

**From:** Nick Bowmar <Nick.Bowmar@MeridianEnergy.co.nz>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 8, 2023 2:39 PM  
**To:** Chris Clarke <jennychris.clarke@gmail.com>  
**Cc:** Gene Sams <Gene.Sams@MeridianEnergy.co.nz>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Meridian Application resource consent Mt Munro

Kia ora Chris

Thank you for your email. I've addressed each of your questions below in blue.

Ngā mihi

Nick

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1. The application states that during the construction phase well over 300 heavy vehicles per day will be visiting the site via Old Coach Road. Are you able to advise the % coming via SH2 Eketahuna, the % coming SH2 via Pukaha and % via Mauriceville on the Opaki Kaiparoro Road. **In terms of the split of the traffic, this will largely depend on the availability and source of the aggregate, which we won't know until a time closer to construction.**
  2. Your application says that some work will be undertaken to remove bush etc along Opaki Kaiparoro Road - Can you say which sites will be affected? I got the idea it was referring to the SH2 intersection near Pukaha? **If Opaki Kaiparoro Road is used for significant construction, then vegetation will be removed from the road reserve of SH2. This is to ensure traffic entering SH2 from Opaki Kaiparoro Road, can do so safely with greater sight distance than is currently available.**
  3. Your application says that you are consulting with our community - if you count a couple of information days and a few visits, these have failed to mitigate residents' concerns. Given recent research that underlines the importance of engaging with affected communities, I am wondering when proper consultation will start? It will be helpful to understand your process hereon. **We note your concerns about the consultation carried out by Meridian on the proposed Mt Munro windfarm to date. This is an ongoing process.**
    1. **We held 30 initial meetings with individual neighbours to the project from August 2022**
    2. **We held two open days staffed by Meridian staff many of whom have considerable experience in the wind industry.**
    3. **Since the initial meetings, we've followed up with numerous visits, addressing specific concerns, including offering onsite visual simulations, shadow flicker analysis, and modelled noise assessments. We've also responded to numerous emails and phone calls.**
    4. **The resource consent application which will shortly be available will include all of the reports undertaken by Meridian relevant to the proposed windfarm. Consultation on this application will take place through the resource consent process under the Resource Management Act 1991. This process gives stakeholders and the community an opportunity to comment on the proposed Mt Munro windfarm.**

5. We will be continuing to engage with residents who wish to speak to us. This will include residents adjacent to the construction access route to identify their respective concerns and to look at possible ways to avoid or remedy their concerns in relation to the road upgrade and construction traffic.
4. Your application says that you will be employing local contractors - can you advise how many you have approached to date from Eketahuna, how many from Pahiatua and how many from Masterton and what this work will be? Also, what local resources i.e. quarries, you will be accessing and what agreements you have to date? The engagement of contractors doesn't start until a project is confirmed, which would require resource consent. If a consent is granted, and once detailed design is completed, we will prepare a detailed procurement strategy for all aspects of the work. As an example though, Meridian typically engages a small number of main contractors, and in our agreement with them we stipulate the level of local employment that we require (in other words, we don't necessarily employ the locals directly).
5. I note that in the Cultural Values assessment by Rangitane O Tamaki nui a Rua that they say that the windmills '*...should not compete with or compromise the aesthetic value of the range and surrounding landscapes, especially the great works that the people of Pukaha and surrounding trusts are undertaking at present and in the future...They should avoid any area where they compromise the natural qualities of the range and impose an industrial character on the landscape...*' (p39/40)....  
Also, recommendation 4 "*...that the turbines be brought off the ridgelines ...due to its value to Rangitane. It is a skyline of importance and placement of turbines from such a height will affect the visual/aesthetic value of the range from all directions....*"  
How does Meridian propose to mitigate these concerns? We have been working with local Iwi since early last year, and will continue to work with them to address their concerns.

Thank you for your help with these questions. I look forward to receiving your reply.

Ngā mihi

Chris Clarke  
Chairperson  
Mt Munro Protection Society