

**PART TWO: SPECIFIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE PROPOSED HURUNUI AND WAIAU RIVER REGIONAL PLAN**

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
<b>Part 1 – Introduction</b>		
<b>Scope of this Plan and the area to which it applies</b>	<p>As submitted below in relation to the definition of “<i>non-consumptive use</i>”, Meridian considers there is confusion in the Proposed Plan regarding the various similar terms used throughout the Plan. As submitted below in relation to the Definitions, Meridian seeks that scope is provided for the relevant terms to cover any use of water that is not a use for consumption by plants, animals or people.</p> <p>Meridian considers that there is a lack of clarity regarding the scope of the Plan in relation to discharges for non-consumptive uses. It is not considered sufficiently precise to refer to “a discharge for non-consumptive use”, as it would be the prior use of the water (prior to the discharge), that would determine whether the use is consumptive or not. An example contained within the Proposed Plan of more appropriate and precise wording is Proposed Rule 3.1 (b). This refers to the “<i>discharge, or return, of water used for non consumptive use ...</i>”. Meridian considers this wording should be adopted in Part 1 of this Plan (and in other parts of the Plan and NRRP Plan Change 3 where the scope of this Plan is described).</p> <p>Meridian considers it is essential for clear interpretation of the inter-relationship between this Plan and the NRRP that there is consistency between the wording of the “Scope” in Part 1 of this Plan and the wording to be introduced to the NRRP through Plan Change 3. In relation to the “<i>use of land</i>” described in the fourth bullet point under Scope in Part 1, Meridian considers that the description of the activity is more specific in Proposed Plan Change 3. Proposed Plan Change 3 reads:</p> <p>“(b) <i>Within the area shown as the Nutrient Management Area in Map 2 in Schedule</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend the third bullet point as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>the discharge of water (in accordance with section 15(1) of the Resource Management Act) <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses; and</i>”</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Amend the fourth bullet point as follows” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>the use of land (in accordance with section 9(2) of the Resource Management Act) in the Nutrient Management Area shown in Map 4 <u>which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate to water.</u></i></li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect, including any similar or related amendments to ensure clarity and avoid any confusion as to the inter-relationship between this Plan and the NRRP;</li> <li>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

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	<p><i>WQN18, the provisions of the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan shall apply to the use of land which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate".</i></p> <p>Meridian seeks that the wording used in the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan be consistent with the wording used in Plan Change 3.</p>	
<p><b>The Resource Management Issues</b></p>	<p>Meridian considers there is a contradiction in the comments about costs of developing water storage in environmentally sensitive areas between the final full paragraph at end of page 2 and the paragraph at top of page 3. Meridian asks that amendments be made to the relevant paragraphs in order to avoid any potential for contradiction or confusion.</p> <p>Meridian does not consider that the Proposed Plan adequately discusses issues relating to renewable electricity generation, both as a significant issue for New Zealand as a whole, and for the north of the South Island. The only reference to hydro-electricity generation in the Resource Management Issues section of the Proposed Plan is to "provide a larger pool of capital" to enable the development of large scale irrigation which may otherwise "be close to the affordability threshold for new water users" (2<sup>nd</sup> para on page 3).</p> <p>Meridian considers that additional discussion and an additional Issue relating to hydro-electricity generation need to be included in the Resource Management Issues section of the Plan in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give effect to the provisions of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy 2011;</li> <li>• have particular regard to the provisions of sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the RMA;</li> <li>• have regard to the Proposed Canterbury Regional Policy Statement; and</li> <li>• assist in making a contribution to meeting the Government's target for 90% of New Zealand's electricity generation to be from renewable energy resources by 2025 (the</li> </ul>	<p>1. Amend the paragraph at the top of page 3 as follows:</p> <p><i>"However, developing storage infrastructure in areas where the environmental effects are less <u>may be</u> significantly more expensive than storage infrastructure in <u>some of the environmentally sensitive areas</u>".</i></p> <p>2. Add the following new paragraph near the top of page 3:</p> <p><i><u>"The benefits of renewable electricity generation, at any scale, are of significance in providing for increasing regional energy demands, as well as making a wider contribution to meeting the Government's target for 90% of New Zealand's electricity generation to be from renewable energy resources by 2025. Water resources suitable for hydro-electricity generation are limited in their location and development of additional generation must necessarily take advantage of such opportunities. In addition, most of the electricity used in the upper South Island is presently "imported" from further south, or from the north when hydro storage in the South Island is relatively low. This results in electricity losses during transmission to the upper South Island; relatively higher regional electricity market prices compared with many other parts of the country; and increasing exposure to the risk of insufficient supply during periods of low rainfall and reliance therefore on transmission from the North Island.</u></i></p>

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	New Zealand Energy Strategy).	<p>3. Add the following new Issue:</p> <p><u>"Issue 9</u></p> <p><u>Electricity demand exceeds generation in the upper South Island making the area heavily dependent on importing electricity supply from elsewhere. The benefits of hydro-electricity generation from available water resources are of significance in providing for this electricity demand, as well as in making a wider contribution to meeting the Government's target for 90% of New Zealand's electricity generation to be from renewable energy resources by 2025."</u></p> <p>4. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>5. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
<p><b>How this Plan Responds to the Resource Management Issues and the Hurunui Waiau Zone Implementation Programme</b></p>	<p>For the reasons listed in the bullets points above, Meridian considers that the potential for hydro-electricity generation to use the water resources of the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers should be recognised and provided for in the Plan on the basis of the significant benefits derived from renewable electricity generation, and not just where linked to the delivery of "more water' for irrigation". Accordingly, Meridian seeks an amendment to Point 6 on page 6 and the addition of a new Point specifically addressing the Plan's provisions for hydro-electricity generation. Related amendments are also sought throughout the Plan.</p> <p>As expressed under <i>Environmental Flows</i> (pg 7), water storage is a means that can be used to provide reliable irrigation water for existing abstractors when the minimum flows in the</p>	<p>1. Amend point 6. on page 6 as follows:</p> <p>"6. Providing a policy and rule framework to deliver 'more water' for irrigation <del>(with potential associated hydroelectric power development)</del> in the areas preferred for water storage, while also setting out the preferred outcome of deferring options in other locations until further investigation has been undertaken."</p> <p>2. Add the following additional point on page 6:</p> <p>"8 <u>Providing a policy and rule framework to enable hydro-electricity</u></p>

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	<p>main stems of the Hurunui and Waiau Rivers are increased from their current summer minima, in accordance with the Proposed Plan. However, Meridian considers that the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Environmental Flows</i> inaccurately states that “<i>storage provides an opportunity for the minimum flow to be increased</i>”, when more accurately storage provides an opportunity to maintain reliability for irrigation abstractors if the minimum flow is increased. Meridian, therefore, seeks amendments to this paragraph.</p> <p>Water storage is not, however, necessary to provide significant benefits from hydro-electricity generation from the water resources of these rivers, even at the amended minimum flows sought through the Proposed Plan. Meridian does not consider it is necessary or appropriate for the Plan to link hydro-electricity generation use to water storage, before hydro-electricity development can be considered in terms of the proposed amended minimum flows. Meridian seeks various amendments to the Plan to reflect its submission that non-consumptive use of water resources should not be linked to water storage requirements at the amended minimum flows proposed by the Plan.</p> <p>Meridian considers that an alternative method can be more efficiently and effectively implemented through the Plan to provide ongoing reliability of supply for existing irrigation abstractors, until such time as irrigation water storage is provided. Existing abstractors (within the proposed A Block) could retain their existing minimum flows by way of a Rule to this effect until water storage is provided. This would enable the proposed amended minimum flows in the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers to be applied to new abstractors immediately. New users, which do not require storage, could then be enabled immediately, provided that they comply with the new minimum flows. Meridian seeks that provision be made for this alternative approach in the Plan.</p> <p>Meridian does not support the specific flows referred to in the 10th paragraph under <i>Environmental Flows</i> (pg 7) as being important for recreational uses. Meridian does not</p>	<p><u>generation in order to provide additional electricity supply in the upper South Island.”</u></p> <p>3. Amend the sixth paragraph under the heading of Environmental Flows (page 7) as follows:</p> <p><i>“However, increasing the minimum flows immediately would have negative effects on existing <u>irrigation abstractors’</u> reliability of supply. Therefore this Plan proposes to maintain the status quo <del>flow regime for existing abstractors from</del> the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers in the short term <u>until water storage is provided</u>. The Plan also recognises that the B Allocation Block is not sufficiently reliable for run of river irrigation and that storage is needed. Storage provides an opportunity for <u>stored irrigation water to be utilised to augment existing and new irrigation abstractors supply when the rivers fall to low levels, improving reliability, when the minimum flows <del>to be</del> increased to improve the ecological health and mauri of the rivers, as stored water is able to be utilised to augment existing abstractors supply when the river falls to low levels, improving reliability.</u>”</i></p> <p>4. Amend the seventh paragraph under the heading of Environmental Flows (page 7) as follows:</p> <p><i>“This Plan therefore requires the minimum flow in the Hurunui River be increased to 15 cumecs for the months of February, March and April, and decreased to 12 cumecs in August and 10 cumecs in June, July and August <del>for non-consumptive takes following the commissioning of any water storage facility which takes and stores more than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of</del></i></p>

