

**In the Environment Court
I Mua I Te Kōti Taiao O Aotearoa
Auckland Registry
Tāmaki Makaurau Rohe**

ENV-2022-AKL-000043

Under the Resource Management Act 1991
And in the matter of an application under Section 274 of the Act

Between

Horticulture New Zealand

Appellant

and

Waikato District Council

Respondent

**Notice of Meridian Energy Limited's wish to be party to
proceedings**

22 March 2022

BELL GULLY

BARRISTERS AND SOLICITORS
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To: The Registrar
Environment Court
Auckland

1. Meridian Energy Limited (**Meridian**) wishes to be a party to the following proceedings:

(a) *Horticulture New Zealand v Waikato District Council* – ENV-2022-AKL-000043.

2. Meridian made a further submission about the subject matter of the proceedings and has an interest in the proceedings that is greater than the interest that the general public has as a renewable energy generator and provider with interests in the Waikato District.

3. Meridian is not a trade competitor for the purposes of section 308C of the Resource Management Act 1991 (the **RMA**).

4. Meridian is interested in part of the proceedings.

5. Meridian is interested in the following parts of the proceedings:

Part 3: Area-specific matters / Zones / Rural zones / GRUZ- General rural zone

(a) Policy GRUZ-P5.

6. Meridian is interested in the following particular issues:

(a) The request by the appellant to replace the word 'enable' with the words 'provide for' in Policy GRUZ-P5.

7. Meridian opposes the relief sought, including for the following reasons:

(a) Meridian prefers the wording of the Proposed Waikato District Plan (**Proposed Plan**) Decisions Version Policy GRUZ-P5. Meridian considers an 'enable' direction is more appropriate than just a 'provide for' direction to recognise that renewable electricity generation activities have particular requirements that mean they need to locate in the rural environment.

- (b) The relevant objectives and policies of Chapter INF – All Infrastructure are appropriately enabling of renewable electricity generation activities. For example, Objective AINF-O5 for renewable energy is '*Energy efficient design and an increase in renewable electricity generation*'. Policy AINF-P21 (enabling renewable electricity generation) is to '*Enable the investigation, development, operation maintenance and upgrading of renewable electricity generation activities, including domestic and community scale distributed renewable electricity generation, provided that adverse effects are avoided, remedied or mitigated*'.
- (c) Given the Proposed Plan only allows for large-scale wind farms in the GRUZ-General Rural Zone, and allows for other renewable electricity generation activities in this zone, it will be necessary to enable (rather than simply 'provide for') these activities in the GRUZ- General Rural Zone in order to give effect to Objective AINF-O5 and Policy AINF-P21.

8. Meridian agrees to participate in mediation or other alternative dispute resolution of the proceedings.



A J L Beatson / H G Watson
Counsel for Meridian Energy Limited

Dated 22 March 2022

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Advice

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