

**SUBMISSION ON
PROPOSED PLAN CHANGES 23, 24, 25, 26 AND 27
TO THE MACKENZIE DISTRICT PLAN
UNDER THE FIRST SCHEDULE TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991**

To: Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 to the Mackenzie District Plan
Mackenzie District Council
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Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**) makes the general and specific submissions on Proposed Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 to the Mackenzie District Plan (**PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27** respectively) that are set out in the attached document.

Meridian confirms that its submissions do not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

Meridian would like to be heard in support of its submissions.

If other persons make a similar submission, then Meridian would consider presenting joint evidence at the time of the hearing.



Andrew Feierabend
For and on behalf of Meridian Energy Limited

Dated this 26th day of January 2024

STRUCTURE OF SUBMISSION

1. This submission is structured as follows:
 - Part One: About the submitter
 - Part Two: Context for Meridian's submissions
 - Part Three: Relief sought.
2. All of Parts 1 to 3 of this submission are to be read together, and together they form Meridian's submissions on PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27.

PART ONE: ABOUT THE SUBMITTER

3. Meridian is a limited liability company listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange, with 51% of the company owned by the New Zealand Government. It is one of the three companies formed from the split of the Electricity Corporation of New Zealand on the 1st of April 1999. Meridian's core business is the generation, marketing, trading and retailing of electricity and the management of associated assets and ancillary structures in New Zealand. As well as being New Zealand's largest generator of electricity, Meridian is also the country's largest generator of renewable electricity.
4. Meridian has a significant interest in the Mackenzie District Plan, with large parts of the nationally significant Waitaki Power Scheme (hereafter referred to as the **WPS** or **the Scheme**) being located in the district.
5. The Scheme consists of eight power stations, four canal systems and numerous dams, weirs, gates and other control structures that operate as a linked hydroelectricity generation chain. The chain includes large, modified storage lakes; a series of diversions via canals; and a cascade of in-river dams.
6. Of the eight power stations, Meridian owns and operates six of these, from Lake Pūkaki to Lake Waitaki. The portion of the Scheme that lies above Lake Ohau, the Ohau River and Lake Ruataniwha resides in the Mackenzie District.
7. The scheme was progressively constructed between 1928 and 1985. It contributes an average of 18% of New Zealand's annual electricity supply, and at times this can be as high as 30% of the national requirement. The scheme supports the HVDC link, which is connected to the South Island transmission network at the site of the Benmore Power Station, and it provides essential ancillary services to the electricity system.
8. The national significance of the WPS is established in the National Policy Statements for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 and for Freshwater 2020.

PART TWO: CONTEXT FOR MERIDIAN'S SUBMISSIONS

9. Meridian has previously advised Mackenzie District Council on the energy related provisions during the development of PC26. Meridian considers that these provisions need to fully reflect the importance of renewable electricity generation in New Zealand, and the need to protect the existing WPS.
10. In 2011, New Zealand recognised the vital role that renewable electricity generation plays in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the growing demand for renewable electricity generation in New Zealand. In response, the National Policy Statement for Renewable

Electricity Generation 2011 (**NPS-REG**) was Gazetted, with the objective of recognising “*the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, such that the proportion of New Zealand’s electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to a level that meets or exceeds the New Zealand Government’s national target for renewable electricity generation*”.

11. In 2016 New Zealand ratified the Paris Agreement with the long-term goal of keeping the increase in the global average temperature to below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 °C. In 2019 New Zealand’s Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 was passed and set into law a domestic target of net zero emissions of long-lived greenhouse gases (other than biogenic methane) by 2050. In the same year, the Climate Change Commission was established to provide independent, evidence-based advice to the Government to help the transition to a climate-resilient and low emissions future. The previous government had the goal of phasing out the use of coal in electricity generation and achieving 100% of electricity generated from renewable resources in 2030. The current government has not proposed changes to these goals, rather they aim to ‘double New Zealand’s renewable electricity generation’ (National, ACT and NZ First’s 100-day action plan, announced on the 29th of November 2023).
12. Section 75(3) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**the Act**) requires that all district plans must give effect to a national policy statement. Accordingly, Proposed Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 must give effect to the NPS-REG (amongst others).
13. As discussed previously, the objective of the NPS-REG is to recognise the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities by providing for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities, so that the proportion of New Zealand’s electricity generated from renewable energy sources increases to meet or exceed the New Zealand Government’s national target for the same.
14. The preamble of the NPS-REG recognises “*The contribution of renewable electricity generation, regardless of scale, towards addressing the effects of climate change plays a vital role in the wellbeing of New Zealand, its people and the environment*”. Consistent with this, Policy A of the NPS-REG recognises the national significance of “*maintaining or increasing electricity generation capacity while avoiding, reducing or displacing greenhouse gas emissions*” and Policy 4 of the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 requires that “*Freshwater is managed as part of New Zealand’s integrated response to climate change*”.
15. Accordingly, to give effect to the NPS-REG, Proposed Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 must provide for the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of new and existing renewable electricity generation activities. At the same time, decision makers must have particular regard to protecting the assets and operational capacity of existing renewable electricity generation activities; and to the need for significant development of new renewable electricity generation activities.
16. The NPS-REG also requires that decision makers have particular regard to the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available; the logistical or technical practicalities associated with developing, upgrading,

operating or maintaining the renewable electricity generation activity; and the need to connect renewable electricity generation to the national grid (amongst other matters).

17. Policy C2 of the NPS-REG requires that when decision makers are considering any residual effects of renewable electricity generation activities that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, they must have regard to offsetting measures or environmental compensation, including measures or compensation that benefit the local environment and community affected.
18. In addition to the NPS-REG, sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the Act expressly require that all persons exercising functions and powers under the Act, in relation to managing the use, development, and protection of natural and physical resources, have particular regard to the effects of climate change and the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.
19. The vital role that renewable electricity generation plays in combating climate change is also reflected in the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (**NPS-IB**) which explicitly excludes the development, operation, maintenance or upgrade of renewable electricity generation assets and activities from the application of the NPS-IB (clause 1.3(3) of the NPS-IB).
20. For completeness, the *Proposed National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation [2023] Draft for Consultation V7.4 as at 30/3/2023* further emphasises the importance of renewable electricity generation. This is particularly reflected in draft Policy 4 which would require (if Gazetted) that “*where adverse effects remain after applying the effects management hierarchy, REG activities are enabled if the national significance and benefits of the REG activities outweigh those remaining adverse effects*”.
21. The proposed plan changes go some way towards meeting the requirements of the NPS-REG and sections 7(i) and 7(j) of the Act, however Meridian considers that they do not go far enough.
22. In September 2022 Meridian submitted on Mackenzie District Council’s Plan Change 20. Part of this submission sought to add (to the Introduction section of Chapter ATC – A Thriving Community) reference to the national significance of the WPS and the significance of the WPS’s contribution to decarbonising New Zealand’s economy, mitigating the potential effects of climate change and reducing the District’s reliance on non-renewable energy sources. The Planning Officer’s report¹ stated that “*I ...do not consider that an additional paragraph is required, nor the detailing of specific benefits of the scheme. In my view this detail is better left to the Energy chapter...*”. However, the Introduction section of the notified Renewable Electricity Generation Chapter (in PC26) does not reference such benefits. Instead, it is limited to referencing the requirements of the Act and the NPS-REG, and to identifying the renewable electricity generation resources and infrastructure in the district.
23. Given the profound environmental, economic, social and cultural risks posed by climate change, the need to mitigate these risks through rapid decarbonisation of our economy and communities, and the role of renewable electricity generation in achieving this, Meridian considers these matters are of such strategic importance that they should form the basis of

¹ Section 42A Report: Plan Change 20 – Strategic Chapters, Report on submissions and further submissions, Liz White, 19 October 2022, Paragraph 70

the Introduction section of the Renewable Electricity Generation chapter in PC26. Meridian's 'Relief Sought' seeks adoption of a new version of the Introduction section of the Renewable Electricity Generation chapter that clearly articulates the importance of renewable electricity generation in combating climate change and the need to properly provide for existing and new generation within the Mackenzie District.