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	<p>consider that there is sufficient information to state so definitely that these flows are important for recreation, whether for salmon angling, jet boating or trout fly fishing. Meridian agrees that flow variability above the minimum flows is important for recreational uses, but seeks that this paragraph be amended to refer to flow variability generally, rather than to the specific flows specified in the Proposed Plan. A similar amendment is sought to Policy 2.7.</p> <p>In the 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Environmental Flows</i> (pg 7), Meridian seeks greater consistency between this paragraph and Policy 2.5 to which it refers. Policy 2.5 refers to the protecting the “effectiveness” of periphyton flushing and gravel mobilising flows from adverse effects. Meridian seeks that this 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph also refers to the “effectiveness” of these flows, rather than to the flows themselves. Furthermore, Meridian does not consider it is possible to “protect” these flows completely (i.e. not allow any changes to these flows) and still enable the abstraction of A, B and C Block water as provided for by the Proposed Plan. Fully protecting the whole of these flows would prevent any water being taken from these flow ranges. Rather, Meridian supports an amendment to this 11<sup>th</sup> paragraph (and to Policy 2.5) which seeks that significant adverse effects on the effectiveness of these ecologically important and channel-forming flows are avoided.</p> <p>Meridian supports the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph under <i>Allocation of Water</i> (pg 8) which states that water may be allocated to two or more activities within an allocation block, for example irrigation and hydro-electricity generation. Meridian considers that this approach in the Proposed Plan enables efficient and effective use of the allocated water for multiple benefits.</p> <p>Meridian understands that A and B Block water from the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers is sufficient to fully irrigate the Hurunui-Waiau Zone, as long as there is sufficient storage. Accordingly, Meridian seeks the deletion of the reference to C Block water from the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Water Allocation</i> (pg 8).</p>	<p><del>water. For the Waiau River the minimum flow must be increased to 20 cumecs in the months of February and March following the commissioning of any water storage facility which takes and stores more than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water. To provide an incentive for storage (potentially alongside hydro electric power generation on Waiau River) and</del> <u>reduced to 20 cumecs in the months of May to December, as modelling indicates that the life supporting capacity of the River will continue to be protected at this flow during these months. For both rivers, the commissioning of a water storage facility which takes and stores more than 20,000,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation will improve reliability for existing and new irrigation abstractors when the minimum flows in these rivers are increased. In the meantime, reliability will be retained for existing irrigation abstractors by enabling those consents to retain their existing minimum river flows.”</u></p> <p>5. Amend the tenth paragraph under the heading of Environmental Flows (page 7) as follows:</p> <p><del>“Flow variability above the minimum flowsef 35 to 75 cumecs in the Waiau River and 30 to 50 cumecs in the Hurunui Rivers are is important to provide support for the recreational uses of the river. Salmon angling requires flows in the higher end of this flow band, while family jet boating is preferred throughout the specified flow band. Trout fly fishing, particularly in the braided sections of the rivers, is optimal in the lower region of these bands. Policy 2.7 in this Plan seeks to ensure that any take or diversion protectprovides for this flow variabilitythese flow ranges.”</del></p>

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	<p>Meridian opposes the reference in the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Water Allocation</i> (pg 8) to the 'gap' between blocks – as it relates to the Waiau River. Meridian does not consider that the 2 cumec 'gap' between the A and B Blocks for the Waiau River serves any ecological purpose. Its ability to protect 'ecologically significant freshes' as stated in the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph has not been demonstrated. Meridian understands that this 2 cumec 'gap' relates more to an existing over-allocation of the proposed 18 cumec A Block, rather than to any ecological purpose. Meridian does not consider this 'gap' is an appropriate technique to address an over-allocation and it should be removed.</p> <p>Meridian agrees with the approach taken in the Plan and referred to in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Storage and Additional Demand for Water Resources</i> (pg 9-10), that water storage infrastructure should be development in an integrated manner. Meridian agrees that any proposal for large scale water infrastructure needs to show how it will fit within a zone wide pattern of water storage. However, Meridian opposes a requirement for all large scale water storage infrastructure to be part of <u>achieving</u> irrigation of all potentially irrigable land in the Zone. Meridian does not agree that proposals for water storage for non-consumptive use should be required to provide for irrigation. Rather, Meridian accepts that they should be required to show how they would fit within a pattern of water storage that would <u>overall enable</u> such irrigation. Meridian seeks amendments to the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph accordingly.</p> <p>Meridian supports the statement in the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Efficient use of Water</i> (pg 10), which recognises that activities with high capital costs (greater than \$10million) should have resource consents granted for up to 35 years. Meridian considers that this appropriately recognises the high cost of development, the long working life of such facilities, and the need to have long-term security of consent.</p> <p>Meridian supports the setting of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order priorities for water use in accordance with the priorities contained in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy (CWMS). However,</p>	<p>6. Amend the eleventh paragraph under the heading of Environmental Flows (page 7 ) as follows:</p> <p><i>"In the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau River flows of around 1.5 to 2 times the median flow are important for flushing periphyton (aquatic plant growths and blooms), while flows of around 3 times the median flow are needed to turn over and mobilise larger gravel boulders and reset algae and macroinvertebrate populations. Policy 2.5 seeks that <u>significant adverse effects on the effectiveness of these ecologically important and channel-forming flows are avoided</u><del>be protected</del>."</i></p> <p>7. Retain the following statement in the first paragraph under Allocation of Water (page 8):</p> <p><i>"Water may be allocated to two or more activities within an allocation block, for example irrigation and hydroelectric development with water used for hydro-electric development when it is not required for irrigation."</i></p> <p>8. Amend the fifth paragraph under Allocation of Water (page 8 ) as follows:</p> <p><i>"The total amount of additional B <del>and C</del> Allocation Block water provided for in this Plan, along with the ...."</i></p> <p>9. Amend the sixth paragraph under Allocation of Water (page 8 ) as follows:</p> <p><i>"Because of the importance of the 'gap' between blocks <u>for the Hurunui River</u> in protecting ecologically significant freshes this Plan sets up a very restrictive policy framework for taking water below the minimum flow for</i></p>

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	<p>Meridian seeks that the 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Efficient Use of Water</i> (pg 10) be amended to more accurately reflect the priorities set out in the CWMS, particularly in relation to the priorities for hydro-electricity generation and recreation.</p> <p>Meridian supports the statements in the 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph under <i>Efficient Use of Water</i> (pg 10) relating to the use of water in the A and B blocks for hydro-electricity generation, when that water is not being used for irrigation. This includes the concepts of spatial and temporal sharing; and the calculation of total allocation on any day and at any point in the river. However, Meridian considers that the wording of this paragraph needs to be amended to make it consistent with the wording of the previous paragraph relating to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order priorities for water use in the CWMS. The changes are necessary to avoid confusion between the CWMS priorities and the additional allocation priorities determined by this Plan for A and B Allocation Block water.</p>	<p><i>an allocation block, <u>or exceeding the size of an allocation block for that river or taking water from within the 'gap'.</u></i>"</p> <p>10. Amend the fourth paragraph under Storage and Additional Demand for Water Resources (page 9-10) as follows:</p> <p><i>It is important that water storage infrastructure is developed in an integrated fashion; therefore this Plan requires that all large scale water storage infrastructure is developed <u>within</u> the <u>overall</u> goal of <del>achieving</del><u>enabling</u> irrigation of all-potentially irrigable land in the Hurunui Waiau Zone. All proposals for water storage or non-consumptive use are therefore required to submit alongside the resource consent application an Infrastructure Development Plan. This Plan must show how the application fits within the zone wide pattern which <del>provides for</del><u>enables</u> the storage of water in the mid reaches of the Waiau River in ...."</i></p> <p>11. Retain the fourth paragraph under Efficient Use of Water (page 10):</p> <p><i>"It is recognised that storage infrastructure and hydro-electric power generation infrastructure can be very costly to develop and the infrastructure that is developed is likely to have a working life in excess of 80 years. This Plan therefore seeks that these types of activities, when the capital cost is greater than \$10,000,000, have resource consented for up to 35 years, the maximum term possible under the Resource Management Act."</i></p> <p>12. Amend the fifth paragraph under Efficient Use of Water (page 10) as follows:</p> <p><i>To allow for the efficient and effective provision of <u>water to competing</u></i></p>

