

**In the Environment Court
Wellington Registry
I Mua I Te Kōti Taiao O Aotearoa
Te Whanganui-ā-Tara Rohe**

ENV-2019-WLG-000125

Under the Resource Management Act 1991
And in the matter of an application under Section 274 of the Act

Between

**Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa
Incorporated Society**

Appellant

and

Greater Wellington Regional Council

Respondent

**Notice of Meridian Energy Limited's wish to be party to
proceedings**

9 October 2019

BELL GULLY

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS
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To: The Registrar
Environment Court
Wellington

1. Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:
 - (a) *Rangitāne Tū Mai Rā Trust and Rangitāne o Wairarapa Inc Society v Greater Wellington Regional Council – ENV-2019-WLG-000125.*
2. Meridian made a submission and a further submission about the subject matter of the proceedings and has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has as a renewable energy generator and provider with interests in the Greater Wellington Region.
3. Meridian is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the **RMA**).
4. Meridian is interested in part of the proceedings.
5. Meridian is interested in the following parts of the proceedings:
 - (a) Section 2.2 – Definitions – ‘Upgrade’;
 - (b) Section 3.2 – Objective O13;
 - (c) Section 4.2 – Policies P13 and P14;
 - (d) Section 4.6.5 – Policy P48;
 - (e) Section 4.8.9 – Policy P102; and
 - (f) The Entire Plan.

6. Meridian opposes the relief sought, including for the following reasons:
- (a) It is inappropriate for the definition of 'upgrade' to be further confined by defining the degree of change in an activity itself. Where the term is used in permitted activity rules in the Proposed Natural Resources Plan (**PNRP**), permitted activity standards limit the scope of effects. All other rules require resource consent which provides for the scale and significance of effects associated with an upgrade to be adequately considered;
 - (b) It is appropriate that Objective O13 addresses existing regionally significant infrastructure and renewable energy generation activities as well as such infrastructure and activities that may be developed or upgraded in the future;
 - (c) The amendments sought to Policies P13 and P14 are inappropriate as the matters of concern are addressed explicitly in other PNRP objectives and policies relating to scheduled areas;
 - (d) Clause (a) of Policy P48 and Method M24(a) achieve the relief sought by the Appellant in respect of Policy P48. Meridian opposes any further amendments to Policy P48 or other policies, rules and methods where the specific scope of these amendments has not been specified in the Appellant's appeal;
 - (e) The exclusion for reclamation and drainage of the beds of lakes and rivers and natural wetlands necessary to enable the development, operation, maintenance and upgrade of regionally significant infrastructure is appropriate;
 - (f) The relief sought to amend objectives and policies throughout the PNRP to ensure they are consistent with Part 2 of the RMA and the Regional Policy Statement for the Wellington Region is unspecific and uncertain. The scope of relief should be limited to identified changes to those policies, rules and methods specified in the Appellant's appeal;

(g) The relief sought by the Appellant fails to give effect to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (the **NPSREG**) as required by section 75(3) of the RMA; and

(h) The relief sought is otherwise contrary to Part 2 and the purpose of the RMA being to promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources.

7. Meridian agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.



A J L Beatson / L M Lincoln
Counsel for Meridian Energy Limited

Dated 9 October 2019

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Advice

If you have any questions about this notice, contact the Environment Court in Auckland, Wellington, or Christchurch.