

In the Environment Court of New Zealand
Wellington Registry

I te Kōti Taiao o Aotearoa
Ki te Whanganui-a-Tara

ENV-2025-WLG-000036

Under clause 14 of Schedule 1 to the Resource Management Act 1991 ("RMA")

In the matter of an appeal under clause 14(1) of the First Schedule to the RMA

Between **Transpower New Zealand Limited**

Appellant

And **Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa District Councils**

Respondents

Notice of Meridian Energy Limited's wish to be party to proceedings pursuant to section 274 of the RMA

9 December 2025

Section 274 party's solicitors:

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**anderson
lloyd.**

To the Registrar

Environment Court

Wellington

- 1 Meridian Energy Limited gives notice it wishes to be party to the following proceedings:

Transpower New Zealand Limited v Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa District Councils (ENV-2025-WLG-000036) being an appeal under clause 14 of Schedule 1 of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**), against decisions of the Carterton, Masterton and South Wairarapa District Councils (**Councils**) on the Proposed Wairarapa Combined District Plan (**PWCDP**).

- 2 Meridian Energy Limited:
 - (a) made a submission and a further submission about the subject matter of the proceedings; and
 - (b) is a person with an interest in the proceedings which is greater than the general public, being a Crown majority-owned publicly listed company undertaking renewable electricity generation activities, and with a special interest in implementing national direction under the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation (**NPS-REG**).
- 3 Meridian Energy Limited is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C or 308CA of the RMA.
- 4 Meridian Energy Limited is interested in those parts of the proceeding identified in Attachment 1, concerning the issues identified in Attachment 1.
- 5 Meridian Energy Limited agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.

Dated this 9th day of December 2025



Michael Garbett/Rebecca Kindiak
Counsel for the Meridian Energy Limited

This document is filed by Michael Garbett, solicitor for the Section 274 party, of the firm Anderson Lloyd.

The address for service of the Section 274 party is
287-293 Durham Street North, Christchurch, 8013

Documents for service on the filing party may be left at that address for service or may be:

- (a) posted to the solicitor at P O Box 2146, Christchurch 8140; or
- (b) emailed to andrew.feierabend@meridianenergy.co.nz and ellie.taffs@meridianenergy.co.nz.

Advice

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

Attachment 1: Meridian Energy Limited's interest in the appeal of Transpower New Zealand Limited

| Provision in which Meridian has a s274 interest | Relief sought by the appellant | Meridian's position | Reason for Meridian's support or opposition |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Definition of "reverse sensitivity" | <p>Amend the Definition of 'reverse sensitivity' as follows:</p> <p><i>Means the potential for the development, upgrading, operation and maintenance of an existing lawfully established activity to be compromised, constrained or curtailed by the more recent establishment or alteration of another activity which may be sensitive to the actual, potential or perceived environmental effects generated by an existing activity.</i></p> <p>'Development' and 'upgrading' of an existing activity in this definition are limited to where the effects are the same or similar in character, intensity, and scale to those which existed before the development or upgrade.</p> | Supports | <p>Meridian supports the proposed amendment to the definition of reverse sensitivity for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) The last sentence of the definition limits reverse sensitivity effects to those associated with a pre-development scenario; (b) This limitation is problematic for the development of large-scale regionally significant infrastructure including renewable electricity generation activities and the national grid (particularly where these occur in stages); (c) The limitation has the potential to reduce the protections against adverse reverse sensitivity effects that are provided by the Plan's policies and, thereby, to constrain the development of regionally significant infrastructure including the national grid and renewable electricity generation activities; |

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|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | | <p>(d) The last sentence of the definition is inconsistent with current best practice definitions of 'reverse sensitivity' found in contemporary district plans;</p> <p>(e) In the case of the upgrading of renewable electricity generation activities, the last sentence of the definition is not necessary because upgrading requires consent under Rule ENG-R7. The protection the last sentence seeks to provide is already provided for within the Plan; and</p> <p>(f) The last sentence fails to give full effect to Policy D of the National Policy Statement for Renewable Electricity Generation 2011.</p> |
| Policy ECO-P4 | <p>Amend ECO-P4 as follows (or alternative wording to achieve the intent):</p> <p><i>Protect those areas that are habitats comprising significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna in the Wairarapa from inappropriate subdivision, land use, and development by:</i></p> | Supports in part | <p>(a) Meridian considers it is important that Policy ECO-P4 provides explicitly (in clause (a)) for activities that have operational need or functional need for location, such as renewable electricity generation activities;</p> <p>(b) Explicit provision for activities that have operational need or functional need gives effect, in part, to Part 1.3 (3) of the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (as</p> |

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|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | <p><i>a. only providing for activities that demonstrate an operational need or functional need to be located in this area;</i></p> <p><i>b. ensuring areas are not removed in whole or part;</i></p> <p><i>c. requiring activities within or directly adjacent to these areas to manage their adverse effects in accordance with ECO-P6 and ECO-P13 avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects on the values of the area; and</i></p> <p><i>d. managing effects of vegetation modification within the margins of any natural inland wetlands and rely upon Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 in all other cases.</i></p> <p>Alternatively, amend ECO-P4 to exempt electricity transmission activities from clauses (a) and (b)</p> | | <p>amended in October 2024 – the NPSIB); and</p> <p>(c) However, Meridian agrees that Part 1.3 (3) of the NPSIB could equally be given effect by deletion of clause (a) and insertion of the direction in clause (c) of Policy ECO-P4 that effects are to be managed in accordance with Policies ECO-P6 and ECO-P13 (which both give effect to Part 1.3 (3) of the NPSIB).</p> |
| Policy ECO-P8 | <p>Amend ECO-P8 as follows (or alternative wording to achieve the intent):</p> <p><i>Manage the modification of indigenous vegetation outside of habitats comprising significant indigenous vegetation or significant</i></p> | Supports | <p>(a) Policy ECO-P8 was amended, in response to submissions including by Meridian, to give effect to Part 1.3 (3) of the NPSIB; and</p> |

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| | <p><i>habitats of indigenous fauna to ensure any adverse effects on the biological diversity of indigenous species and habitats indigenous biodiversity are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, considering:</i></p> <p>a. ...</p> <p>...</p> <p><i>e. to require adverse effects of activities other than renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission activities on biological diversity of indigenous species and habitats to be managed as follows:...</i></p> | | <p>(b) In particular, the specification in clause (e) of Policy ECO-P8 that the clause (e) requirements do not apply to renewable electricity generation activities gives effect to Part 1.3 (3) of the NPSIB. Clauses (a) to (d) of Policy ECO-P8 provide a framework for managing the effects of renewable electricity generation activities that is appropriate for the operational requirements of renewable electricity generation activities; and</p> <p>(c) Meridian supports the inclusion of electricity transmission activities in Policy ECO-P8, if the Policy ECO-P8 management framework is also appropriate for electricity transmission activities.</p> |