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		<p><del>uses, the use of water for specified activities needs to be prioritised. community and stock drinking water supplies and to fulfil the goal of optimising the amount of irrigated land within the Waiau Hurunui Zone, the use of water for specified activities needs to be prioritised. This Plan seeks to prioritise resource consents in accordance with the first and second order priorities in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy when the Plan is reviewed. Accordingly, community and stock drinking water supplies are provided with first priority, alongside the river flows for the environment and customary use. Second order priorities are the provision of water to optimise the amount of irrigated land within the Waiau Hurunui Zone, to enable hydro-electricity generation from the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers, and to support recreational activities."</del></p> <p>13. Retain the following statement in the sixth paragraph under Efficient Use of Water and amend as follows (page 10):</p> <p><u>In addition to the first and second order priorities set out in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, the Plan also recognises that within the A Allocation Block existing consent holders will continue to have priority for future allocation, and within the B Allocation Block irrigation, both existing and future, will also have first priority. This means that, within the A and B Allocation Blocks, allocated water needs to be available for first priority these uses when and where those uses wish to have access to, that water. However, the water may also be allocated to second priority other uses, such as hydro-electricity generation, when or where the water is not actually being taken, diverted or used for its first these priority uses. For example, water allocated for irrigation from the A and B</u></p>

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		<p><u>Allocation Blocks</u> may be used for hydro-electricity generation when the water is not being taken for irrigation as it is either not allocated by resource consent or not required; or if the water is taken and returned to the river upstream of the irrigation take. This Plan therefore intends that compliance with the allocation block limits would be calculated in terms of the amount allocated and available to be used by all uses on any day and at any point in the river.</p> <p>14. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>15. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
<b>Part 2 – Objectives and Policies</b>		
Environmental Flow Objective 2	<p>Meridian does not support the absolute nature of the wording contained in Objective 2. Meridian does not consider that it will be possible to achieve “no adverse impacts” on the list of factors contained in the Objective with the minimum flows and allocation regimes provided for in the Proposed Plan. Meridian considers the Proposed Plan to be unrealistic and Objective 2 to be unachievable, if it purports to avoid any adverse effects on the factors listed in Objective 2 whilst enabling the use of water for the priority uses identified in the CWMS. Meridian seeks amendments to Objective 2 which are achievable and which enable the allocation of water to the CWMS priority uses, whilst avoiding “significant adverse impacts” on the first priority matters listed and provides support for the second priority matters..</p>	<p>1. Amend Objective 2 as follows:</p> <p><i>“Management of water levels and flows in the Hurunui, Waiau or Jed rivers and their tributaries does not result in <u>significant</u> adverse impacts on:</i></p> <p><i>(a) the mauri of the waterbodies;</i></p> <p><i>(b) instream aquatic life;</i></p> <p><i>(c) upstream and downstream passage of native fish, salmon and trout;</i></p> <p><del><i>(d) the existing landscape and amenity values present;</i></del></p> <p><i>(ed) breeding and feeding of riverbed nesting birds;</i></p> <p><i>(fe) river mouth opening of the Hurunui River, and maintaining an open</i></p>

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		<p>river mouth in the Waiau River, to provide for the migration of native fish and salmonid species and the collection of mahinga kai by tangata whenua; <u>and</u></p> <p><del>(gf) the extent of periphyton and cyanobacterial growth and the impact on recreational activities; and,</del></p> <p><u>and provides support for:</u></p> <p><u>(q) the existing landscape and amenity values present; and</u></p> <p><u>(h) existing recreationally activities important flows in the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers for kayaking, jetboating, swimming and salmon and trout fishing.</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
Environmental Flow Policy 2.5	<p>Meridian supports the inclusion of policy guidance in Policy 2.5 as to which values associated with flows between 1.5 and 3 times the median flow are of importance. However, Meridian does not support the absolute nature of the wording contained in this policy. Meridian does not consider it will be possible to achieve no adverse effects on the effectiveness of these flows, whilst enabling the take and use of water within the allocation regimes provided for in the Proposed Plan. Accordingly, Meridian considers proposed Policy 2.5 to be unrealistic and unachievable. Meridian seeks an amendment to Policy 2.5 which would be achievable and which would enable the allocation of water as provided for by the Proposed Plan, whilst avoiding "significant adverse effects" on the effectiveness of these flows.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend Policy 2.5 as follows:   <p><i>"To ensure that any new take, dam or diversion of water does not <u>result in significant adversely effects on</u> the effectiveness of flows, between 1.5 and 3 times the median flow, that flush periphyton, mobilise gravel, and reset algae and macro-invertebrate populations in the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers."</i></p> </li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the</li> </ol>

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		relief sought.
Environmental Flow Policy 2.6	Meridian does not support the absolute nature of the wording contained in Policy 2.6. Meridian does not consider it will be possible to achieve "no adverse effects" on the mauri of the rivers, whilst enabling the take and use of water within the allocation regimes provided for in the Proposed Plan. Accordingly, Meridian considers proposed Policy 2.6 to be unrealistic and unachievable. Meridian seeks an amendment to Policy 2.6 which would be achievable and which would enable the allocation of water as provided for by the Proposed Plan, whilst avoiding "significant adverse effects" on the mauri of the rivers.	<p>1. Amend Policy 2.6 as follows:</p> <p><i>"To ensure that any new take, dam, diversion or discharge of water does <u>not result in significant adversely affects on the mauri of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers and their tributaries.</u>"</i></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Environmental Flow Policy 2.7	<p>As stated above in relation to the Resource Management Issues of the Plan, Meridian does not support the specific flows referred to in proposed Policy 2.7 as being important for recreational uses. Meridian does not consider that there is sufficient information to state so definitely that these flows are important for recreation, whether for salmon angling, jet boating or trout fly fishing. Meridian agrees that flow variability above the minimum flows is important to support recreational uses, but seeks that this paragraph be amended to refer to flow variability generally, rather than to the specific flows specified in the Proposed Plan.</p> <p>Furthermore, as recreational activities are a second priority use under the CWMS and, therefore, in this Proposed Plan, Meridian considers that the wording of Policy 2.7 should better reflect the priority afforded to flows for recreation, compared with the flows required for the environmental and customary values referred to in Policies 2.5 and 2.6.</p> <p>As acknowledged in the Section 32 evaluation supporting the Proposed Plan, there will be less social benefits from recreation following the implementation of the Plan, as social and</p>	<p>1. Amend Policy 2.7 as follows:</p> <p><i>To ensure that any new take, dam or diversion of water provides for <u>flow variability above the minimum flow</u><del>between 30 and 50 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the mainstem of the Hurunui River and between 35 and 75 m<sup>3</sup>/s in the mainstem of the Waiau Rivers, to provide for</del><u>support existing</u> recreational activities.</i></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>

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	economical benefits from water allocation and use increase. However, overall the Plan intends to provide some ongoing support for recreational activities.	
Environmental Flow Policies 2.8 and 2.9	<p>As stated above in relation to the Resource Management Issues of the Plan, Meridian does not consider that any relationship has been demonstrated between the requirements of the Proposed Plan for water storage and the effectiveness of the minimum river flows to provide for the factors listed in Objective 2. If the proposed amended minimum flows are appropriate to provide for the factors in Objective 2, whilst also providing for social and economic benefits from water abstraction, then Meridian considers it is inappropriate to link the minimum river flows to the future provision of water storage.</p> <p>Meridian does not consider it is necessary or appropriate for the Plan to link hydro-electricity generation or other non-consumptive water use to the provision of water storage, before such development can be considered in terms of the proposed amended minimum river flows. Meridian seeks various amendments to the Plan to reflect its submission that non-consumptive use of water resources should not be linked to water storage requirements at the amended minimum flows proposed by the Plan.</p> <p>As discussed above, the adverse effects of the proposed minimum river flows relate to reduced reliability for existing irrigation abstractors until such time as sufficient water storage is provided to maintain their reliability. Meridian considers that there are more efficient and effective means to address this issue, without linking the proposed minimum river flows to the provision of water storage for all activities.</p>	<p>1. Amend Policy 2.8 as follows:</p> <p><i><u>"To ensure that the factors in Objective 2 are protected by:</u></i></p> <p><i><u>(a) To ensure that increasing the minimum flow at Mandamus and State Highway 1 in the Hurunui River is increased to 15 m3/s during February, March and April, provided that the reliability of supply for existing irrigation abstractors is protected at the time of the minimum flow increase until any necessary water storage facility is commissioned;</u></i></p> <p><i><u>(b) and decreasing the minimum flow to 12 cumecs in August; and</u></i></p> <p><i><u>(c) for non consumptive takes the minimum flow is decreasing the minimum flow to 10 m3/s in June, July and August following the commissioning of any water storage facility which takes and stores more than 20,000,000m3 of water (whether water is stored in stream or out of stream) within the Hurunui River Catchment to ensure that the factors in Objective 2 are protected while at the same time creating an incentive for storage."</u></i></p> <p>2. Amend Policy 2. 9 as follows:</p> <p><i><u>"To ensure that the factors in Objective 2 are protected by:</u></i></p> <p><i><u>(a) To ensure that increasing the minimum flow at Marble Point in the Waiau River is increased to 20 m3/s during February and March, provided that the reliability of supply for existing irrigation abstractors</u></i></p>

