

From:
To: [Hearings](#)
Cc: [Edwina White](#)
Subject: Notifications Consent Submission: Group 542
Date: Thursday, 14 May 2020 9:05:43 AM

Group ID: 542

Consent name: Bathurst Coal Limited

Consent number: CRC184166, CRC200500, CRC201366, CRC201367, CRC201368, CRC203016, RC185622

Name: Julie Anderson

Care of:

Mailing address 1:

Mailing address 2:

Suburb:

Town/City:

Post-code:

Country:

Mobile phone:

Work phone:

Home phone:

Email

Contact by email: Yes

Is a trade competitor: No

Directly affected: Yes

Consent support/hearing details

- CRC184166: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- CRC200500: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- CRC201366: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- CRC201367: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- CRC201368: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- CRC203016: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing
- RC185622: oppose | NOT to be heard | will NOT consider joint hearing

Reasons comment:

I actually find it beyond belief that this application is even up for discussion let alone

consent. It is archaic and backward thinking to be expanding coal mines at this stage of the climate crisis. We are well past the tipping point of destruction to the environment, rivers, streams and lakes in Canterbury and Fonterra and the big business dairy farming model are squarely to blame. To increase size and production of a coal mine to fuel the destruction is double craziness. This head in the sand attitude has to stop. The continual degradation over the last 30 years of the waterways on the Canterbury plains has been obvious to those who know the area well. The insidious spread of dairy farms has been directly correlated with the decline of the waterways. I have spent my whole life on a family property near the Hawkins River in Russells Flat near Springfield. In the 70's as child I swam and fished that river almost monthly. In the 80's and 90's the river started to dry up completely every summer and the fish became scarce. By the 2000 it had been take over by a brown, sludgy, snot like alge and all trout were gone. Today not even a cockabully can be found to exist under the stones by curious children in that river if you are brave enough to let your children play near the toxic algae that kills dogs and small animals. Greedy irrigation has lowered the river to trickle levels and nitrate runoff from all the surrounding dairy farms has leached into the waterway. The fury I have felt as I watched this happen over 40 years has riled me to a point where I now actively participate in activism against all things that threaten our Canterbury water and activism is not in my DNA but as one person who has watched this decline over years of creeping greed I feel I need to stand up and hold big business, local council, Ecan and government to account. The small decisions made along the way over years by all authorities in power have culminated in a massive natural and environmental disaster. It is time to take back the landscape and reverse the damage. It has to be done by the authorities and the people who live in the region should have a massive input into these decisions. It is time for Ecan , council and government to listen and fix this. Expanding the size and production of a local coal mine to feed burners for Fonterra to continue their arrogant approach to dairying and environmental impact is not the way to do it. It is a major backward step that can only contribute to the gasping environment that is already in intensive care. Coal kills the climate – we must stop producing and using coal if we are to bring emissions down. The low-grade coal from this mine is used locally for industrial heating, a use for which climate-friendly alternatives exist. Currently the Resource Management Act does not allow ‘climate impact’ as grounds for refusing a consent. However, this RMA clause is being reviewed and is likely to be changed to be compatible with the Zero Carbon Act. In 2019 ECan committed to declaring and acting on a climate and ecological emergency. As elected representatives, your primary responsibility is to the health of your local population and whenua. The mine supports an unsustainable model of land-use – 90% of this low-grade coal goes to Fonterra dairy factories. Their commercial model (the intensive production of low price/high volume commodities) requires a degree of irrigation, fertiliser use and livestock overstocking that is harmful to both the natural environment and human health. Calls for a change to this model are growing steadily stronger and more mainstream. Disregard for environmental degradation and threat to biodiversity – Bathurst have repeatedly breached their existing consents for discharge to local waterways that are the habitat of the endangered Canterbury mudfish. We have no confidence they will not continue to do so. Negative impact on local environment and community – as well as the impact on indigenous biodiversity and cultural values, Selwyn D.C’s own Notification decision report identified the impact of noise and dust, pollution of local waterway, landscape effects and overall amenity values as being more than minor. Bathurst has also repeatedly failed to provide the required information on these issues.

Consent comment:

I wish the consent authority to deny all consent applications under this consent. Furthermore I wish Ecan and the local authority to hold Bathurst Coal Ltd to account for continual breaches of their discharge permit rights and enforce tighter controls and harsher penalties for said breaches until it is un economic for them to breach laws at all. The

sooner coal mines cease to operate the better.