PART THREE: RELIEF SOUGHT

24. Based on the preceding context, Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of this submission set out Meridian's support for or opposition to specific provisions in PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27, and the relief sought. With this, Meridian accepts that consequential amendments to these plan changes and other parts of the Mackenzie District Plan may be needed to give full effect to their submissions and seeks that such amendments are made where necessary.
25. The submissions made are based on the understanding that the package of plan changes consists of the content provided in the eplan on Mackenzie District Council's website, and the pdf files identified on the Council's website as "*Appendix 99 – Proposed Plan Change Amendments to the Operative Plan Sections*".
26. For completeness, Meridian also acknowledges the definitions resulting from the Plan Change 18 (PC18) process, including the outcomes of the appeals on the same. These include definitions for *Waitaki Power Scheme, core sites, operating easements, maintenance of Waitaki Power Scheme, and refurbishment of Waitaki Power Scheme* (amongst other definitions). Meridian understands that these definitions are not altered by PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27 and supports retention of the definitions resulting from the PC18 process.

APPENDIX 1 – PLAN CHANGE 23 - GENERAL RURAL ZONE, NATURAL FEATURES AND LANDSCAPES, AND NATURAL CHARACTER SELECTED

PC23 PROVISION	SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	REASONS	RELIEF SOUGHT
Definition - Earthworks	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” adequately describes the activity.	Retain the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Functional need	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” adequately describes the need.	Retain the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” as notified.
Definition - Infrastructure	Oppose	<p>Meridian notes that the term “<i>infrastructure</i>” is listed in PC23’s definitions but is not marked as being affected by a plan change.</p> <p>The definition states that “<i>infrastructure</i>” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Act. This includes “<i>facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity</i>”.</p> <p>Meridian considers that it is appropriate to adopt the definition of infrastructure from the Act as a base, however there is a significant gap in the definition with energy storage facilities not included in the list.</p> <p>Energy storage facilities are key to capturing electricity generated during periods when demand is less than supply (i.e. generation) and then supplying electricity when demand is greater than supply. This aids efficiency of energy use and helps to prevent outages. Given the national significance of renewable electricity</p>	<p>Amend the first line and part (d) of the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” as follows:</p> <p><i>Has the same meaning as in section 2 of the RMA, with an added reference to energy storage facilities, (as set out below)...</i></p> <p>(d) <i>facilities for the generation of electricity, energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person</i></p> <p>Alternatively, if the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” is not amended, then all provisions in all of PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27 that refer to “<i>Infrastructure</i>” should be amended to refer to “<i>infrastructure and energy storage</i></p>

		<p>sources and minimising the use of non-renewable electricity sources, Meridian considers that such facilities should be specifically identified in the definition of “<i>infrastructure</i>”.</p>	<p><u><i>facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</i></u>”.</p>
Definition – Operational need	Support	<p>Meridian notes that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” is coloured pink in PC23 meaning the term is currently limited to the residential, commercial and mixed use and general industrial zones and Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 propose to extend the application of the term to those chapters introduced through plan changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, where the terms are used in those chapters.</p> <p>On this basis, Meridian considers that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” adequately describes the need and should be applied throughout the plan.</p>	<p>Retain the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” as notified and apply it throughout the plan.</p>
Definition – Reverse sensitivity	Support	<p>Meridian considers that the definition of “<i>reverse sensitivity</i>” adequately describes the issue.</p>	<p>Retain the definition of “<i>reverse sensitivity</i>” as notified.</p>
NATC - Introduction	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports the Natural Character (NATC) Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the NATC chapter.</p>	<p>Amend the NATC Introduction by adding the following paragraph:</p> <p><u><i>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</i></u></p>
NFL - Introduction	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports the Natural Features and Landscapes (NFL) Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend the NFL Introduction by adding the following paragraph: <p><u><i>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</i></u></p>

		plan and are not subject to the provisions in the NFL chapter.	
NFL-O2	Support	Meridian supports the relocation of NFL-O2(2) to the REG Chapter provided that the other provisions of the NFL Chapter do not apply to renewable electricity generation activities.	Retain Objective NFL-O2 as notified.
GRUZ - Introduction	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports the General Rural Zone (GRUZ) Introduction, they consider that paragraph 2 should acknowledge that renewable electricity generation activities is an example of an activity with operational and functional needs leading to its location within the GRUZ.</p> <p>For completeness, Meridian notes that this introduction addresses activities with an operational need or a functional need to be located in the GRUZ, and activities that rely on natural resources within the GRUZ and therefore need to be located in the GRUZ. These needs have different characteristics and renewable electricity generation can have any one of these needs.</p> <p>Meridian also considers that the GRUZ Introduction should clearly state that the provisions of this chapter do not apply to renewable electricity generation activities.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend the second paragraph of the GRUZ – Introduction as follows: <p><i>The purpose of the General Rural Zone is to enable a range of primary production activities, as well as other compatible activities that rely on or support the natural resources within rural areas of the District, including tourism and conservation along with those activities that have an operational need or functional need to locate in the zone <u>including renewable electricity generation activities</u>.; and</i></p> 2. Add new paragraph as follows: <p><i><u>Renewable electricity generation activities are addressed in the REG Chapter and are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</u></i></p>
GRUZ-O1	Support	Meridian supports the prioritisation of “other activities” in the GRUZ where they “ <i>rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location</i> ”.	Retain GRUZ-O1 as notified.
GRUZ-O2	Oppose in part	Meridian generally supports GRUZ-O2 but considers that GRUZ-O2(4) (regarding reverse sensitivity) should	Amend GRUZ-O2 (4) as follows:

		also apply to other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location.	<p>4. <i>Allows primary production, and activities that directly support primary production, and other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location to operate without risk of being compromised by reverse sensitivity.</i></p>
GRUZ-P2	Oppose in part	Meridian generally supports GRUZ-P2 but considers that it should also recognise the importance of other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location.	<p>Amend GRUZ-P2 as follows:</p> <p><i>Recognise the importance of primary production activities, and other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location, to the economic wellbeing of the district, and prioritise primary production these activities and activities which that support primary production them, within the General Rural Zone, by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Providing for new economic activity that directly supports, is dependent on, or is ancillary to primary production and other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location;</i> <i>Enabling recreation and tourism activities based on farming experiences or conservation activities;</i> <i>Ensuring the land resource of the General Rural Zone is not compromised by activities with no functional need or operational need to locate in the zone.</i>

GRUZ-P3	Support	GRUZ-P3 seeks to avoid reverse sensitivity effects on renewable electricity generation activities, amongst other activities, and Meridian supports this policy.	Retain GRUZ-P3 as notified.
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APPENDIX 2 – PLAN CHANGE 24 - SITES AND AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO MAORI