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		<p><u>is protected at the time of the minimum flow increase until any necessary water storage facility is commissioned; and</u></p> <p><u>(b) reduceing the minimum flows to 20 m3/s from May to December inclusive following commissioning of any water storage facility which takes and stores more than 20,000,000m3 of water (whether water is stored in-stream or out of stream) within the Waiau River Catchment, to ensure that the factors in Objective 2 are protected while at the same time creating an incentive for storage."</u></p> <p>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Allocation of Water Objective 3	<p>As discussed above in relation to Meridian's submission on the Resource Management Issues set out in the Proposed Plan, Meridian does not consider that the Proposed Plan sufficiently reflects the requirements of the Resource Management Act 1991 to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give effect to the provisions of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy 2011;</li> <li>• have particular regard to the provisions of sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the RMA;</li> <li>• have regard to the Proposed Canterbury Regional Policy Statement; and</li> <li>• assist in making a contribution to meeting the Government's target for 90% of New Zealand's electricity generation to be from renewable energy resources by 2025 (the New Zealand Energy Strategy).</li> </ul> <p>In relation to Objective 3, Meridian seeks that this objective more fully reflects the local,</p>	<p>1. Amend Objective 3 as follows:</p> <p><u>"Water is allocated so as to enable further local, regional and national economic and social development, while:</u></p> <p><u>...."</u></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>

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	regional and national economic and social benefits of water allocation, including for hydro-electricity generation.	
Allocation of Water Objective 3	<p>Meridian considers that there is potential for an overlap between the factors listed under Objective 3 and those listed under Objective 2. Meridian considers it is important to clearly state that these factors are those which are affected by the amount of water allocation (Objective 3) rather than being affected by the minimum flow (Objective 2). Accordingly, Meridian seeks that factors (a), (b) and (d) be qualified to clarify that the effects to be considered are those arising from the amount of water allocated (above the minimum flows).</p> <p>As discussed in relation to other submissions, Meridian considers that amendments are needed to the absolute nature of the wording of proposed Objective 3 in order for it to be effective and achievable.</p> <p>Amendments are also sought to retain consistency with the first and second order priorities for water use provided for in the CWMS and incorporated into this Plan.</p>	<p>1. Amend the list of factors in Objective 3 as follows:</p> <p>(a) <i>protecting the mauri of the waterbodies <u>from significant adverse effects from water allocation</u></i>;</p> <p>(b) <i>ensuring that water quality is not <u>significantly decreased as a result of the water allocation</u></i>;</p> <p>(c) <i>ensuring <u>sufficient</u> flow variability is maintained, <del>and that including</del> flows of between 1.5 and 3 times the median flow, <u>in order required</u> to flush periphyton and mobilise gravel and reset the bed of the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers <del>are not adversely affected</del></i>;</p> <p>(d) <i>ensuring that the water temperature is not unnaturally increased <u>as a result of the water allocation</u> to levels which <u>significantly affect</u> salmonid species</i>;</p> <p>(e) <del>protecting the ability of</del><i>ensuring native fish, salmon and trout <u>to can</u> continue to</i> traverse the river from the marine environment to upstream habitats;</p> <p>(f) <i>protecting the reliability of supply for existing abstractors; and,</i></p> <p>(g) <del>maintaining the ability</del><i>providing opportunities to navigate the river by Jet Boat</i>;</p>

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		<p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Allocation of Water Policy 3.5	<p>Meridian supports the allocation of water within a "C" block as stated in Policy 3.5. Furthermore, Meridian supports the proposed matters listed in that policy, which are to be achieved at the same time as enabling the allocation of C Block water.</p> <p>Meridian seeks some amendments to the list of matters in Policy 3.5 in order to ensure consistency with the amendments sought to Objective 3.</p> <p>As discussed in relation to other submissions, Meridian considers that the use of the word "maintained" is too restrictive in this Policy, and would not be able to be achieved with the allocation and minimum flows provided for in the Plan. Some degree of flexibility is considered necessary within this Policy in order to ensure it can realistically be achieved, whilst enabling the take and use of water within the allocation regimes provided for in the Proposed Plan.</p>	<p>1. Amend Policy 3.5 as follows:</p> <p><i>"To enable water to be taken and used from the C Allocation Block set for the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers, as specified in the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime in Table 1, provided the following is <del>maintained</del><u>achieved</u>:</i></p> <p><i>(a) water quality <u>consistent with Objective 5.1</u>;</i></p> <p><i>(b) flow variability, and in particular flows between 1.5, and 3 times the median flow, <u>that sufficient to flush periphyton and turn over larger gravel boulders and reset the bed of the mainstem of the Hurunui and Waiau rivers</u>;</i></p> <p><i>(c) water temperature <del>suitable for</del><u>that avoids significant adverse effects on salmonid species</u>;</i></p> <p><i>(d) <del>the</del><u>a</u> natural braided character of the Hurunui and Waiau Rivers, including the river mouth and coastal dynamics;</i></p> <p><i>(e) a flow regime in the mainstem or tributaries of the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers <del>maintains</del><u>that avoids or mitigates significant adverse effects on invertebrate food production</u>;</i></p> <p><i>(f) the <u>existing</u> reliability of supply for existing abstractors;</i></p> <p><i>(g) <u>avoidance or mitigation of significant adverse effects on the ability of</u></i></p>

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		<p>large salmonid and eel species to traverse the river from the marine environment to upstream habitats;</p> <p>(h) <del>the ability</del><u>opportunities</u> to navigate the river by Jet Boat; and</p> <p>(i) <del>daily patterns of flow that allow existing</del><u>support recreational opportunities and experiences in the mainstem of the rivers, their mouths or tributaries to be maintained.</u>"</p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Allocation of Water Policy 3.6	<p>Meridian supports Policy 3.6 regarding the discharge of water from non-consumptive activities to the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers, and the proposed matters to be achieved in relation to such discharges.</p> <p>Meridian seeks some amendments to the list of matters in Policy 3.6 in order to ensure consistency with the amendments sought to Objective 3</p> <p>As discussed in relation to other submissions, Meridian considers that the use of the word "maintained" is too restrictive in this Policy, and would not be able to be achieved with the allocation and minimum flows provided for in Plan. Some degree of flexibility is considered necessary within this Policy in order to ensure it can realistically be achieved, whilst enabling the take and use of water within the allocation regimes provided for in the Proposed Plan.</p> <p>Meridian notes that Policy 3.6 relates specifically to the discharge from non-consumptive activities and that the reference to "upstream" of the discharge point in matter (a) should be</p>	<p>1. Amend Policy 3.6 as follows:</p> <p><i>To enable water to be discharged from non-consumptive activities to the Waiau and Hurunui rivers and their tributaries provided <u>that the discharge does not result in significant adverse effects on the following—is maintained at or downstream of the point of take:</u></i></p> <p>(a) <del>macro-invertebrate populations both upstream and downstream of the discharge point;</del></p> <p>(b) <i>habitat and unimpeded passage for existing populations of native fish species, salmon and trout;</i></p> <p>(c) <i>health and safety of people and communities using the river;</i></p> <p>(d) <i>bare gravel islands and bars <del>are</del> free of woody vegetation for bird</i></p>

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	deleted as it results in an overlap with Policy 3.5.	<p><i>nesting; and,</i></p> <p><i>(e) <del>the water is returned to the river in the same or better state and quality</del></i></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Storage and Additional Demand for Water Resources Objective 6	<p>Meridian generally supports Objective 6 but seeks amendments to this objective consistent with the submissions discussed above, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recognition is provided to the national and regional significance of renewable electricity generation;</li> <li>• first and second order priorities for water use in the CMWS and this Plan are accurately reflected;</li> <li>• the provision of infrastructure for non-consumptive uses such as hydro-electricity generation is not required to provide for irrigation, but rather must be developed in a manner which, alongside other proposals, would enable irrigation of economically irrigable land in the catchments.</li> </ul>	<p>1. Amend Objective 6 as follows:</p> <p><i>"Infrastructure for out of stream uses of water, whether for irrigation, hydro-electric generation or other uses is developed in a manner which, alongside other economically viable proposals, <del>allows for full</del> <u>enables</u> irrigation of <del>all</del>-economically irrigable land in the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed river catchments, while:"</i></p> <p><i>(a) protecting areas with high intrinsic, <u>and cultural</u> <del>and recreational</del> values;</i></p> <p><i><u>(aa) providing support for existing opportunities for recreational activities;</u></i></p> <p><i>(b) avoiding areas with significant natural hazards;</i></p> <p><i>(c) addressing demand for community and/or stock drinking water supplies;</i></p> <p><i>(d) maintaining <del>existing</del> geomorphologic and sediment transport processes; and,</i></p> <p><i>(e) <del>maintaining</del> <u>avoiding or mitigating significant adverse effects on</u> passage for native and introduced fish.</i></p>

