

Bathurst Resources Ltd
Level 12
Willeston Street
Wellington 6011

Attention: Campbell Robertson

Dear Campbell

Bathurst Resources Coalgate Mine - lizard habitat

We understand that Environment Canterbury Regional Council (ECAN) have requested further detail pertaining to the potential presence of skink and gecko species within the N04 and N05 areas, at the Bathurst Resources Coalgate mine site at Bush Gully Road, Coalgate. Our response follows.

1. Based on the information provided (and acknowledging we have not surveyed for lizards on site), we consider that the habitat within the N04/N05 area represents low quality habitat for any lizard species known from the surrounding area, taking into account:
 - Habitat within N04/N05 for most of the 25 years prior to early 2017 has been plantation pine forest, with little/no native understorey.
 - Plantation pine forest within N04/N05 was harvested in early 2017, resulting in a typically high level of disturbance to habitat at ground level across the entire area.
 - The current habitat within N04/N05 consists of a mosaic of bare ground and pine slash, with patches of common weeds including gorse and blackberry. No rocky outcrops or similar potential lizard habitat is present.
 - The area surrounding the remaining plantation pine forest is generally heavily grazed sheep country, with no nearby rocky habitat and very little other potential lizard habitat to act as 'reservoirs' from which lizard populations could recolonise the N04/N05 area.
2. Considering the low habitat quality, the likely low levels of lizard presence and the very recent high levels of disturbance, lizard survey prior to soil stripping is not considered warranted.
3. However, in the event ECAN disagrees with this approach, we would suggest:
 - A Wildlife Act Authority should be sought from the Department of Conservation to allow survey, salvage, handling, relocation and accidental killing of skinks and geckos from within the N04/N05 area. This would require a management plan to be written in support of the application.
 - Immediately prior to soil stripping, a total of 8 person/hours should be spent undertaking destructive searches for skinks and geckos across the entire N04/N05 area.

Any lizards recovered should be relocated to the rehabilitated lizard habitat within the Northern ELF.

- If no lizards are found, no further survey or salvage work is required and mine operations should continue.
- If lizards are found, an extra 2 person/hours of destructive search should be undertaken per lizard found, to a maximum of 20 person/hours.

This report has been prepared for the exclusive use of our client Bathurst Resources Ltd, with respect to the particular brief given to us and it may not be relied upon in other contexts or for any other purpose, or by any person other than our client, without our prior written agreement.

Tonkin & Taylor Ltd

Environmental and Engineering Consultants

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