
in the matter: of a submission on the Plan Change 4 to the Canterbury Land and Water Regional Plan under clause 6 of the First Schedule of the Resource Management Act 1991

to: Environment Canterbury

submitter: Meridian Energy Limited

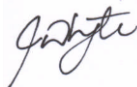
Response of Jane Whyte

At the Plan Change 4 hearing on Tuesday 15 March 2016, I was asked a question by the Panel as to whether Meridian Energy held resource consents for vegetation clearance activities associated with the operation and maintenance of the Waitaki Power Scheme. The Panel provided the opportunity to further consider this question and provide a response following my appearance.

I have reviewed the resource consents that are held by Meridian Energy. I have also discussed the consents it holds with Meridian staff.

Meridian does not hold any resource consents specifically for the purpose of vegetation clearance in the beds of lakes and rivers. Meridian does hold a number of resource consents that allow disturbance or excavation of the bed of a lake or river. In order to undertake the consented activities some vegetation clearance may occur. However, with one exception (CRC152642 which expired 27 November 2015) the consents do not specific vegetation clearance in the purpose of these consents.

When considering the regulatory planning environment that has existed to date it is not unexpected that Meridian does not hold specific vegetation clearance consents or that its existing consents do not specifically reference vegetation clearance. Prior to the NRRP becoming operative it is understood that Meridian undertook its activities on the beds of lakes and rivers under existing use rights. Once the NRRP became operative Rules BLR1 and BLR2 meant that a number of Meridians activities, including vegetation disturbance were permitted activities. Under the Operative Land and Water Regional Plan Rule 6.163 again meant that Meridian's vegetation clearance (non-indigenous) activities were permitted activities.



Jane Whyte

24 March 2016