

**Minute to the Parties**

**Introduction**

[1] Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**) has applied to the Hurunui District Council and the Canterbury Regional Council for resource consents to establish and operate a windfarm in the Hurunui District.

[2] Meridian has requested, under section 87D of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**the Act**), that these applications be referred directly to the Environment Court for determination and the Councils have agreed to this course.

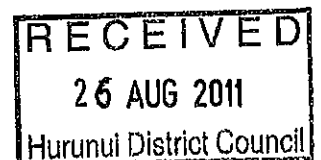
**Matters of procedure**

[3] Meridian has decided to proceed with the applications for direct referral and on 18 August 2011 the Registrar received the following documents:

- a notice of motion;
- a list of names and addresses of persons to be served with a copy of the notice;
- the affidavit of Ms A M van Polanen, dated 18 August 2011; and
- the Councils' section 87F reports.

[4] Having considered these documents I am satisfied that sections 87C-G of the Act have been complied with. It follows that I am also satisfied that the court has jurisdiction to determine these applications. As this is an administrative decision I do not consider a formal order (as sought by Meridian) is necessary.

[5] Meridian advises that the submitters and Councils will be served with a copy of the notice of motion. I note that section 87G(2)(b) states that the applicant must serve a copy of the notice **and** the affidavit and so Meridian is to be mindful of this requirement.



In accordance with section 87G(2)(c), the Registrar is to be advised when the copies have been served.

[6] Once service is complete the Councils are to provide the court with the information detailed in section 87G(3) *without delay*.

**Parties to the proceeding**

[7] Monique Eade, Case Manager for this proceeding, will be writing to all submitters in the list supplied to the court advising of the process for becoming a party to this proceeding.

[8] Any person who wishes to become a party to this proceeding must file the notice by **16 September 2011** using the form supplied.

**Pre-hearing conference**

[9] This proceeding is to be set down for a pre-hearing conference on or after **1 November 2011**. At the pre-hearing conference I will deal with any preliminary issues raised by any party and we will begin to plan towards a hearing.

[10] A notice will issue advising the parties of the details of the pre-hearing conference in due course.

**DATED** at CHRISTCHURCH this 24th day of August 2011

*J E Borthwick*



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**J E Borthwick**  
**Environment Judge**  
Issued<sup>1</sup>: