
			form of development that would be more appropriate to that location; and (ii) <u>Considering</u> the extent to which functional	
			need or existing use limits location and development options; and	
			(iii) <u>Considering</u> the extent to which functional need or existing use limits location and development options;	
			and (iv) Whether the use and development is regionally significant infrastructure	
Policy P25	Natural character	Minister of Conservation S75/058	Amend: '(d) whether it is practicable the ability to protect natural character from inappropriate use and development through:	Oppose in part: The RMA requires protection from inappropriate use and development – not absolute protection in all situations. Requests: Retain the reference to protection of natural character 'from inappropriate use and development'.
Policy P25	Natural character	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/090	Amend: Use and development shall must be managed to avoid significant adverse effects on natural character	Oppose in part: The proposed amendments are at odds with the 'cascade' approach to managing effects that is adopted in the PNRP.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
			(d) Whether it is practicable to protect natural character from inappropriate use and development through (i) Using an alternative location, or form of development that would be more appropriate to that location, and Considering the extent to which functional need or existing use limits location and development options.	Requests: Disallow the submission point and adopt the cascade approach of avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects and retain the matters for consideration detailed in Policy P25 or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Policy P33	Indigenous fish habitats	NZTA S146/096	Amend: 'avoided <u>where</u> <u>practicable.</u>	Support in part: The submission addresses the same point as Meridian's own submission but requests a different solution. Requests: Allow the submission point in addition to or as an amendment to the relief requested in MEL's original submission.
Policy P33	Indigenous fish habitats	Roading, Parks and Gardens HCC, UHCC S85/035 Fertiliser Association NZ S302/038	Revise the language to focus on protection from <i>significant</i> adverse effects and not 'more than minor' effects	Support in part: The submission addresses the same point as Meridian's own submission but requests a different solution. Requests: Allow the submission point in addition to or as an amendment to the relief requested in MEL's original submission.
Policy P33	Indigenous fish habitats	Minister of Conservation S75/066	Amend (b) and (c) to ensure that the policy requires avoidance of more than minor adverse effects.	Oppose: The requested amendment sets a very high threshold that is not consistent with the RMA approach. The RMA does not require avoidance of all effects that are <i>more than minor.</i>

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
				Requests: Disallow the submission point.
4.6 Sites with significant values		RFBPS S353/003	Include more specific provisions that include significant sites in the wider coastal environment and not just the c.m.a.	Oppose: The request is beyond GWRC's jurisdiction (which is limited to activities within the coastal marine area). Requests: Disallow the submission point.
Policy P44	Mana whenua values	CentrePort S121/060 NZTA S146/106 KiwiRail Holdings S140/043	Amend to say 'protected from inappropriate use and development'	Support: The proposed wording addresses a similar point made in MEL's original submission and has merit. Requests: Allow the submission point in addition to or as an amendment to the relief requested in MEL's original submission.
Policy P138	Structures in sites with significant values	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/160	Amend to require any adverse effects on the sites to be avoided	Oppose: The request defeats the intention of the Policy. There are other policies that more appropriately address the avoidance, remediation or mitigation of adverse effects. Also the focus should be on significant adverse effects and not all effects. Requests: Disallow the submission point.

Reference	Policy or Provision	Submitter Name & Submission Reference	Submitter's Submission Points	MEL Position, Reasons and Requested Decision:
RULES				
Rule R42 permitted discharges	New requested rule	Wellington Water S135/138	Provide a special category of permitted activity for regionally significant infrastructure or have consents trigger to controlled activity	Support: The requested amendment is similar to MEL's own submission on Rule R53. Requests: Allow the submission point and amend the rule framework in a manner that is consistent with MEL's own submissions on Rule R53 or such further or other relief as will achieve the same outcome.
Rule R42	Minor discharges	Rangitane o Wairarapa S279/165	Include SS standard for Schedule B, C F1b, F1c, F2a, F2b, F2c, F5 and H sites and amend 'zone of reasonable mixing' to ensure it does not extend into sites of significance identified in Schedules C and H	Oppose in part: It may not always be practicable to confine the zone of reasonable mixing in the manner requested and the request expands the scope of the SS standard in a manner that is potentially inappropriate. Requests: Disallow the submission point.
Rule R48	Permitted stormwater discharge	Mahaki Holdings S370/062 and the identical submissions of others (please note this further submission point applies also to the identical submission points made by multiple others)	Delete R48	Oppose: R48 is important in permitting discharge of stormwater to water from individual properties (including from regionally significant infrastructure sites). Requests: Disallow the submission point.