

Note: These conditions are up to date as at 15/04/26. They include changes that have been made as a result of consultation with the Department of Conservation. Meridian continues to engage with the Department of Conservation so further changes may arise through that process. Should that occur, an updated version (Version 4) will be provided to the Panel for consideration.

Version 3

Wildlife Permit

Schedule 1

1. Authorised Activity – The activities authorised are to Salvage, Hold, Accidentally Harm or Kill:
 - a. McCann's skink (*Oligosoma maccanni*)
 - b. Southern grass skink (*Oligosoma chionochloescens*)
 - c. Southern Alps gecko (*Woodworthia "Southern Alps"*)
 - d. Mackenzie skink (*Oligosoma prasinum*)

2. The Land – Dam armouring access tracks and material laydown: 44°11'24.7"S 170°08'31.6"E
South stockpile (6.3 ha): 44°11'37.0"S 170°08'39.4"E
North stockpile (0.8 ha): 44°11'16.7"S 170°09'02.4"E

3. Term – (date of approval) to (date 35 years from date of approval)

4. Wildlife Approval Holders address for notices is:
Environment Team
Level 2, 98 Customhouse Quay, Wellington, 6011.

5. Director-General's address for notices – The Director-General's address for all correspondence is:
Permissions Team Level 4
73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton 3204
Email: permissionshamilton@doc.govt.nz

Wildlife Approval

6. This Authority applies to lizards species specified in Schedule 1(1).
7. If, in the course of any lizard survey or salvage activity, all reasonable effort has been made to meet all of the conditions expressed and implied in this authority; and wildlife is killed by the Authority Holder, then that will be permitted under this authority.
8. DOC Operations Manager(s) are to be contacted immediately for further advice if species of protected wildlife other than those listed in Schedule 1 (1) - (not just lizards) are located within the footprint of a planned activity. A separate application in relation to non-authorized species will be required.
9. This Authorisation gives the Authority Holder the right to hold absolutely protected wildlife in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Authorisation, but the wildlife remains the property

of the Crown. This includes any dead wildlife, live wildlife, any parts thereof, any eggs or progeny of the wildlife, genetic material and any replicated genetic material.

10. Unless expressly authorised by the Director-General in writing, the Authority Holder must not donate, sell or otherwise transfer to any third party any wildlife, material, including any genetic material, or any material propagated or cloned from such material, collected under this Authority.

Note: The exception to this is the collection of eDNA which will be sent to a third party for genetic analysis to assess species presence.

11. Any lizard salvage activity must be undertaken in accordance with the approved Lizard Management Plan for the Project.
12. Lizards must only be handled by Personnel Authorised to Undertake this Activity or under the direct supervision of the Authorised Personnel.
13. Lizard capture, handling and relocation should be undertaken at a suitable time of year when lizards are active. October to April inclusive is the usual duration, but this will vary by location and altitude.
14. Capture and handling of lizards must involve only techniques that minimise the risk of infection or injury to the animal.
15. The Authority Holder is only permitted to release wildlife that are listed in Schedule 1(1) using methods described in the Lizard Management Plan written for the particular lizard salvage operation.
16. Capture and handling methods shall follow those described in the Herpetofauna inventory and monitoring toolbox <http://www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/biodiversity-inventoryand-monitoring/herpetofauna/>.
17. The Authority Holder must ensure all live capture traps are covered to protect lizards from exposure and minimise stress. Damp leaf litter or other material must be provided to reduce desiccation risk and the bottom of the pit-fall trap must be perforated to allow drainage of water. The Authority Holder must ensure that all live capture traps contain retreats to minimise risk of predation events within the trap.
18. If any mortality is detected, due consideration shall be made, and documented, that show measures have been taken to reduce mortality. Measures may include, but are not limited to, providing additional protection from weather, undertaking rodent suppression by trapping and/or poisoning at the site; not conducting live-trapping where mouse numbers have irrupted following grass seeding (where predation has been the cause of mortality); twice-daily trap checks, switching catching devices, or some combination of these measures.
19. The Authority Holder must ensure all live capture traps, (e.g. pitfall traps), are checked at least every 24 hours.
20. The Authority Holder must sterilise any instruments that come in contact with the lizards and/or are used to collect or measure lizards between each location. A separate holding bag must be used for each animal. All gear should be thoroughly cleaned and dried between sites.
21. The Authority Holder must ensure lizards are temporarily held individually in a suitable container (e.g. breathable cloth bag) and held out of direct sunlight to minimise the risk of overheating, stress and death.
22. If any lizards should die during the authorised activities of catch, transfer or liberate, the Authority Holder must:
 - a. inform the Director-General within 48 hours;
 - b. If requested by the Director-General, chill the body if it can be delivered within 72 hours, or freeze the body if delivery will take longer than 72 hours;
 - c. send the body to Massey University Wildlife Post-mortem Service for necropsy, along with details of the animal's history;