PC24 PROVISION	SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	REASONS	RELIEF SOUGHT
Definition - Earthworks	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” adequately describes the activity.	Retain the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Functional need	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” adequately describes the need.	Retain the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” as notified.
Definition - Infrastructure	Oppose	<p>Meridian notes that the term “<i>infrastructure</i>” is listed in PC24’s definitions but is not marked as being affected by a plan change.</p> <p>The definition states that “<i>infrastructure</i>” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Act. This includes “<i>facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity</i>”.</p> <p>Meridian considers that it is appropriate to adopt the definition of infrastructure from the Act as a base, however there is a significant gap in the definition with energy storage facilities not included in the list.</p> <p>Energy storage facilities are key to capturing electricity generated during periods when demand is less than supply (i.e. generation) and then supplying electricity when demand is greater than supply. This aids efficiency of energy use and helps to prevent outages. Given the national significance of renewable electricity</p>	<p>Amend the first line and part (d) of the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” as follows:</p> <p><i>Has the same meaning as in section 2 of the RMA, with an added reference to energy storage facilities, (as set out below)...</i></p> <p>(d) <i>facilities for the generation of electricity, energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person.</i></p> <p>Alternatively, if the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” is not amended, then all provisions in all of PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27 that refer to “<i>Infrastructure</i>” should be amended to refer to “<i>infrastructure and energy storage</i></p>

		<p>sources and minimising the use of non-renewable electricity sources, Meridian considers that such facilities should be specifically identified in the definition of “<i>infrastructure</i>”.</p>	<p><u><i>facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</i></u>”.</p>
Definition – Operational need	Support	<p>Meridian notes that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” is coloured pink in PC24 meaning the term is currently limited to the residential, commercial and mixed use and general industrial zones and Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 propose to extend the application of the term to those chapters introduced through plan changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, where the terms are used in those chapters.</p> <p>On this basis, Meridian considers that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” adequately describes the need and should be applied throughout the plan.</p>	<p>Retain the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” as notified and apply it throughout the plan.</p>
SASM-Introduction	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports the Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori (SASM) Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the SASM chapter.</p> <p>This does not mean that the potential effects of renewable electricity generation activities on SASMs are not managed. Rather it means that such effects are managed through the provisions within the REG chapter.</p>	<p>Amend the SASM Introduction by adding the following paragraph:</p> <p><u><i>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</i></u></p>

APPENDIX 3 – PLAN CHANGE 25 - RURAL LIFESTYLE ZONE

PC25 PROVISION	SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	REASONS	RELIEF SOUGHT
Definition - Earthworks	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” adequately describes the activity.	Retain the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Functional need	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” adequately describes the need.	Retain the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” as notified.
Definition - Infrastructure	Oppose	<p>Meridian notes that the term “<i>infrastructure</i>” is listed in PC25’s definitions but is not marked as being affected by a plan change.</p> <p>The definition states that “<i>infrastructure</i>” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Act. This includes “<i>facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity</i>”.</p> <p>Meridian considers that it is appropriate to adopt the definition of infrastructure from the Act as a base, however there is a significant gap in the definition with energy storage facilities not included in the list.</p> <p>Energy storage facilities are key to capturing electricity generated during periods when demand is less than supply (i.e. generation) and then supplying electricity when demand is greater than supply. This aids efficiency of energy use and helps to prevent outages. Given the national significance of renewable electricity</p>	<p>Amend the first line and part (d) of the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” as follows:</p> <p><i>Has the same meaning as in section 2 of the RMA, with an added reference to energy storage facilities, (as set out below)...</i></p> <p><i>(d) facilities for the generation of electricity, energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person.</i></p> <p>Alternatively, if the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” is not amended, then all provisions in all of PC23, PC24, PC25, PC26 and PC27 that refer to “<i>Infrastructure</i>” should be amended to refer to “<i>infrastructure and energy storage</i></p>

		<p>sources and minimising the use of non-renewable electricity sources, Meridian considers that such facilities should be specifically identified in the definition of “<i>infrastructure</i>”.</p>	<p><u><i>facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</i></u>”.</p>
Definition – Operational need	Support	<p>Meridian notes that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” is coloured pink in PC24 meaning the term is currently limited to the residential, commercial and mixed use and general industrial zones and Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 propose to extend the application of the term to those chapters introduced through plan changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, where the terms are used in those chapters.</p> <p>On this basis, Meridian considers that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” adequately describes the need and should be applied throughout the plan.</p>	<p>Retain the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” as notified and apply it throughout the plan.</p>
New definition – Reverse sensitivity	New definition	<p>Meridian notes that the term “<i>reverse sensitivity</i>” is used in RLZ-R7, but it is not defined in PC25. Meridian considers that the definition for the same term that is included in PC23 should be included in PC25.</p>	<p>Insert a new definition as follows:</p> <p><u><i>Reverse sensitivity means the potential for an approved (whether by consent or designation), lawfully established existing or permitted activity to be compromised, constrained, or curtailed by the more recent establishment, intensification, or alteration of another activity that may be sensitive to the actual, potential or perceived adverse environmental effects generated by the approved, lawfully established existing or permitted activity.</i></u></p>
RLZ-Introduction	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports the Rural Lifestyle Zone (RLZ) Introduction, they consider that it should also recognise the importance of enabling other</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend the first paragraph of RLZ-Introduction as follows:

		<p>activities in the rural environment (beyond primary production activities) where such activities rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location.</p> <p>Meridian also considers that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the RLZ chapter.</p>	<p><i>The Rural Lifestyle Zone provides opportunities to live in a rural environment, while still enabling some primary production activities, <u>and other activities where they rely on the natural resources found only in a rural location</u>, to occur.</i></p> <p>2. Amend the SASM Introduction by adding the following paragraph:</p> <p><i><u>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</u></i></p>
RLZ-P3	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian considers that other activities (beyond primary production activities) that rely on the natural resources found only in a rural environment should be provided for.</p>	<p>Amend RLZ-P3 as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide for other activities, where:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>they are:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) <i>ancillary to a residential or primary production activity, or are consistent with the character, amenity values and purpose of the zone; or</i> (b) <i><u>reliant on the natural resources found only in a rural location;</u> and</i> 2. <i>the effects of the activity including its scale, hours of operation, parking and vehicle manoeuvring are compatible with the amenity values of adjacent sites and the surrounding areas.</i>

APPENDIX 4 – PLAN CHANGE 26 - RENEWABLE ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

PC26 PROVISION	SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	REASONS	RELIEF SOUGHT
New definition - Minimise	New definition	The term “ <i>minimise</i> ” is used in INF-P4 and INF-P6 but is not defined in the plan change. Meridian seeks adoption of the definition of “ <i>minimise</i> ” set out its relief sought.	Insert new definition as follows: <u><i>Minimise means:</i></u> <u><i>to reduce to the smallest amount reasonably practicable.</i></u>
Definition - Earthworks	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” adequately describes the activity.	Retain the definition of “ <i>earthworks</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Functional need	Support	Meridian considers that the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” adequately describes the need.	Retain the definition of “ <i>functional need</i> ” as notified.
Definition - Infrastructure	Oppose	<p>Meridian notes that the term “<i>infrastructure</i>” is listed in PC26’s definitions but is not marked as being affected by a plan change.</p> <p>The definition states that “<i>infrastructure</i>” has the same meaning as in section 2 of the Act. This includes “<i>facilities for the generation of electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity</i>”.</p> <p>Meridian considers that it is appropriate to adopt the definition of infrastructure from the Act as a base, however there is a significant gap in the definition with energy storage facilities not included in the list.</p>	<p>Amend the first line and part (d) of the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” as follows:</p> <p><i>Has the same meaning as in section 2 of the RMA, with an added reference to energy storage facilities, (as set out below)...</i></p> <p>(d) <i>facilities for the generation of electricity, energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity, lines used or intended to be used to convey electricity, and support structures for lines used or intended to be used to convey</i></p>

