

Carol Bartle

**Re: Bathurst Coal Ltd**

**Bathurst Coal Ltd has applied to Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council for consents [under the Resource Management Act] to continue operating and expand an open cast coal mine (known as Canterbury Coal Mine), including retrospective and future operation at Bush Gully Road, Malvern Hills, Selwyn.**

As a Christchurch resident and a health professional this submission is to register my opposition to this consent request. There are urgent issues related to climate change and its effects on health and the environment, and consents to expand coal mining are incompatible with positive climate action. Coal is a major contributor to climate change, as is extensive dairy farming.

Feedback is below:

1. The production of coal produces significant pollution and neglecting to protect native waterways, and endangering water quality and native species is not acceptable. The extension of Bathurst mine is directly in contradiction to the NZ Government policy of becoming carbon neutral.
2. The unsustainable model of land usage contributes to another unsustainable model of land use – intensive dairy farming. 90% of low-grade coal goes to Fonterra dairy factories. Fonterra's intensive commercial model requires irrigation, fertiliser use and livestock overstocking that is harmful to both the natural environment and human health. The costs of externalities of land degradation and polluted water fall on the people of Aotearoa New Zealand, and the effects will negatively impact future generations of our children in a myriad of ways, including health and quality of life. It has been suggested that the dairy industry is not only unsustainable but that

the externalities resulting from the industrial dairy model results in more environmental cost than profit (Foote & Joy, 2014).<sup>1</sup>

3. Global warming contributes to rising rates of climate disaster (McGuire, 2013)<sup>2</sup>, threatens population health, and contributes to poverty, income inequality, and pollution.
4. It is imperative that our children and grandchildren inherit a sustainable and clean planet for their health and future quality of life.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given some hope that a lower carbon future is possible. The time to say NO to coal mining is in fact overdue, and saying NO now is critically important. Bathurst's application for resource consent to enable extension of coal-mining operations at Canterbury Mines should not be approved.

Ngā mihi

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<sup>1</sup> Foote, K., & Joy, M. (2014). *The true cost of milk: Environmental deterioration Vs. profit in the New Zealand dairy industry*. Paper presented at the 2014 NZARES Conference, Tahuna Conference Centre, Nelson, New Zealand. August 28-29, 2014. [http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/187496/2/FooteJoy\\_2014.pdf](http://ageconsearch.umn.edu/bitstream/187496/2/FooteJoy_2014.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> McGuire, B. (2013). *Waking the Giant: How a changing climate triggers earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanoes*. Oxford, Oxford University Press.