- d. pay for any costs incurred in investigation of the death of any lizard, if required to do so by the Director-General; and
 - e. If required by the Director-General, cease the Authorised Activity for a period determined by the Grantor.
23. If any lizards are found injured as part of the Authorised Activity, the Authority Holder shall seek advice from the Authority holder on management of the lizard(s).
24. The Authority Holder must not euthanise any wildlife unless:
- a. The Authority Holder obtains authority from the Director-General; or
 - b. A veterinarian recommends euthanasia on animal welfare grounds; or
 - c. The Authority Holder euthanises the wildlife under direction from the Director-General.
25. The Authority Holder must provide an annual report or reports to the Director-General on any additional lizard surveys undertaken. These must be electronically forwarded to the Director-General at XXXXXXXXX@doc.govt.nz citing the Authority Number XXXXXXXX. These reports must be submitted by 30 June each year.
26. For all salvage operations, A report on each salvage operation is to be submitted in writing to XXXXXXXXX@doc.govt.nz and to the DOC Operations Manager, at XXXXXXXXX@doc.govt.nz by 30 June each year for the life of this Authorisation, summarising outcomes in accordance with any specific Lizard Management Plan. Each report must include:
- a. The permission number; and
 - b. the species and number of any animals collected and released;
 - c. the GPS location (or a detailed map) of the collection point(s) and release point(s);
 - d. results of all surveys, monitoring or research; and
 - e. description of how the Lizard Management Plan was implemented including any difficulties encountered with capture and handling, how release sites were assessed, post release monitoring and what contingency actions were required.
27. For all survey and salvage operations undertaken, completed Amphibian and Reptile Distribution System (ARDS) cards for all herpetofauna sightings and captures
[\(http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-andfrogs/speciesinformation/herpetofauna-data-collection/ards-card/\)](http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-andfrogs/speciesinformation/herpetofauna-data-collection/ards-card/), must be sent to Herpetofauna, Department of Conservation, National Office, PO Box 10420 Wellington 6143 or herpetofauna@doc.govt.nz. For more information refer to:
<http://www.doc.govt.nz/conservation/native-animals/reptiles-and-frogs/reptiles-and-frogsdistribution-information/species-sightings-and-data-management/>).
28. All reports submitted under Conditions 20 and 21 above must contain any implications of the results for conservation management.
29. The Authority Holder acknowledges that the Director-General may provide copies of the reports referred-to in Conditions 25 and 26 above, to tangata whenua and the general public if requested.
30. Didymo biosecurity - The Authority Holder must comply with the Ministry for Primary Industries' (MPI)'s "Check, Clean, Dry" cleaning methods to prevent the spread of didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and other freshwater pests when moving between waterways. "Check, Clean, Dry" cleaning methods can be found at - <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning>.

Compensation Management Plan

31. Prior to works commencing an updated Compensation Management Plan (CMP) shall be submitted to the Director-General at XXXXXXXXX@doc.govt.nz citing the Authority Number XXXXXXXX for approval.

Lizard Fence

32. A lizard exclusion fence must be established to separate the known Mackenzie skink habitat areas from the North stockpile. The fence shall be established to exclude Mackenzie skink from entering the North stockpile.
33. The fence must be constructed so that it extends a minimum of 50 cm off the ground and be dug approximately 50-100 mm into the ground with a lip so that lizards cannot dig under the fence. Stakes must be established approximately 2 m apart to support the fence. A gate may form part of the fence to allow access to the rock material.
34. The fence must be maintained until all rock material from the North stockpile has been utilised. Annual inspections are to be undertaken to ensure the fence continues to function as intended.
35. The design of the lizard exclusion fence shall be constructed in accordance with the design specifications set out in the Lizard Management Plan. .

Ongoing Management

36. On or prior to the 10th anniversary of this approval being issued the consent holder must undertake a lizard survey across the stockpile, laydown and temporary building areas to review and quantify any change to the lizard population on site.
37. If any lizards are identified in the Northern stockpile, an additional salvage operation shall be undertaken at that location in accordance with the Lizard Management Plan.
38. Following the completion of the survey, the Lizard Management Plan shall be updated to include the results of the survey and any updated threat classifications. The updated Lizard Management Plan shall be submitted to the Director-General at XXXXXXXX@doc.govt.nz citing the Authority Number XXXXXXXX for confirmation that it meets the requirements of this authority.

Variations

39. The Approval Holder may apply to the Director General for variations to this Approval in accordance with clause (7)(2) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024.

Revocation

40. The Director General may revoke this Approval in whole or in part at any time (pursuant to clause 7(4) of Schedule 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 if:
 - a. The Approval Holder breaches any of the conditions of this Approval.
 - b. In the Director Generals opinion, the exercise of this Approval has caused or is likely to cause any unforeseen adverse effects on lizards.

If the Director General intends to revoke this Approval in whole or in part, the Director General must give the Approval Holder such prior notice as is reasonable and necessary in the circumstances.

Costs

41. The Approval Holder must pay the standard Department of Conservation charge-out rates for any staff time and mileage required to monitor compliance with this Approval and to investigate any alleged breaches of the terms and conditions of it.

Liabilities

42. The Approval Holder agrees to exercise the Approval at its own risk and releases to the full extent permitted by law, the Director General and Director Generals' employees and agents from all claims and demands of any kind and from all liability which may arise in respect of any accident, damage or injury occurring to any person or property arising from Meridian Energy Limited's exercise of the Approval.

Compliance with Legislation and Director-General's Notices and Directions

43. The Approval Holder must comply with all statutes, bylaws, and regulations, and all notices, directions, and requisitions of the Director-General and any competent authority relating to the exercise of the Approval.

Employees, Contractors, or Agents

44. The Approval Holder is responsible for the acts and omissions of its employees, contractors, and agents. The Approval Holder is liable under the Approval for any breach of its terms by employees, contractors, or agents, as if the breach were committed by the Approval Holder. Where obligations bind more than one person, those obligations bind those persons jointly and separately.