		<p>Energy storage facilities are key to capturing electricity generated during periods when demand is less than supply (i.e. generation) and then supplying electricity when demand is greater than supply. This aids efficiency of energy use and helps to prevent outages. Given the national significance of renewable electricity sources and minimising the use of non-renewable electricity sources, Meridian considers that such facilities should be specifically identified in the definition of “<i>infrastructure</i>”.</p>	<p><i>electricity, excluding facilities, lines, and support structures if a person.</i></p> <p>Alternatively, if the definition of “<i>Infrastructure</i>” is not amended, then all references to “<i>Infrastructure</i>” in the plan (including current operative provisions, current notified plan changes and future plan changes) should be amended to refer to “<i>infrastructure and energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</i>”.</p>
Definition – Investigation activities	Support	Meridian considers that the proposed definition of “ <i>investigation activities</i> ” is robust.	Retain the definition of “ <i>investigation activities</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Lifeline utility infrastructure	Support	Meridian supports adoption of the definition of “ <i>lifeline utility infrastructure</i> ” that is contained in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002.	Retain the definition of “ <i>Lifeline utility infrastructure</i> ” as notified.
Definition – Operational need	Support	<p>Meridian notes that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” is coloured pink in PC24 meaning the term is currently limited to the residential, commercial and mixed use and general industrial zones and Plan Changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 propose to extend the application of the term to those chapters introduced through plan changes 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, where the terms are used in those chapters.</p> <p>On this basis, Meridian considers that the definition of “<i>operational need</i>” adequately describes the need and should be applied throughout the plan.</p>	Retain the definition of “ <i>operational need</i> ” as notified and apply it throughout the plan.

Definition – Small-scale renewable electricity generation activity	Support	Meridian considers that the proposed definition of “ <i>Small-scale renewable electricity generation activity</i> ” is somewhat consistent with the definition for “ <i>Small and community-scale distributed electricity generation</i> ” in the NPS-REG and is generally helpful.	Retain the definition of “ <i>Small-scale renewable electricity generation activity</i> ” as notified.
Definition - Upgrade	Support	Meridian considers that the proposed definition of “ <i>upgrade</i> ” in relation to renewable electricity generation activities and infrastructure is robust.	Retain the definition of “ <i>upgrade</i> ” as notified.
INF - Introduction	Oppose in part	Meridian considers that clarification should be provided to plan users that renewable electricity generation activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the Infrastructure (INF) chapter.	Amend the INF Introduction by adding the following paragraph: <i>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</i>
INF-O1	Support	Meridian considers this objective to be an appropriate outcome sought within the Mackenzie District.	Retain Objective INF-O1 as notified.
INF-O2	Support	Meridian considers this objective to be an appropriate outcome sought within the Mackenzie District, and more specifically supports the recognition of the functional needs or operational needs of the infrastructure.	Retain Objective INF-O2 as notified.
INF-O3	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally support INF-O3, Meridian considers that it should be extended to address locally, regionally and nationally significant infrastructure. With this, Meridian notes that the notified definition of <i>regionally significant infrastructure</i> does not include <i>nationally significant infrastructure</i> . For this reason Meridian considers that specific reference to <i>nationally significant infrastructure</i> is needed in this objective.	Amend Objective INF-O3 as follows: <i>The efficient operation, maintenance, upgrading and development of <u>locally</u>, <u>regionally</u> <u>and</u> <u>nationally</u> significant infrastructure is not constrained or compromised by other activities.</i>

INF-P1	Support	Meridian considers that recognition of the national, regional and local benefits of infrastructure, and provision for the same, is fundamental to well-functioning communities.	Retain INF-P1 as notified.
INF-P2	Support	Meridian considers that existing infrastructure should continue to be enabled to operate, be maintained and/or replaced (including reconstruction) and be upgraded.	Retain INF-P2 as notified.
INF-P3	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally supports INF-P3, Meridian considers that co-location of structures and facilities should only be encouraged when their functioning/operation are related to each other and the efficiency and/or effectiveness of their construction and use is improved by co-location.	<p>Amend INF-P3 as follows:</p> <p><i>Encourage:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>the coordination of infrastructure planning and delivery with land use, subdivision, development and urban growth;</i> <i>the co-location of structures and facilities <u>where their functioning and/or operation are related to each other and the efficiency and/or effectiveness of their construction and use is improved by co-location</u>; and</i> <i>technological improvements and enhancements.</i>
INF-P4	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally support INF-P4, Meridian notes that “<i>minimise</i>” is not defined in the plan change.</p> <p>As previously discussed, Meridian seeks adoption of the definition of “<i>minimise</i>” set out in its relief sought.</p> <p>Without this change to PC26 INF-P4 is unclear.</p>	<p>Retain INF-P4 as notified and at the same time, as previously requested, insert new definition as follows:</p> <p><u><i>Minimise means:</i></u> <u><i>to reduce to the smallest amount reasonably practicable.</i></u></p>
INF-P5	Oppose in part	Meridian is concerned that <i>energy storage facilities</i> should fall within the definition of <i>infrastructure</i> rather	Amend INF-P5 as follows:

		<p>than renewable electricity generation activities, and that as such INF-P5 will apply to them.</p> <p>Energy storage facilities are key to ensuring that outages are avoided, and renewable electricity is used efficiently. They must be located within proximity of renewable electricity generation structures and/or transmission infrastructure. Given the national significance of energy storage facilities, and their functional and operational need to be located together with renewable electricity generation structures and/or transmission infrastructure, the same exemption from condition 4 should be applied to energy storage facilities as is provided to the national grid.</p>	<p><i>Avoid locating infrastructure in identified sensitive areas (outside the road reserve) or within an area of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna, unless:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. there is a functional or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that location;</i> <i>2. it is demonstrated through site, route or method selection, design measures and other management methods how significant adverse effects on the values of the sensitive or significant area have been avoided as far as practicable, and otherwise remedied or mitigated;</i> <i>3. where there are more than minor adverse effects that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, regard is had to any offsetting or compensation; and</i> <i>4. Following application of 1. - 3. above, there are no significant adverse effects remaining, (except that this clause shall not apply to the national grid <u>or energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</u>).</i>
INF-P6	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports INF-P6, Meridian considers that nationally significant infrastructure should also be listed in condition 2 of this policy. It is possible that nationally significant infrastructure, that is not otherwise described in the definition of '<i>regionally significant infrastructure</i>' or '<i>lifeline utility</i></p>	<p>Amend INF-P6 as follows:</p> <p><i>Avoid locating infrastructure on Highly Productive Land, unless:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. it is small-scale and does not impact the productive capacity of the land; or</i>

