

From: [Rebecca Knott](#)
To: [Amber Carrig](#)
Cc: [Liz Cleland](#); [Grant Poulton](#); [Office of Kieran McNulty](#); [Nick Bowmar](#)
Subject: FW: RE: [EXTERNAL] Summary of meeting | Wind Power Project Mt Munro, Eketahuna - Meridian Energy Ltd
Date: Thursday, 28 September 2023 11:55:28 AM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)
[image002.gif](#)

Kia ora Amber

Thanks again for hosting us a few weeks ago.

We missed including Kieran's office on our response to the Protection Society this week, which I have included below for completeness. You will see that we are working to ensure we address the items raised.

Ngā mihi
Rebecca

Rebecca Knott – Head of Renewable Development

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From: Nick Bowmar <Nick.Bowmar@MeridianEnergy.co.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 2:26 PM
To: Chris Clarke <jennychris.clarke@gmail.com>
Cc: janetmc@inspire.net.nz; Rebecca Knott <Rebecca.Knott@meridianenergy.co.nz>; Gene Sams <Gene.Sams@MeridianEnergy.co.nz>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Summary of meeting | Wind Power Project Mt Munro, Eketahuna - Meridian Energy Ltd

Kia ora Chris

Further to Amber's summary from our meeting with Kieran McNulty, I have responded to her points below, confirming the commitments we made during our hui.

Kind regards

- It was noted by the residents present that they have not yet had clear communication around the names and roles of staff involved in Meridian Energy's project. Meridian agreed to provide details by way of newsletter to residents introducing the key staff leading the project – including names, their respective role and contact information.

We are working on a newsletter, which we will produce quarterly providing updates and information on the project. We will produce the first of these in the next couple of weeks, and it will include a short profile of the key team members.

- The residents present shared their view that communication between Meridian and affected residents had not been broad enough – noting that many residents do not have access to cellphone reception and/or internet – and not all residents take notice of pamphlets placed in their letterboxes. It was agreed that for future communication on things such as open days or public meetings, where all affected parties are invited to take part, Meridian would ensure it advertised more widely on multiple platforms. Suggestions included;

- Radio Eketahuna
- Community Noticeboard
- Publications such as Wairarapa Times Age, Midweek and Bush Telegraph
- Newsletter, distributed via mail-drop to affected residents, and made available at Eketahuna Four Square, Eketahuna Mobil Petrol Station and Eketahuna Library

We will broaden our communications efforts for Public Events, to maximise the chance of reaching those that might be interested in attending. As well as our usual mail drops, newspaper advertising and notices at the four Square and Petrol Station, we'll also advertise on the local radio, at the Library, and expand our list of newspaper publications.

- It was suggested that a 'pop-in' option be considered as part of Meridian's ongoing-early consultation, and as the project progresses to next stages, which would allow residents to receive updates/provide feedback in person at a dedicated day/time.

We will be having a Pop-In in Eketahuna, with approximate dates from the 5th of October to the 14th October operating from 10 am to 6 pm. We are working on a location, and will provide these details when this is confirmed.

- Residents suggested that a quarterly meeting be established between Meridian and the Mt Munro Protection Group (and any other relevant interested groups) for the purpose of staying updated.

We will commit to quarterly meetings going forward with the Mt Munro Protection Group, with the next being in early December (with the date, time and venue to be agreed and confirmed).

- Meridian committed to providing a project timeline. Meridian will provide this to Chris Clarke, who will distribute appropriately.

The statutory timeline for the consent process is covered by the RMA, and we commit to keeping Chris Clarke informed of the public notification process as it unfolds. An important related question raised by the residents was the duration that parties had to make submissions, in particular relation to the high volume of information in the application. In response to this, we note the following information:

- Under s97 of the RMA, the submissions period is 20 working days from the date

that public notification is given.

- A submission must state whether the person making the submission supports, opposes or is neutral regarding the resource consent application that has been notified.
- A submission provides the scope of what a submitter can talk about at a hearing. For example, if the submission states that the submitter is opposed to visual effects, then visual effects can be discussed by the submitter, or their appointed experts, at a hearing.
- In terms of submission content, the best resources for this are the Friend of Submitter which the four Councils have indicated they will provide to assist submitters with the process, and the advice in the Ministry for the Environment document Everyday guide to the Resource Management Act: Making a submission about a proposed plan or resource consent <https://environment.govt.nz/assets/Publications/Files/3.2-making-a-submission.pdf>. This resource states that to write a clear and effective submission, you should:
 - stick to the current resource consent application – don't get distracted by personal issues or past disputes
 - focus on the environmental effects
 - be specific about your concerns and how you want them addressed
 - tell the hearing panel what you want – don't leave them to guess
 - write in clear, simple, everyday language.
- The Friend of Submitter mentioned above is an independent planning consultant that is available to assist submitters to understand the planning process and help them make an effective submission.
- The residents present suggested that Meridian hand-write to Mike, an elderly gentleman who occupies one of the access-way properties, with an open offer to work with them to discuss mitigation options available.

We will write a hand-written letter to Mike.

Finally, we thank the Mt Munro Protection Group for these suggestions.

Nick Bowmar – RD Programme Manager

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