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		<p>2. Add the following to Objective 6:</p> <p><i><u>"(f) recognising the national and regional significance of, and providing for, the development and use of renewable electricity generation."</u></i></p> <p>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Storage and Additional Demand for Water Resources Policy 6.2	<p>Meridian supports the development of storage facilities for A, B or C block water in Zone B as provided for in Policy 6.2.</p> <p>However, Meridian considers that the policy should be more clearly related to the effects of developing the storage facilities on those parts of the catchment downstream from the storage facilities.</p>	<p>1. Add the following to the first part of Policy 6.2:</p> <p><i><u>"To enable the development of storage facilities for A, B or C Block water in the parts of the Hurunui and Waiau River Catchment shown as Zone B 'Infrastructure Development Areas', on Map 3, provided <u>that downstream of the storage facilities:</u></u></i></p> <p><i><u>(a) ...."</u></i></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
Additional Demand for Water Resources Policy 6.5	<p>Meridian agrees that it is reasonable for any proposal to show how it fits within a zone wide pattern of infrastructure development designed to optimise irrigation. However, Meridian does not consider that there is any justification for hydro-electricity generation uses to be required to provide for water storage that is not needed for that use, solely in order to provide</p>	<p>1. Amend Policy 6.5 as follows:</p> <p><i><u>To require any proposal utilising water from the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed river catchments to:</u></i></p>

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	<p>water storage for other uses such as irrigation or community or stock drinking water supplies.</p> <p>Similarly, Meridian considers there is no justification for requiring all proposals utilising water to utilise that water for multiple out of stream uses. It is unreasonable to require, for example, a small on-farm irrigation use to also include other out of stream uses, and similarly for a hydro-electricity generation scheme to be required to provide water for irrigation or community water supply.</p>	<p>(a) <i>demonstrate how it will fit within a zone wide pattern of infrastructure development designed to optimise the amount of land irrigated, and:</i></p> <p><i>(i) <u>where the proposal involves using water for irrigation, provide for the storage of water in the middle reaches of the Waiau River in the Emu or Amuri Plains; or</u></i></p> <p><i>(ii) <u>where the proposal involves using water for irrigation, provide for the storage of water in:</u></i></p> <p><i>i. the Waitohi River as a first option, or if this is not able to proceed;</i></p> <p><i>ii. in other tributaries of the Hurunui River located in Zone B in Map 3, or if these are not able to proceed; and,</i></p> <p><i>iii. in the other tributaries of the Hurunui River, including the North Branch upstream of the confluence of the South Branch located in Zone C.</i></p> <p>(b) <i>assist in achieving the objectives of this Plan; and,</i></p> <p>(c) <i>maximise the economic and social benefits of water <del>abstraction</del><u>use</u>, including <del>utilising water for multiple out of stream uses.</del></i></p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>

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Additional Demand for Water Resources  Policy 6.9	<p>Meridian considers that consent authorities have the ability to make decisions in terms of Section 91 of the RMA as to which consents need to be applied for together for the purpose of better understanding the nature of any proposal. Meridian considers that the requirement in proposed Policy 6.9 for all applications for water permits to also apply concurrently for discharge and land use consents, seeks to fetter the discretion allowed under the RMA to consider the implications and applicability of Section 91.</p> <p>Meridian considers that proposed Policy 6.9 could act to prevent the appropriate and efficient staging of consent applications as provided for under the RMA.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delete Policy 6.9</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
Priority of Use  Policy 9.2	<p>Meridian does not support the inclusion of a policy specifying common expiry dates and durations for new resource consents. However, it does support the appropriateness of durations of 35 years for consents for hydro-electricity generation and large scale water storage, because of the regional significance of this infrastructure (as expressed in Policy 9.2).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain the resource consent duration of 35 years in Policy 9.2 for applications for hydro-electric generation and large scale water storage.</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
Priority of Use  Policy 9.4	<p>Meridian supports the opportunity expressed in Policy 9.4 for spatial and temporal sharing of allocated water between different uses within allocation blocks. Meridian considers that spatial and temporal sharing enables efficient use to be made of water when it has not yet been allocated, or is not being utilised for the first allocated use.</p> <p>Meridian accepts the priorities identified in the Proposed Plan for the A and B Allocation Blocks for existing consent holders and irrigation respectively. However, Meridian considers that the ability for the C Allocation Block to be used for renewable electricity generation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain Policy 9.4</li> <li>2. Add new Policy 9.5 as follows:   <i>"Policy 9.5 To enable the use of water for hydro-electric generation:</i>   <i>(i) <u>within A and B Allocation Blocks when the water is spatially and/or temporally shared in accordance with Policy 9.4; and</u></i> </li> </ol>

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	<p>needs to be specifically recognised under Objective 9 relating to Priorities. Meridian considers that specific policy recognition of the priorities afforded to hydro-electricity generation within the A, B and C Blocks need to be included in the Plan in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• give effect to the provisions of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy 2011;</li> <li>• have particular regard to the provisions of sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the RMA;</li> <li>• have regard to the Proposed Canterbury Regional Policy Statement;</li> <li>• assist in making a contribution to meeting the Government's target for 90% of New Zealand's electricity generation to be from renewable energy resources by 2025 (the New Zealand Energy Strategy); and</li> <li>• assist in delivering on the priorities for water allocation and use in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy.</li> </ul>	<p>(ii) <u>within the C Allocation Blocks."</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
<b>Part 3 - Rules</b>		
Introductory Paragraphs to Part 3 - Rules	<p>Meridian notes the repetition of two introductory paragraphs and bullet points at the start of Part 3 (with slightly different wording for the second of these paragraphs). Meridian seeks that this repetition be removed.</p> <p>As submitted below in relation to the Definition of "<i>non-consumptive use</i>", Meridian considers there is confusion in the Proposed Plan regarding the various similar terms used throughout the Plan. As submitted in relation to the Definitions, Meridian seeks that scope is provided for the relevant terms to cover any use of water that is not a use for consumption by plants, animals or people.</p> <p>Meridian considers that there is a lack of clarity regarding the application of the Rules of this Plan to discharges for non-consumptive uses (3<sup>rd</sup> bullet point). It is not considered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delete the two repeated paragraphs and bullet points in the introduction to Part 3 – Rules.</li> <li>2. Amend the third bullet point as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>the discharge of water (in accordance with section 15(1) of the Resource Management Act) <u>which has been used</u> for a non-consumptive use; and</i>"</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Amend the fourth bullet point as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "<i>the use of land (in accordance with section 9(2) of the Resource Management Act) in the Nutrient Management Area shown in Map 4</i></li> </ul> </li> </ol>

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	<p>sufficiently precise to refer to a :discharge for non-consumptive use", as it would be the prior use of the water (prior to the discharge), that would determine whether the use is consumptive or not. An example contained within the Proposed Plan of more appropriate and precise wording is Proposed Rule 3.1 (b). This refers to the "<i>discharge, or return, of water used for non consumptive use ...</i>". Meridian considers this wording should be adopted in Part 3 of this Plan (and in other parts of the Plan and NRRP Plan Change 3 where the scope of this Plan is described).</p> <p>Meridian considers it is essential for clear interpretation of the inter-relationship between this Plan and the NRRP that there is consistency between wording describing the application of the Rules in Part 3 of this Plan and the wording to be introduced to the NRRP through Plan Change 3. In relation to the "<i>use of land</i>" described in the fourth bullet point, Meridian considers that the description of the activity is more specific in Proposed Plan Change 3. Proposed Plan Change 3 reads:</p> <p><i>"(b) Within the area shown as the Nutrient Management Area in Map 2 in Schedule WQN18, the provisions of the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan shall apply to the use of land which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate".</i></p> <p>Meridian seeks that this wording is also used in this Plan.</p>	<p><u>where the use of that land may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate to water."</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Make any similar amendments with like effect, including any similar or related amendments to ensure clarity and avoid any confusion as to the inter-relationship between this Plan and the NRRP;</li> <li>5. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
<p>Surface Water Permitted Activities Rule 1.4</p>	<p>Meridian supports the permitted activity rule for the taking or diverting of water from an irrigation canal, hydro-electric canal or water storage facility, where there is a written agreement with the holder of the relevant resource consent for the canal or storage activity.</p> <p>Meridian considers that this Rule will efficiently enable the use of irrigation and hydro-electric canals and water storage facilities for multiple uses, where agreement is reached between relevant parties, without the need for additional resource consents to be obtained.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain Rule 1.4</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