		<p><i>infrastructure'</i>, may have a functional need or operational need to be located on highly productive land.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. <i>it is regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or lifeline utility infrastructure and has a functional need or operational need to be located on the highly productive land; and</i> 3. <i>for both 1 and 2. above, any actual loss or potential cumulative loss of the availability and productive capacity of highly productive land within the District is minimised or mitigated.</i>
INF-P7	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian generally supports INF-P7, Meridian considers that nationally significant infrastructure should also be provided the 'exception' in this policy. It is possible that nationally significant infrastructure, that is not otherwise described in the definition of '<i>regionally significant infrastructure'</i> or '<i>lifeline utility infrastructure</i>', may have a functional need or operational need to be located in areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</p> <p>Further to this, as previously discussed, energy storage facilities must be located within proximity of renewable electricity generation structures and/or transmission infrastructure. Given the national significance of energy storage facilities, and their functional and operational need to be located together with renewable electricity generation structures and/or transmission infrastructure, the same exemption from INF-P7 should be applied to energy storage facilities as is provided to the national grid.</p>	<p>Amend INF-P7 as follows:</p> <p><i>In addition to INF-P5, avoid new infrastructure (excluding the national grid <u>and energy storage facilities associated with the supply of renewable electricity</u>) that has adverse effects on the following, in an area of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>loss of ecosystem representation and extent;</i> 2. <i>disruption to sequences, mosaics, or ecosystem function;</i> 3. <i>fragmentation of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna or the loss of buffers or connections within significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna;</i>

			<p>4. <i>a reduction in the function of the significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna as a buffer or connection to other important habitats or ecosystems; and</i></p> <p>5. <i>a reduction in the population size or occupancy of Threatened or At Risk (declining) species that use significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna for any part of their life cycle,</i></p> <p><i>unless it is lifeline utility infrastructure or regionally <u>or nationally</u> significant infrastructure, in which case INF-P5 applies instead, where:</i></p> <p>6. <i>the infrastructure provides significant national or regional public benefits;</i></p> <p>7. <i>there is a functional need or operational need for the infrastructure to be in that particular location; and</i></p> <p>8. <i>there are no practicable alternative locations for the infrastructure outside of an area of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna.</i></p>
INF-R1	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to permit the ongoing operation, maintenance or removal of existing infrastructure.	Retain INF-R1 as notified.

INF-R2	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to permit upgrading of above ground infrastructure subject to the 'scale/size' limits.	Retain INF-R2 as notified.
INF-R4	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to permit temporary infrastructure.	Retain INF-R4 as notified.
INF-R6	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to have a 'catch-all' permitted activity rule for infrastructure buildings or structures, and accessory buildings to infrastructure, and that it be subject to 'scale/scale' conditions.	Retain INF-R6 as notified.
INF-R7	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to permit below ground infrastructure subject to compliance with INF-S1 and EW-S4.	Retain INF-R7 as notified.
INF-R18	Support	Meridian considers that it is appropriate to permit network utility operation, infrastructure and electricity generation activities that connects to the National Grid within the National Grid Yard subject to INF-S4.	Retain INF-R18 as notified.
INF-S4	Support	Meridian considers that INF-S4 is appropriate for managing potential effects in the National Grid Yard.	Retain INF-S4 as notified.
REG - Introduction Paragraphs 1 to 4	Oppose	Given the profound environmental, economic, social and cultural risks posed by climate change, the need to mitigate these risks through rapid decarbonisation of our economy and communities, and the role of renewable electricity generation in achieving this, Meridian considers these matters are of such strategic importance that they should form the basis of the Introduction to the REG chapter.	<p>Amend paragraphs 1 to 4 of the Renewable Electricity Generation Introduction as follows:</p> <p><i>This chapter contains District-wide provisions relating to renewable electricity generation activities.</i></p> <p>Energy efficiency and the use and development of renewable energy are matters the District Plan must have particular regard to under</p>

		<p>section 7 of the Act. The District Plan must also give effect to the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011 (NPS-REG), which requires recognition of the national significance of renewable electricity generation.</p> <p><u>The global climate has changed because of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities, and it will continue to do so in the absence of fast and bold interventions. The effects of human-caused climate change are broad and far-reaching. It is a global issue that affects the physical environment, ecosystems, and human societies. New Zealand is already experiencing increased frequency and intensity of extreme events such as higher temperatures, flooding, droughts, wildfires, increased sea-level rise, and warmer and more acidic oceans. Climate change poses a profound risk to achieving sustainable management of natural and physical resources in New Zealand, including in the Mackenzie District.</u></p> <p><u>Key to mitigating climate change is rapid decarbonisation of the economy and its energy systems through renewable electricity generation. The Mackenzie District is synonymous with renewable electricity generation activities such as the nationally significant Waitaki Power Scheme. The national significance of renewable electricity generation is recognised in the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011, the National Policy Statement for Freshwater</u></p>
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		<p><u>Management 2020 and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023.</u> Together these national policy statements establish a framework to specifically provide for renewable electricity generation and manage the potential effects of such activities that differs from the framework applied to other activities under the Act.</p> <p><u>The District Plan must give effect to national policy statements.</u></p> <p>There are significant renewable energy resources located within the District. Part of the nationally significant Waitaki Power Scheme, which is the largest hydro-electric power scheme in New Zealand, is located within the District. The District also contains the Opuha Hydro-electric Power Scheme. There is also increasing interest in solar power generation in the District, due to the high amount of irradiance, particularly in Te Manahuna / the Mackenzie Basin. At a domestic scale, there are renewable electricity options such as solar water heating and solar panels.</p> <p>The NPS-REG directs that the development, operation, maintenance and upgrading of both new and existing renewable electricity generation activities is provided for, in order to increase the proportion of electricity generated from renewable energy sources. These activities often have a functional need or an operational need to be in a particular location <u>or need to locate where the renewable energy resource is</u></p>
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			<p><i>available, but can have adverse effects on the environment, particularly in areas which have important natural values or mana whenua values. This chapter provides direction on how renewable electricity generation activities are to be provided for, while appropriately managing the potential adverse effects of these activities.</i></p> <p><i>The provisions in other chapters of this District Plan do not apply to activities managed in this chapter, except as follow...</i></p>
REG - Introduction Paragraph 5	Oppose	<p>Meridian considers that the fifth paragraph is not sufficiently clear to be enforceable. The notified version of Paragraph 5 reads “<i>The provisions in other chapters of this District Plan do not apply to activities managed in this chapter, except as follows:</i>” and then lists topics, but not specific provisions. This leaves it unclear what specific provisions do and do not apply to renewable electricity generation activities.</p> <p>Concerning Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity provisions, Meridian understands that for ‘renewable energy generation and transmission’ activities, a consent memorandum has been signed by all parties to appeals on such provisions in MDC’s decisions version of Plan Change 18 (PC18). This consent memorandum leads to the following PC18 provisions applying to the WPS and the Opuha Scheme:</p> <p>Objective, Policies 1, 4, 5, 7 and 8 Rules 2.1.1 and 2.2.1</p>	<p>Amend the 5th paragraph in the Introduction as follows:</p> <p><i>The provisions in other chapters of this District Plan do not apply to activities managed in this chapter, except as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Natural Hazards</i> ● <i>Historical Heritage</i> ● <i>Notable Trees</i> ● <i>Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity, but excluding Policies 2 and 3.</i> ● <i>Activities on the Surface of Water</i> ● <i>Light</i> ● <i>Noise</i> ● <i>Signs</i> <p><i>Concerning the Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity Chapter, the following provisions apply to the Waitaki Power Scheme and the Opuha Scheme:</i></p> <p><i>Objective,</i> <i>Policies 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8</i></p>

