

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

ENV-2022-AKL-000081

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

Between

WEL Networks Limited

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) *WEL Networks Limited v Waikato District Council* –
ENV-2022-AKL-000081.

2. Meridian made a 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 part of the proceedings:

*Part 2: District-wide matters / Energy, infrastructure and transport /
AINF – All Infrastructure*

(a) Rule AINF-R6 - Minor upgrading

6. Meridian is interested in the following particular issues:

(a) The amended limits sought by the appellant in Rule AINF-R6.

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

(a) The requested amendments to Rule AINF-R6 are inconsistent with the relief sought by Meridian in its appeal. Meridian sought that the distance limit in AINF-R6(1)(a)(i) should be increased to 100m, as opposed to the 10m requested by the appellant.

- (b) The limits set in the Decisions Version of Rule AINF-R6(1) and the amended limit as sought by the appellant, are unduly restrictive and insufficient to meet the reasonably foreseeable upgrading needs of renewable electricity generation activities in the GRUZ – General Rural Zone in the Waikato District. The limits specified in Rule AINF(1) fail to recognise that wind energy facilities are often of a different scale compared to other linear forms of infrastructure.
- (c) Meridian has requested amendments better tailored to the needs of renewable electricity generation activities, including alternative relief explicitly providing for renewable electricity generation activities as distinct from other linear forms of infrastructure.
- (d) For completeness, Meridian does not agree with the appellant's acceptance of the height limit in AIN-R6(1)(a)(ii) of 40%. Meridian has requested the height limit in AINF-R6(1)(a)(ii) should be increased to 50% (not the 40% accepted by the appellant).

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.