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<p>Surface Water</p> <p>Restricted Discretionary Activities</p> <p>Rule 2.3</p>	<p>Meridian generally supports the restricted discretionary status for taking, diverting, discharge and use of surface water, from the A and B Allocation Blocks, in accordance with the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime in Table 1 for the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers.</p> <p>However, Meridian does not consider it is necessary or appropriate to duplicate the provisions of Chapter 7: Wetlands of the Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP) within the Rules of this Plan. As is clearly stated in Proposed Plan Change 3 to the NRRP, Chapter 7 continues to apply within the area covered by the Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan. All Rules relating to wetlands contained in the NRRP must be complied with in relation to any take, divert, discharge and use of surface water within the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed catchments. This includes Rule WTL2 which applies to the taking, use, damming or diversion of water where it reduces or is likely to reduce the area of a wetland. Accordingly, if consent is required in relation to a wetland, this will be triggered by the Rules in Chapter 7 of the NRRP. There is, therefore, no need to replicate consideration of effects on wetlands by the inclusion of Standard and Term (d) in proposed Rule 2.3. The inclusion of (d) sets up a potential duplication of consent processes under Rule WTL2 of the NRRP and Rule 4.2 of this Proposed Plan, with ensuing potential for confusion, different policy contexts and contradictory decisions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generally retain Rule 2.3, subject to the amendment requested below</li> <li>2. Delete Rule 2.3 Standard and Term (d).</li> <li>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
<p>Surface Water</p> <p>Restricted Discretionary Activities</p> <p>New Rule and</p>	<p>As discussed in relation to other submissions, Meridian does not consider it is necessary or appropriate for the Plan to link hydro-electricity generation use to water storage, before hydro-electricity development can be considered in terms of the amended minimum flows proposed through the Plan. Meridian seeks various amendments to the Proposed Plan to reflect its submission that non-consumptive use of water resources should not be linked to water storage requirements at the amended minimum flows proposed by the Plan.</p> <p>Meridian considers that an alternative method can be more efficiently and effectively</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Add a new Rule which provides for any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of the existing consent to be a Restricted Discretionary Activity, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed (as defined in Table 1), provided also that Standards and Terms (a), (b), (e) – (h) of Rule</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
Exemption from Rule 2.3	<p>implemented through the Plan to provide ongoing reliability of supply for existing irrigation abstractors, until such time as irrigation water storage is provided. Existing abstractors (within the proposed A Block) could retain their existing minimum flows by way of a Rule to this effect until such time as water storage is provided. This would enable the proposed amended minimum flows in the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers to be applied to new abstractors immediately, enabling the environmental flow benefits identified for those rivers in the Proposed Plan. New users, which do not require storage, could then be enabled immediately, provided that they comply with the new minimum flows. Meridian seeks that provision be made for this alternative approach in the Plan.</p>	<p>2.3 are complied with. Matters for the exercise of discretion by Canterbury Regional Council shall be as for Rule 2.3.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Exempt the above new Rule from Rule 2.3</li> <li>3. Include a provision in the Plan which makes it clear that Section 68(7) of the RMA does not apply to any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Waiau and Hurunui Rivers (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of that existing consent, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed (as defined in Table 1).</li> <li>4. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>5. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
<p>Surface Water</p> <p>Restricted Discretionary Activities</p> <p>Rule 2.4</p>	<p>Meridian generally supports the restricted discretionary status for the damming of more than 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of water.</p> <p>However, Standard and Term (c) is not considered sufficiently certain for use as a Standard to determine activity status. The reliability of downstream takes (particularly existing takes) is a matter that requires investigation, analysis and expert interpretation. It is not a matter that is open to clear and unequivocal determination. There are numerous previous situations in the Region where the matter of reliability of downstream takes has been the subject of protracted discussion and differing interpretations. Meridian considers that this is a matter that is more appropriately left to the exercise of the consent authority's discretion, as it can be</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generally retain Rule 2.4, subject to the amendment requested below</li> <li>2. Delete Rule 2.4 Standard and Term (c)</li> <li>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	under Rule 2.4 Matter (vii).	
Surface Water Discretionary Activities  Rule 3.1	<p>Meridian generally supports the discretionary activity status for taking, diverting, discharge and use of surface water, from the C Allocation Block, in accordance with the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime in Table 1 for the Waiau River.</p> <p>However, Standard 3.1 (d) does not appear to provide sufficient flexibility in relation to temporal sharing of allocated water between consented takes. 3.1 (d) states that <i>"The maximum rate of take shall be calculated as the amount <u>allocated and available to be used by all existing consented takes on any day and at any point in the river</u>"</i> (relevant words underlined). Policy 9.4 states that temporal sharing of allocated water is to be enabled. Footnote 4 to Table 1 states that such sharing can include the sharing of allocated water which is not (at that time) being used by the first allocated consent. This would entail the shared use of allocated water, which is "available to be used" by a consented take, but which is not actually "being used" by that take at that time. Meridian considers that clarification of this Standard is required to make it clear that the calculation of the cumulative rate of take for all consented takes is able to accommodate the shared allocation of water to two or more consents, provided that the second (or subsequent) allocation can only use the shared water when it is not being used by the prior allocated consent. This may be able to be achieved by an appropriate footnote, similar to that included in Table 1.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generally retain Rule 3.1, subject to the amendment requested below</li> <li>2. Clarify Rule 3.1 Standard and Term 3.1 (d) to ensure it is clear that the calculation of the cumulative rate of take for all consented takes can include (without it being considered as double counting) the allocation of the same water to two or more consents, provided that the second (or subsequent) allocation can only use the shared water when it is not actually being used by the prior allocated consent. The Rule should be consistent with Footnote 4 to Table 1 which sets out the circumstances under which water can be allocated and used by more than one consent.</li> <li>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
Surface Water Discretionary Activities  Rule 3.2	<p>Meridian generally supports the discretionary activity status for taking, diverting, discharge and use of surface water, from the C Allocation Block, in accordance with the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime in Table 1 for the Hurunui River.</p> <p>Refer to the submission above in relation to Rule 3.1 Standard and Term (d), for reasons relation to this submission on Rule 3.2, Standard and Term (c). In addition, it needs to be clear that water can be allocated and used by more than one consent when the water</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Generally retain Rule 3.2, subject to the amendment requested below</li> <li>2. Clarify Rule 3.2 Standard and Term 3.2 (c) to ensure it is clear that the calculation of the cumulative rate of take for all consented takes can include (without it being considered as double counting) the allocation of the same water to two or more consents, provided that the second (or subsequent) allocation can only use the shared water</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>allocated for the upstream use is returned to the river above the intake for the downstream use.</p>	<p>when it is not actually being used by the prior allocated consent, or when the water has been used and then returned to the river upstream of the intake for the downstream allocation. The Rule should be consistent with Footnote 4 to Table 1 which sets out the circumstances under which water can be allocated and used by more than one consent.</p> <p>3. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>4. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>
<b>Part 4 – Table 1: Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime</b>		
<p>Waiau Catchment</p> <p>Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime</p>	<p>Meridian generally supports the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime included in Table 1 for the Waiau River mainstem, subject to the Submissions on specific matters below.</p> <p>In particular, Meridian supports the reduction in the minimum flow to 20m<sup>3</sup>/s during the months of May to December inclusive. Meridian notes the Council's Section 32 evaluation in relation to Minimum Flows (pages 35-38) which concludes that the minimum flow regime will be efficient and is the most appropriate for achieving the objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>As discussed in the additional Submission below, Meridian considers that the proposed 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum river flow in the Waiau River could be implemented immediately, provided that an alternative method is implemented to avoid adverse effects on the reliability of existing irrigation abstractors before any necessary irrigation water storage is commissioned to maintain reliability with the increased river flow in the summer months. In particular, Meridian considers that the proposed 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum river flow in the Waiau River should</p>	<p>1. Retain the provisions of Table 1: Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime for the Waiau Catchment, <u>other than</u> the amendments specifically sought in the following submissions</p> <p>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</p> <p>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</p>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>be implemented immediately during the months of May to December inclusive without the need to wait for the development of water storage.</p> <p>In addition, Meridian specifically supports the establishment of a C Block Allocation for the Waiau Catchment of at least 42m<sup>3</sup>/s with a minimum flow of not less than 51m<sup>3</sup>/s (and with no gap between the B and C Block Allocations). Refer below for Meridian's submission in relation to the C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow and the provision of large-scale water storage.</p> <p>Refer below for Meridian's submission in relation to the proposed gap between the A and B Blocks (the B Block Gap) and the implications of this for the minimum flows for the B and C Blocks in Table 1.</p> <p>Meridian notes the statement in the Section 32 evaluation relating to Minimum Flows (page 37) regarding the lack of specific knowledge, or varying degrees of knowledge, regarding the ecological values in many parts of the Waiau catchment, particularly in relation to the C Block minimum flow on the mainstem of the Waiau River. Meridian supports the conclusion of the Section 32 evaluation on this matter, which states that it can be managed through the Plan provisions which identify the factors that must be managed for in the Waiau Catchment – i.e. through the relevant objectives and policies and the full discretionary activity status for allocation applications from the C Block.</p> <p>Meridian also notes the discussion in the Section 32 evaluation in relation to Allocation Limits (pages 43-46). This recognises the potential for environmental, social and cultural costs from the large proposed C Block Allocations, but also the level of certainty and potential economic and social benefits that can be gained from the availability and use of those Allocation Blocks for out-of-stream use. Meridian supports the conclusion of the Section 32 evaluation that the policies and rules contained in the Plan for the setting and management of the Allocation</p>	