	<p>Contrary to the notified version of the PC26 Renewable Electricity Generation chapter, Meridian considers that Policy 6 of PC18 does not apply to the WPS or the Opuha Scheme since it addresses farming activities and not renewable electricity generation activities. Further, while the title of Rule 1 of PC18 states that the rule does not apply to the WPS and the Opuha Scheme, Meridian considers that the PC26 Renewable Electricity Generation chapter should be explicit that Rules 1.1.1, 1.2.2, 1.3.1 and 1.3.2 of PC18 do not apply to the schemes.</p> <p>Concerning activities on waterbodies, Plan Change 19 to the MDP addressed these provisions and they are now operative. For this reason, the specific provisions that apply to renewable electricity generation activities can be readily listed in the REG Chapter.</p> <p>Concerning provisions addressing light, Plan Change 22 to the MDP addressed these provisions and they are now operative. For this reason, the specific provisions that apply to renewable electricity generation activities can be readily listed in the REG Chapter.</p> <p>Meridian understands that provisions addressing Natural Hazards, Historical Heritage, Notable Trees, Noise and Signs are part of Stage 4 of the review of the MDP, and that Stage 4 provisions are scheduled for public notification in November 2024.</p> <p>In the interim, Meridian considers that the current relevant provisions should be listed in the REG Chapter, and the list of provisions that apply to renewable electricity generation activities should be updated through the 2024 plan changes.</p>	<p><u>Rules 2.1.1 and 2.2.1</u></p> <p><u>Concerning activities on waterbodies:</u></p> <p>a) <u>the following provisions apply to the Waitaki Power Scheme:</u></p> <p><u>Rural Objective 8</u></p> <p><u>Rural Policies 8A, 8B, 8F</u></p> <p><u>Rural Rules 7A.1.1.d, 7A.1.2.b, 7A.2.1.d</u></p> <p>b) <u>the following provisions apply to renewable electricity generation activities other than the Waitaki Power Scheme:</u></p> <p><u>Rural Objective 8</u></p> <p><u>Rural Policies 8A, 8B</u></p> <p><u>Rural Rules 7A.1.1.a, 7A.1.1.b, 7A.1.2.b, 7A.2.1.a, 7A.2.1.b, 7A.2.1.c, 7A.2.2.a, 7A.2.2.b, 7A.2.3.b, 7A.3.1.a, 7A.3.1.b, 7A.3.3.a, 7A.3.4.b, 7A.4.1.a, 7A.4.1.b, 7A.4.2.a, 7A.4.3.b, 7A.4.4.b</u></p> <p><u>Within Part 2 – District Wide Matters, General District-Wide Matters, Light, the following provisions apply to renewable electricity generation activities:</u></p> <p><u>Light-O1, Light-P1, Light-P2, Light-R1, Light-R2, Light-R3, Light-R4, Light-S1, Light-S2, Light S3, Light S4, Light-S5, Light-MD1, and Light-MD2</u></p>
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		<p>Meridian has listed, in its 'relief sought', the provisions that it considers apply to REG at this stage in the MDP review process.</p>	<p><u><i>Concerning signs, the following provisions of Section 12 – Signs and Aerial Distractions Assessment Matters apply to renewable electricity generation activities:</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Objective 1</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Policies 1A, 1B, 1C</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Rules 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, 1.e, 1.f, 1.g, 2.d, 2.e, 2.f, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 7.c, 7.d, 7.e and 15.b.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Concerning historic heritage and notable trees, the following provisions in Section 11 - Heritage Protection apply to renewable electricity generation activities:</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Objective 1</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Policies 1D</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Rules 1.a, 2.a, 2.b, 3.a, 4.a, 4.b, 5, 6.a.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Concerning natural hazards, the following provisions apply to renewable electricity generation activities:</i></u></p> <p><u><i>a) ATC-05; and</i></u></p> <p><u><i>b) Section 18 – Natural Hazards Objective 1 and Policies 4, 5 and 6.</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Concerning noise:</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Rule 15.1.1.h of the Section 7 – General Rural Zone Rules.</i></u></p>
REG - Introduction Paragraph 6	Oppose	<p>The sixth paragraph of the REG Introduction states “<i>The provisions in the earthworks chapter do not apply to earthworks which form part of the activities managed in</i></p>	<p>Delete the sixth paragraph of the Introduction to the REG chapter, as follows:</p>

		<p><i>this chapter, except for the construction of new roads or access tracks".</i></p> <p>The construction of new roads or access tracks is fundamental to the development and ongoing maintenance of renewable electricity generation activities. The matters of discretion listed in the REG chapter already provides for consideration of earthworks effects. On this basis, Meridian considers that the Earthworks provisions in PC27 should not apply to renewable electricity generation activities.</p>	<p><i>The provisions in the earthworks chapter do not apply to earthworks which form part of the activities managed in this chapter, except for the construction of new roads or access tracks.</i></p>
REG-O1	Support	Meridian considers that this objective is generally consistent with the NPS-REG and s7 of the Act.	Retain REG-O1 as notified.
REG-O2	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian generally supports the need to manage potential adverse effects that can result from activities in the Mackenzie District.</p> <p>However, Meridian considers that the phrase "<i>are appropriately managed</i>" does not clearly identify what is being aimed for. Meridian considers that the objective needs to be clear enough to provide direction to what the policies then seek to achieve, and it needs to reflect the national direction set in the NPS-REG and Part 2 of the Act.</p>	<p>Amend REG-O2 as follows:</p> <p><i>The adverse effects of renewable electricity generation activities are appropriately managed while recognising the national significance of renewable electricity generation activities and giving particular regard to the functional and operational needs of such activities.</i></p>
REG-O3	NA	Meridian understands that REG-O3 is not within the scope of PC26.	NA
REG-P1	Support	Meridian considers that this objective is generally consistent with the NPS-REG and Part 2 of the Act.	Retain REG-P1 as notified.

REG-P2	NA	Meridian understands that REG-P2 is not within the scope of PC26.	NA
REG-P3	NA	Meridian understands that REG-P3 is not within the scope of PC26.	NA
REG-P4	Oppose in part	<p>While Meridian supports “<i>investigation and identification of renewable electricity generation sources and small-scale renewable electricity generation activities</i>” being enabled, Meridian considers that the phrase “<i>relative to the sensitivity of the area in which they are located</i>” is not clear enough to be consistently applied in decision making and is not consistent with the NPS-REG.</p> <p>Further to this, the “<i>sensitivity of the area</i>” is reflected in the Introduction to the Renewable Electricity Generation chapter where it identifies other provisions in the MDP that apply to renewable electricity generation activities in addition to the provisions in PC26.</p> <p>For these reasons, Meridian considers that the phrase “<i>relative to the sensitivity of the area in which they are located</i>” is not needed in REG-P4 and should be deleted.</p>	<p>Amend REG-P4 as follows:</p> <p><i>Enable investigation and identification of renewable electricity generation sources and small-scale renewable electricity generation activities while managing adverse effects relative to the sensitivity of the area in which they are located.</i></p>
New Policy – Waitaki Power Scheme	New Policy	<p>Meridian considers that existing WPS activities need to be specifically enabled in the REG chapter.</p> <p>Meridian understands that REG-P2 is out of the scope of PC26 and therefore is not able to be adjusted through this process, and that REG-P1 focuses on ‘providing’ generally for renewable electricity generation activities and REG-P3 ‘provides for’ the upgrading, maintenance, and enhancement of existing elements of the WPS in</p>	<p>Insert new policy as follows:</p> <p><u>REG-P1A – Waitaki Power Scheme</u></p> <p><u>Enable the operation, maintenance, and upgrade of the Waitaki Power Scheme.</u></p>

