

Environmental Management Guidelines

Purpose

Meridian is a renewable energy generator, retailer, community member and partner to a number of stakeholders predominantly in New Zealand, but also overseas. Meridian uses natural resources, wind, water and the sun, to generate all the electricity it produces. For Meridian, this is crucial given our purpose is to deliver *clean energy for a fairer and healthier world*. Good environmental management is essential to Meridian given our reliance on access to natural resources for existing generation and for development of new generation options. Put simply, good environmental management is the foundation of our licence to operate, and aligns with our commitment to the 15th United Nations Sustainable Development Goal “*Life on Land*”.

Scope

The majority of our environmental impacts relate to our generation business. Therefore, these guidelines predominantly apply to our hydro, wind and solar operations, although they also apply to our entire business, and across the Meridian Group. Our Greenhouse Gas Emissions Measurement and Management Guidelines contain more specific information about our approach to our direct climate impacts, and our Sustainability Roadmap focuses on our approach to improving environmental outcomes in the systems we are a part of (for example, our desire to accelerate the uptake of electric vehicles and the decarbonisation of industrial heat processes). Our Supplier Code of Conduct covers the minimum environmental management expectations we have of our suppliers and key business partners, and in addition we expect them to support the delivery of the outcomes listed below. We also apply environmental criteria in our due diligence of acquisition and merger opportunities as appropriate.

We will

Respond actively to climate change and environmental degradation.

We mitigate the impacts of our activities through a combination of design, consent conditions, operational parameters and mitigation agreements with stakeholders. We recognise that climate change is the most significant environmental challenge of our time and the most significant response we can make to this by operating and developing only clean renewable electricity generation. Please refer to our [Climate Action Plan](#) or contact the Head of Sustainability to find out more.

We are committed to maintaining biodiversity, by applying avoidance, remediation, mitigation and restoration approaches in our approach to mitigation of biodiversity impacts. In New Zealand this occurs as part of the Resource Management Act process which seeks to work through optimising biodiversity outcomes and broader environmental, social and economic outcomes (for example climate change, local employment, the benefits of renewable energy power stations, etc). As part of this process we work with local government bodies and community groups. We operate in a variety of landscapes, from previously modified farmland, to the World Heritage Area of Manapōuri, and we undertake four main biodiversity projects: [Project River Recovery](#) with the Department of Conservation; [Waiiau River Restoration](#) project with the Waiiau Fisheries and Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Trust; [Forever Forests](#) with Ekos and Sustainable Coastlines; and [Elver Trap and Transfer](#) under the guidance of Ngai Tahu.

Comply with all environmental obligations.

We comply with all statutory, resource consent conditions and agreements that relate to our asset operation and development. This includes special environmental legislation that applies to the operation of the Manapōuri hydro electric scheme.

Report our performance openly.

We report our environmental compliance fully to local government who oversee our resource consent and operational performance. We report to specialist statutory guardians appointed to oversee our operations and environmental outcomes in Lakes Te Anau and Manapōuri. We also report on our environmental performance in our integrated report and on our website, as well as through our consent compliance reporting, reporting to stakeholder groups, and reports to government.

Work with tangata whenua and stakeholders.

We acknowledge the mana whenua and mana wai status of iwi in the locations where we own and operate generation facilities. Given the significance of our hydro generation assets at Manapōuri and Waitaki and the scale of their impact we place particular importance on our relationship and partnership with Ngāi Tahu in whose takiwa those facilities operate. Through the development of new windfarm facilities we have developed new relationships and partnerships with iwi based in the North Island. You can find more information about our approach to stakeholder engagement in our [“How to effectively engage with stakeholders”](#) guidelines.

Recognise that multiple values legitimately exist.

Water, wind and sun are vital to achieving NZ’s climate action goals; while water in particular also provides cultural, social, environmental and economic benefits to a wide range of people and for intrinsic values. We recognise that multiple values exist in relation to those natural resources and accept that a balancing of the multiple values and uses will often be required. Where the reconciliation of those values cannot be balanced and determined by agreement we trust in the independence and robustness of statutory processes that allow for all parties to participate and for a resolution to be reached.

Encourage connection with nature.

People and businesses are part of the natural world. We are dependent on the environment for the renewable sources of energy that are made into electricity. We encourage our staff and customers to develop a positive connection with nature through sponsorship of local environmental initiatives funded via our [Power Up community funds](#), through national sponsorships such as [Kākāpō](#) and through being a part of our [Forever Forests](#) programme.

Act to build Meridian’s reputation and licence to operate.

When we deal with people and groups that want to discuss our environmental performance we do so honesty and openly. We are straight-up, and we explain things in plain language. We abide by our [“How to effectively engage with stakeholders”](#) guidelines, our company [Code of Conduct](#), and our [How to Be behaviours](#).

Want to know more?

You can talk to our Head of Environment if you have questions about our approach to environmental management, who can also help you connect to the right people in our business to answer your queries.