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	Blocks are efficient and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Plan and the sustainable management purpose of the RMA.	
Waiau Catchment B Block Gap	Meridian considers that there is no resource management reason for the inclusion of a gap of 2 m <sup>3</sup> /s between the A and B Blocks (the B Block Gap) for the Waiau catchment. Meridian does not consider that the inclusion of a 2m <sup>3</sup> /s gap in the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime for the Waiau River will avoid or mitigate any adverse environmental, cultural or social effects from the taking of water from the Waiau River catchment. Whereas, the unavailability of that flow for allocation from the river will result in adverse economic effects for potential abstractors (whether for irrigation or hydro-electricity generation use). Meridian understands that 2 m <sup>3</sup> /s 'gap' relates more to an existing over-allocation of the proposed 18 m <sup>3</sup> /s A Block, rather than to any ecological purpose. Meridian does not consider this 'gap' is an appropriate technique to address an over-allocation and it should be removed.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delete the B Block Gap from Table 1: Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime for the Waiau Catchment; and reduce the B and C Block minimum flows by 2 m<sup>3</sup>/s accordingly.</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
Waiau Catchment Provision of Storage Capacity as a requirement of the 20 m <sup>3</sup> /s Minimum Flow and as a requirement for a C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow	<p>Meridian does not consider that there is any resource management reason for linking the development of water storage (with a capacity greater than 20 million m<sup>3</sup>) with the proposed change to the minimum flow to 20m<sup>3</sup>/s for all months of the year on the mainstem of the Waiau River (measured at Marble Point). Meridian does not consider that the provision of water storage will avoid or mitigate adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects from the implementation of a 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum flow all year round. This is particularly the case for the months of May to December inclusive, when Meridian considers the proposed 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum river flow in the Waiau River should be implemented immediately without the need to wait for the development of water storage. Accordingly, Meridian is opposed to the requirement for large scale water storage to be developed before the 20m<sup>3</sup>/s is implemented, particularly during the months of May to December.</p> <p>In addition, Meridian does not consider that there is any resource management reason for</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delete the first rows of the first two sections of Table 1 relating to the Waiau Catchment (which are proposed to apply until storage is developed)</li> <li>2. Delete the requirement for storage to be developed in the second rows of the first two sections of Table 1 relating to the Waiau Catchment</li> <li>3. Retain the A Block minimum flow of 20m<sup>3</sup>/s for all months of the year for the Waiau River Catchment, including the Waiau River Mainstem (but with no requirement for storage to be developed).</li> <li>4. Retain the C Block Minimum Flow of 51m<sup>3</sup>/s and the C Block Allocation of 42m<sup>3</sup>/s for the Waiau River Catchment, including the</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>linking the development of water storage with the proposed provision for a C Block Allocation. Meridian does not consider that the provision of this water storage will avoid or mitigate adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects from the allocation of C Block flows. Accordingly, Meridian is opposed to linking the provision for a C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow with the provision of large-scale water storage.</p> <p>The adverse social and economic effect that will be mitigated by the provision of water storage is a decrease in reliability for existing consented irrigators from the implementation of a higher 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum flow during February and March (compared with the current minimum of 15m<sup>3</sup>/s). Meridian considers that there are alternative appropriate mechanisms to mitigate this adverse effect, for example, by way of specific Plan provisions for the retention and renewal of existing consents to take water at their current minimum flows until such time as irrigation water storage is provided. However, Meridian does not consider that the development of storage should limit new consents that do not require storage and for which a 20m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum flow (year round) and/or an allocation of C Block water is appropriate, particularly in the absence of any adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects.</p>	<p>Waiau River Mainstem (but with no requirement for storage to be developed).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Add a new Rule which provides for any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Waiau River (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of the existing consent to be a Restricted Discretionary Activity, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed ( as defined in Table 1), provided also that Standards and Terms (a), (b), (e) – (h) of Rule 2.3 are complied with. Matters for the exercise of discretion by Canterbury Regional Council shall be as for Rule 2.3.</li> <li>6. Exempt the above new Rule from Rule 2.3</li> <li>7. Include a provision in the Plan which makes it clear that Section 68(7) of the RMA does not apply to any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Waiau River (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of that existing consent, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed (as defined in Table 1).</li> <li>8. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>9. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
<p>Hurunui Catchment Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime</p>	<p>Meridian generally supports the Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime included in Table 1 for the Hurunui River mainstem, subject to the Submissions on specific matters below.</p> <p>In particular, Meridian supports the 15 m<sup>3</sup>/s minimum flow (measured at the Mandamus flow site) during September to April and 13 m<sup>3</sup>/s during May to August (10 m<sup>3</sup>/s for non-consumptive takes during June and July). Meridian notes the Council's Section 32 evaluation in relation to Minimum Flows (pages 35-38) which concludes that the minimum flow regimes will be efficient and are the most appropriate for achieving the objectives of the Plan.</p> <p>As discussed in the additional Submission below, Meridian considers that the minimum river flows above, which are proposed for when storage is developed, should be implemented immediately without the need to wait for storage. Meridian seeks that an alternative method be implemented to avoid adverse effects on the reliability of existing irrigation abstractors, until such time as any necessary irrigation water storage is commissioned to maintain reliability with these river flows.</p> <p>In addition, Meridian specifically supports the proposed establishment of a C Block Allocation for the Hurunui Catchment of at least 33 m<sup>3</sup>/s, with a minimum flow of not less than the proposed 29-37m<sup>3</sup>/s (and with no gap between the B and C Block Allocations). Refer below for Meridian's submission in relation to the C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow and the provision of large-scale water storage.</p> <p>Meridian notes the statement in the Section 32 evaluation relating to Minimum Flows (page 37) regarding the lack of specific knowledge, or varying degrees of knowledge, regarding the ecological values in many parts of the Hurunui catchment, particularly in relation to the C Block minimum flow on the mainstem of the Hurunui River. Meridian supports the conclusion of the Section 32 evaluation on this matter, which states that it can be managed through the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain the provisions of Table 1: Environmental Flow and Allocation Regime for the Hurunui Catchment, <u>other than</u> the amendments specifically sought in the following submissions</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>Plan provisions which identify the factors that must be managed for in the Hurunui Catchment – i.e. through the relevant objectives and policies and the full discretionary activity status for allocation applications from the C Block.</p> <p>Meridian also notes the discussion in the Section 32 evaluation in relation to Allocation Limits (pages 43-46). This recognises the potential for environmental, social and cultural costs from the large proposed C Block Allocations, but also the level of certainty and potential economic and social benefits that can be gained from the availability and use of those Allocation Blocks for out-of-stream use. Meridian supports the conclusion of the Section 32 evaluation that the policies and rules contained in the Plan for the setting and management of the Allocation Blocks are efficient and appropriate to achieve the objectives of the Plan and the sustainable management purpose of the RMA.</p>	
Hurunui Catchment Provision of Storage Capacity as a requirement of the Minimum Flow and as a requirement for a C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow	<p>Meridian does not consider that there is any resource management reason for linking the development of water storage (with a capacity greater than 20 million m<sup>3</sup>) with the proposed changes to the minimum flows on the mainstem of the Hurunui River (measured at the Mandamus flow site). Meridian does not consider that the provision of water storage will avoid or mitigate adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects from the implementation of the amended minimum flows. This is particularly the case for the months outside the irrigation season, when Meridian considers the proposed minimum river flows in the Hurunui River should be implemented immediately without the need to wait for the development of water storage. Accordingly, Meridian is opposed to the requirement for large scale water storage to be developed before the amended minimum flows are implemented, particularly during the months outside the irrigation season.</p> <p>In addition, Meridian does not consider that there is any resource management reason for linking the development of water storage with the proposed provision for a C Block Allocation.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delete the first rows of the first three sections of Table 1 relating to the Hurunui Catchment (which are proposed to apply until storage is developed)</li> <li>2. Delete the requirement for storage to be developed in the second rows of the first three sections of Table 1 relating to the Hurunui Catchment</li> <li>3. Retain the A Block minimum flows for the Hurunui River Catchment specified in the second row of the first three sections of Table 1, including the Hurunui River Mainstem – Amuri and Domett Reaches – but with no requirement for storage to be developed.</li> <li>4. Retain the C Block Minimum Flows and the C Block Allocation of 33m<sup>3</sup>/s for the Hurunui River Catchment, including the Hurunui River Mainstem Amuri Reach (but with no requirement for storage to be</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>Meridian does not consider that the provision of this water storage will avoid or mitigate adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects from the allocation of C Block flows. Accordingly, Meridian is opposed to linking the provision for a C Block Allocation and Minimum Flow with the provision of large-scale water storage.</p> <p>The adverse social and economic effect that will be mitigated by the provision of water storage is a decrease in reliability for existing consented irrigators from the implementation of a higher minimum flow during February, March and April (15 m<sup>3</sup>/s compared with the current minimum of 12 m<sup>3</sup>/s). Meridian considers that there are alternative appropriate mechanisms to mitigate this adverse effect, for example, by way of specific Plan provisions for the retention and renewal of existing consents to take water at their current minimum flows until such time as irrigation water storage is provided. However, Meridian does not consider that a requirement for the development of storage should limit new consents that do not require storage and for which the amended minimum flows and/or an allocation of C Block water are appropriate, particularly in the absence of any adverse environmental, cultural or recreational effects.</p>	<p>developed).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Add a new Rule which provides for any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Hurunui River (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of the existing consent to be a Restricted Discretionary Activity, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed ( as defined in Table 1), provided also that Standards and Terms (a), (b), (e) – (h) of Rule 2.3 are complied with. Matters for the exercise of discretion by Canterbury Regional Council shall be as for Rule 2.3.</li> <li>6. Exempt the above new Rule from Rule 2.3.</li> <li>7. Include a provision in the Plan which makes it clear that Section 68(7) of the RMA does not apply to any existing take, divert or use of water from the A Block of the Hurunui River (or any replacement consent) that complies with the minimum river flow requirements of that existing consent, until such time as storage with a capacity greater than 20,000,000m<sup>3</sup> of water for irrigation is developed (as defined in Table 1).</li> <li>8. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>9. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>
<b>Part 5 – Definitions, Schedules and Maps</b>		