		Lakeside Protection Areas. This leaves a gap with respect to 'enabling' the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the WPS.	
REG-P5	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian considers that REG-P5 is not consistent with Policies C1 and C2 of the NPS-REG.</p> <p>It is not clear what is meant by "<i>minimising other effects</i>" in REG-P5, and the NPS-REG does not require this. Also, unlike REG-P5, Policy C2 of the NPS-REG leads to offsetting and compensation only being had regard to when considering residual adverse effects after avoiding, remedying or mitigating adverse effects.</p> <p>The definition of <i>Functional needs</i> in PC26 (and the National Planning Standards) reads "<i>means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because the activity can only occur in that environment</i>" [emphasis has been added] and is narrower than Policy C1(a) of the NPS-REG which requires that particular regard be had to "<i>the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available</i>". Meridian is concerned that inclusion of "<i>functional needs</i>" in REG-P5(4) is unnecessarily restrictive in areas outside of those listed in REG-P6. Meridian seeks amendments to better align with Policy C1(a) of the NPS-REG.</p> <p>The exclusions to REG-P5 need to extend to include new policy REG-P1A, REG-P2 and REG-P3 activities as well as REG-P4 activities.</p> <p>Meridian also considers that REG-P5 should be enabling the activities listed in the policy (e.g. through permitted or controlled activity status in the rules). The REG-P5</p>	<p>Amend REG-P5 as follows:</p> <p>Provide for Enable renewable electricity generation <i>activities</i> not otherwise specified enabled or provided for in REG-P1A, REG-P2, REG-P3 and REG-P4, while managing adverse effects by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>avoiding, remedying or mitigating significant adverse effects as far as practicable; and</i> 2. minimising other effects; 32. where significant residual adverse effects remain, having regard to any offsetting measures and/or environmental compensation measures promoted by the applicant proposed; and 43. having particular regard to the practical constraints associated with renewable electricity generation activities, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. functional needs and the operational needs of renewable electricity generation activities; and b. the need to locate activity where the renewable energy resource is available; and bc. the location and efficient use of existing electricity generation,

		<p>activities are not in <i>areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, ONLs, ONFs, riparian areas and SASM or on highly production land</i> (because such activities are addressed in REG-P6), and accordingly the conditions of a permitted or controlled activity rule can be readily applied to manage potential adverse effects without the need to apply discretion to the granting of a consent (or otherwise).</p>	<p>transmission and distribution infrastructure.</p>
REG-P6	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian considers that the exclusions to REG-P6 need to extend to include REG-1A, REG-P2, REG-P3 and REG-P5 activities as well as REG-P4 activities; and condition 4 needs to be amended to be specific to offsetting and compensation measures that are promoted by the applicant.</p> <p>Meridian considers that condition 5 should be deleted since national direction does not require this approach at this point in time. For example, the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity explicitly does not apply to REG assets and activities, and there is direction in the NPS-REG to increase REG in NZ. Meridian considers a consenting pathway should exist for renewable electricity generation activities that allows the merits or otherwise of a proposed activity to be considered on a case-by-case basis under the national policy direction at the time.</p>	<p>Amend REG-P6 as follows:</p> <p><i>Provide for renewable electricity generation activities (not otherwise <u>specified enabled or provided for in REG-P1A, REG-P2, REG-P3 and REG-P4</u>) within areas of significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna, Outstanding Natural Landscapes, Outstanding Natural Features, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, riparian areas, or within area of Highly Productive Land, where:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. there is a functional need or an operational need for the activity to be in that location <u>or there is a need to locate the activity where the renewable energy resource is available</u>;</i> <i>2. adverse effects on the values of the area are avoided as far as practicable, including through site, route or method selection, design measures and other management methods;</i>

			<p>3. <i>adverse effects that cannot be avoided are remedied or mitigated, where practicable; and</i></p> <p>4. <i>regard is had to any offsetting measures or environmental compensation <u>promoted by the applicant</u>, where there are <u>significant</u> residual adverse effects that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated; and</i></p> <p><i>5. following application of 1. – 4. above, there are no significant adverse effects remaining.</i></p>
REG-R1	Support	<p>Meridian supports permitting the operation and maintenance of existing hydroelectric power stations and associated structures in all zones.</p> <p>This reflects the national significance of existing hydroelectric power schemes, the scale of investment in these schemes and the nature of potential effects of such activities.</p>	Retain REG-R1 as notified.
REG-R2	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian supports permitting upgrading of an existing hydroelectric power station and associated structures associated with the Opuha Scheme, or within the existing footprint or core sites of the WPS.</p> <p>This reflects the national significance of existing hydroelectric power schemes, the scale of investment in these schemes and the nature of potential effects of such activities.</p> <p>However, Meridian considers that there is a grammar error in the Rule.</p>	<p>Amend REG-R2 as follows:</p> <p><i>Upgrade of an existing hydroelectric power station and <u>associated</u> structures associated with the Opuha Scheme, or within the existing footprint or core sites of the Waitaki Power Scheme.</i></p>

REG-R3	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian supports permitting the upgrading of an existing structure within an operating easement of the WPS where any modification or addition does not result in more than 20m² of additional land being utilised for buildings, structures and ancillary activities, or the height of any existing building being increased by more than 2.5 metres.</p> <p>Meridian also supports the controlled activity status that applies when the area and height restriction cannot be met.</p> <p>However, Meridian considers that REG-MD1(b) of the matters over which control is reserved should not apply to the activity. This reflects that PC18 manages the potential effects of existing renewable electricity generation activities in areas of indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, and that the NPS-IB does not apply to renewable electricity generation activities.</p>	<p>Amend REG-R3 as follows:</p> <p><i>...Activity status when compliance is not achieved with R3.1: CON</i></p> <p><i>Matters over which control are reserved:</i></p> <p><i>REG-MD1 Existing Hydroelectric Power, <u>except that matter REG-MD1(b) does not apply to this activity.</u></i></p>
REG-R4	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian supports the development of new renewable electricity generation activities associated with an existing hydroelectric power station, including associated structures being a controlled activity where the development will not result in an increase in the maximum operating level of a lake or water storage area authorised at the date this rule was notified, or create a new lake or water storage area.</p> <p>Meridian supports the restricted discretionary activity status that applies if the maximum operating level is increased or a new lake or storage area is created.</p>	<p>Retain REG-R4 as notified while at the same time deleting REG-MD2(i).</p>