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
<p>Definitions</p> <p>Non-consumptive activity</p>	<p>Meridian considers that there is confusion between use of the terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “<i>non-consumptives uses</i>” in Part 1 Introduction to the Proposed Plan within the section regarding the Scope of this Plan;</li> <li>• “<i>non consumptive use</i>” in Rules 3.1 (b) and 3.2 (d); and</li> <li>• the Definition of “<i>Non-consumptive activity</i>” which is used in Rule 2.1.</li> </ul> <p>Each term is spelt slightly differently in these three instances (and in other instances within the Proposed Plan). It is not clear whether each term is intended to apply to slightly different activities. However, because the terms used are so similar, there is considerable potential for confusion as to whether the terms have the same or different meanings.</p> <p>The term “<i>non-consumptives uses</i>” in Part 1 Introduction, under “Scope of this Plan”, appears to be used in a wide sense. Meridian assumes that it is intended to apply to any use of water that is not a use for consumption by plants, animals or people.</p> <p>However, the Definition of “<i>Non-consumptive activity</i>” puts some limitations on the nature of the activity beyond just that the activity does not “consume” the water before it is discharged back into the river. The Definition states that the water must be discharged in the same or better quality and at the same or similar rate as the water that is taken from the river.</p> <p>“<i>Non-consumptive activity</i>” is used in Policy 3.6 and Rule 2.1. The first of the limitations in the Definition (the same or better quality) is also a proviso within Policy 3.6 (which relates to the discharge of water from non-consumptive activities), so does not appear to be needed within the Definition. The second of these limitations (the same rate) is included in the Standards required for Rule 2.1, so this does not need to be in the Definition.</p> <p>Within Rules 3.1 and 3.2 (which are full discretionary activity provisions for the take, divert, discharge and use of water from the Waiau and Hurunui River Catchments respectively),</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Meridian seeks the following clarification and amendments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any potential for confusion between the terms “<i>non-consumptives uses</i>”, “<i>non consumptive use</i>”, and “<i>non-consumptive activity</i>”, or other similar and related terms, is removed throughout the Plan;</li> <li>• the terms are used consistently throughout the Plan; and</li> <li>• scope is provided for these terms to cover any use of water that is not a use for consumption by plants, animals or people, with any limitations on the use of that water being contained within relevant policies and rules, rather than within the Definition of the use itself.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

Specific Plan Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
	<p>Standards (b) and (d) state that the discharge of water used for “<i>non consumptive use</i>” shall be upstream of the confluence of the Stanton and Pahau Rivers respectively. There are no specific limitations on these activities (by way of Standards) relating to same or similar rates of discharge or water quality compared with the water taken. This means that storage of water (for non consumptive uses) can be considered as part of an application, and the effects of storage on water quality and rate of discharge can be considered as part of such an application.</p> <p>Meridian seeks that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• any potential for confusion between these terms is removed;</li> <li>• the terms are used consistently throughout the Plan; and</li> <li>• scope is provided for the terms to cover any use of water that is not a use for consumption by plants, animals or people.</li> </ul>	
Map 3: Development Zones – Map Series	Meridian supports the identification of the Amuri and Emu Plains and Balmoral Forest within Zone B Development Zone. Meridian considers that any potential adverse environmental effects from the damming of water within the bed of a surface water body in Zone B can be adequately managed through the provisions of Rule 2.4 as a restricted discretionary activity.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Retain the Amuri and Emu Plains and Balmoral Forest within Zone B Development Zone</li> <li>2. Make any similar amendments with like effect;</li> <li>3. Make any consequential amendments necessary to give effect to the relief sought.</li> </ol>

**SUBMISSIONS TO PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 3 TO THE CANTERBURY NATURAL RESOURCES REGIONAL PLAN:  
Deletion of Provisions for Hurunui, Waiau and Jed River Catchments**

Specific Plan Change Provisions	Reasons for Submission	Decisions Sought from Environment Canterbury [New text shown <u>underlined</u> and deleted text shown as <del>strike-through</del> ]
<p>2.2 New Paragraph after paragraph two</p> <p>2.3 Table WQL4</p> <p>2.4 Table WQN3</p> <p>2.5 Table BLR1</p> <p>2.6 Table WTL1</p>	<p>Meridian considers it is essential for clear interpretation of the inter-relationship between the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan (HWRRP) and the Canterbury Natural Resources Regional Plan (NRRP), that there is consistency between the wording of the "Scope" of the HWRRP and the wording to be introduced to the NRRP through Plan Change 3.</p> <p>Meridian has made submissions on the Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan to achieve clarity and consistency in the inter-relationship between these two plans, and makes similar submissions to Plan Change 3 to the NRRP.</p> <p>Meridian considers there is a lack of clarity in both the Proposed HWRRP and Proposed Plan Change 3, in relation to discharges for non-consumptive uses. It is not considered sufficiently precise to refer to "a discharge for non-consumptive uses", as it would be the prior use of the water (prior to the discharge), that would determine whether the use is consumptive or not. An example contained within the Proposed HWRRP of more appropriate and precise wording is Proposed Rule 3.1 (b). This refers to the "discharge, or return, of water used for non consumptive use ...". Meridian considers this wording should be adopted in the NRRP by way of Plan Change 3, and has also asked that it be adopted in Parts 1 and 3 of the HWRRP.</p> <p>In relation to the "use of land" which covered by the provisions of the Proposed HWRRP, Meridian generally supports the more specific description of that activity in Proposed Plan Change 3, and has asked that this be adopted in the HWRRP. To provide additional clarity, Meridian seeks that it be clear that the "discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate" covered by the HWRRP (and, therefore, excluded from the NRRP by way of Plan Change 3) be "to water" rather than to any other receiving environment. Meridian also seeks that this full</p>	<p>1. Amend the proposed new paragraph after paragraph two, as follows:</p> <p><b>Activities and Catchments not covered by Chapter 5 of the NRRP:</b></p> <p>(a) Within the area shown in Map 1 in Schedule WQN18, the provisions of the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan shall apply to the taking, using, damming and diverting of surface water and stream depleting groundwater; the taking and using of groundwater and the discharge of water <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses.</p> <p>(b) Within the area shown as the Nutrient Management Area in Map 2 in Schedule WQN18, the provisions of the Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan shall apply to the use of land which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate <u>to water</u>.</p> <p>2. Amend the proposed addition to Table WQL4 as follows:</p> <p><i>Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan provides for the taking, using, damming and diverting of surface water and stream depleting groundwater; the discharge of water <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses; the taking and using of groundwater; and the use of land within the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed Catchments <u>which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate to water</u>. Chapter 4 applies within this area with the exception of Rule WQL20 Specified land uses that may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen into groundwater which does not apply.</i></p>

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	description be used consistently throughout the amendments to the NRRP as sought through Plan Change 3.	<p>3. Amend the proposed addition to Table WQN3 as follows:</p> <p><i>Within the area shown as the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed Catchments in Map 1 in Schedule WQN18, the provisions of Chapter 5 do not apply to the taking, using, damming and diverting of surface water and stream depleting groundwater; taking and using of groundwater, and the discharge of water <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses.</i></p> <p>4. Amend the proposed addition to Table BLR1 as follows:</p> <p><i>Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan provides for the taking, using, damming and diverting of surface water and stream depleting groundwater; the discharge of water <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses; the taking and using of groundwater; and the use of land within the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed Catchments <u>which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate to water</u>. Chapter 6 applies within this area.</i></p> <p>5. Amend the proposed addition to Table WTL1 as follows:</p> <p><i>Proposed Hurunui and Waiau River Regional Plan provides for the taking, using, damming and diverting of surface water and stream depleting groundwater; the discharge of water <u>which has been used</u> for non-consumptive uses; the taking and using of groundwater; and the use of land within the Hurunui, Waiau and Jed Catchments <u>which may result in the discharge of nitrate-nitrogen or phosphate to water</u>. Chapter 7 applies within this area.</i></p>