		However, Meridian considers that the matters of discretion in REG-MD2 should be amended to delete i. since matters c. and e. address the same effect as i.	
REG-R5	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian supports permitting investigation, identification and assessment activities in Scenic Viewing Areas, Scenic Grasslands, Lakeside Protection Areas, Māori Rock Art Protection Areas and Silent File Areas provided the activity is located on site for no more than 60 months and any structure does not exceed 1.8m in height and 6m in footprint (excluding any anemometer mast, weather stations, lightning rods, antennas, earth peak or GPS unit and their associated mounting structures).</p> <p>Meridian also supports the restricted discretionary activity status that applies when the conditions of the permitted activity cannot be met. However, Meridian considers that REG-MD3(d) is not consistent with Policy C2 of the NPS-REG and seeks relief to ensure consistency with the national policy direction. Meridian also considers that replacing “proposed” with “promoted by the applicant” removes potential ambiguity in the provision.</p> <p>In areas other than Scenic Viewing Areas, Scenic Grasslands, Lakeside Protection Areas, Māori Rock Art Protection Areas and Silent File Areas, Meridian supports permitting investigation, identification and assessment activities provided the activity is located on site for no more than 60 months and any structure is set back from the road boundary, or internal boundary of any site in separate ownership, the equivalent distance to the height of the structure.</p>	<p>Retain REG-R5 as notified while amending REG-MD3(d) as follows:</p> <p>d. <i>The effectiveness of any proposed offsetting or compensation measures promoted by the applicant when any significant residual effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</i></p>

		Meridian also supports restricted discretionary activity status that applies when the conditions of the permitted activity cannot be met and generally supports the associated matters of discretion.	
REG-R7	Oppose in part	<p>Meridian supports any renewable electricity generation activities not otherwise listed in REG-R1 to REG-R6 being a discretionary activity in areas of significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitat of indigenous fauna, Outstanding Natural Landscape, Outstanding Natural Feature, Sites and Areas of Significance to Māori, a setback distance specified in Table NATC-1, or on Highly Productive Land.</p> <p>Meridian also supports such activities being a restricted discretionary activity in areas other than those listed above.</p> <p>However, Meridian considers that REG-MD4(b) is not consistent with Policy C2 of the NPS-REG and seeks relief to ensure consistency with the national policy direction. Meridian also considers that replacing “proposed” with “promoted by the applicant” removes potential ambiguity in the provision.</p>	<p>Retain REG-R7 as notified while amending REG-MD4(b) as follows:</p> <p><i>b. The effectiveness of any proposed offsetting or compensation measures promoted by the applicant when any significant residual effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated.</i></p>
REG-MD2(i)	Oppose	As discussed above, Meridian considers that the matters of discretion in REG-MD2 should be amended to delete i. since matters c. and e. address the same effect as i.	Delete REG-MD2(i).
REG-MD3(d)	Oppose in part	As discussed above, Meridian considers that REG-MD3(d) is not consistent with Policy C2 of the NPS-REG.	<p>As discussed above, amend REG-MD3(d) as follows:</p> <p><i>d. The effectiveness of any proposed offsetting or compensation measures promoted by the</i></p>

		Meridian also considers that replacing “proposed” with “promoted by the applicant” removes potential ambiguity in the provision.	<u>applicant when any significant residual effects cannot be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</u>
REG-MD4(b)	Oppose in part	As discussed above, Meridian considers that REG-MD4(b) is not consistent with Policy C2 of the NPS-REG. Meridian also considers that replacing “proposed” with “promoted by the applicant” removes potential ambiguity in the provision.	As discussed above, amend REG-MD4(b) as follows: b. <i>The effectiveness of any proposed offsetting or compensation measures promoted by the applicant when any significant residual effects cannot be avoided, remedied, or mitigated.</i>
REG-MD4(c)	Oppose in part	The definition of <i>Functional needs</i> in PC26 (and the National Planning Standards) reads “means the need for a proposal or activity to traverse, locate or operate in a particular environment because the activity can only occur in that environment” [emphasis has been added] and is narrower than Policy C1(a) of the NPS-REG which requires that particular regard be had to “the need to locate the renewable electricity generation activity where the renewable energy resource is available”. Meridian is concerned that inclusion of “functional needs” in REG-MD4(c) is unnecessarily restrictive in areas outside of those specified in REG-R7. Meridian seeks amendments to better align with Policy C1(a) of the NPS-REG.	Amend REG-MD4(c) as follows: <i>The functional needs and operational needs of the activity and the need to locate renewable electricity generation activities where the renewable energy resource is available.</i>
Deletion of Schedule A and Rules 13.1.1, 13.2.1 and 13.3.1 in Section 7 of the Operative MDP	Support	Meridian supports the deletion of Schedule A, and rules 13.1.1, 13.2.1 and 13.3.1, and assessment matter 16.3.j in Section 7 of the operative MDP, subject to adoption of the relief sought in this table.	Subject to adoption of the relief sought in this table, retain the deletion of Schedule A of Section 7 and rules 13.1.1, 13.2.1 and 13.3.1, and assessment matter 16.3.j in Section 7 of the MDP as notified.

APPENDIX 5 – PLAN CHANGE 27 – EARTHWORKS, SUBDIVISION, PUBLIC ACCESS AND TRANSPORT

PC27 PROVISION	SUPPORT OR OPPOSE	REASONS	RELIEF SOUGHT
New definition – Lifeline utility	Add new definition	<p>Meridian notes that PC27 does not include a definition of <i>lifeline utility infrastructure</i>. PC26 includes such a definition and Meridian considers that the same definition should apply to PC27.</p> <p>Meridian considers this is necessary given their submission on SUB-MD7.</p>	<p>Add new definition to PC27 as follows:</p> <p><i>Lifeline utility infrastructure means infrastructure that delivers a service operated by a lifeline utility (as defined in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002)</i></p>
New definition – Reverse sensitivity	New definition	Meridian notes that the term “reverse sensitivity” is used in the PC27 provisions, but it is not defined in PC27. Meridian considers that the definition for the same term that is included in PC23 should be included in PC27.	<p>Insert a new definition as follows:</p> <p><i>Reverse sensitivity means the potential for an approved (whether by consent or designation), lawfully established existing or permitted activity to be compromised, constrained, or curtailed by the more recent establishment, intensification, or alteration of another activity that may be sensitive to the actual, potential or perceived adverse environmental effects generated by the approved, lawfully established existing or permitted activity.</i></p>
PA - Introduction	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally supports the PA-Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the PA chapter.	<p>Amend the PA Introduction by adding the following paragraph:</p> <p><i>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</i></p>

SUB - Introduction	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally supports the SUB-Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the SUB chapter.	Amend the SUB Introduction by adding the following paragraph: <i><u>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</u></i>
SUB-P10	Support	Meridian supports the avoidance of reverse sensitivity effects of subdivision on existing renewable electricity generation assets and activities.	Retain SUB-P10 as notified.
SUB-S8(2)(a) and (c)	Support	Meridian supports the No-Build Area in the Ōhau River Precinct, and that no building platform shall be located within 100m of waterbodies or hydro canals.	Retain SUB-S8(2)(a) and (c) as notified.
SUB-MD7	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally supports discretion being applied to the need to avoid or minimise the potential for reverse sensitivity effects when assessing subdivision activities, they consider that SUB-MD7 should be extended to consider the need for separation from lifeline utilities.	1. Amend SUB-MD7 as follows: <i><u>Whether there is a need to provide a separation from zone boundaries, regionally significant infrastructure, transport networks, rural activities and rural industry, and lifeline utility infrastructure, or other mitigation measures to avoid or minimise potential for reverse sensitivity effects.</u></i>
EW-Introduction	Oppose in part	While Meridian generally supports the EW-Introduction, they consider that clarification should be provided to plan users that REG activities are managed under the REG chapter of the plan and are not subject to the provisions in the EW chapter.	Amend the EW Introduction by adding the following paragraph: <i><u>Renewable electricity generation activities are not subject to the provisions in this chapter.</u></i>