

To:
Environment Canterbury,

Submission from:
Jocelyn Gae Papprill

Applicant: Bathurst Coal Limited

C/- Edwina White.

Re: Bathurst Coal Ltd application to Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council for consents 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.

I oppose all consent applications

I wish to be heard in support of my submission

I would consider presenting a joint case at a hearing with others who have made similar submissions.

1. I oppose the expansion of this mine primarily because we are, as a nation and a world, in a climate crisis and must stop mining and using coal now not twenty or thirty years hence.
2. The quality of the coal mined from the Canterbury Coal Mine is of low quality and can be easily replaced by more climate friendly alternatives - some of the companies using this grade of coal for firing their plants are already talking about moving away from coal toward cleaner burning alternatives. Combine that with the changes to other legislation in the light of the introduction of the Zero Carbon Act and the writing is on the wall for coal mining along with unsustainable and polluting manufacturing processes.
3. I also challenge the elected representatives of the Regional Council to act on their May 2019 declaration of a climate emergency when the Deputy Chair stated: *"Climate change presents significant challenges, risks and opportunities to Canterbury and we've long acknowledged the urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of*

current and future generations. The Council's role is to support the region and its communities to better understand and proactively respond". Young people, the generation that will suffer the greater impacts of climate change, are calling for their elected representatives to be brave and make decisions for the future health of the environment and those that come after us. Planet and people before profit.

4. My greatest concern in submitting on this issue is the impact an expansion of the mine will have on the environment, not just in the immediate area but also in respect of the whole catchment of the Waikirikiri-Selwyn River. The phrase '*Ki uta ki Tai*' is often used by the regional council to recognise the importance the whole of catchment approach for Ngai Tahu - it encapsulates the interconnectedness of the whole environment indicating that pollution in one area will have an impact further downstream. Considering that Bathurst have repeatedly breached current consents for discharge to waterways that connect to the Waikirikiri-Selwyn I have no confidence that they will suddenly become good environmental citizens should this consent be allowed. With expansion there is greater potential for seepage of acid mine drainage from the works area and in high rainfall events for sediment to flow into the streams.
5. I also have concern for a population of the endangered Canterbury Mudfish - Kōwaro in the Bush Gully stream area. Wetlands and endangered species like the mudfish are national priorities for protection; such bottom lines must not be compromised for the sake of digging up more coal. We have also seen what happened to the endangered Powelliphanta Augusta snail when hundreds of them were removed so mining could continue in the Happy Valley area of the Stockton Plateau. Whilst DOC has been able to keep many alive (despite mishaps) there is no certain future for them without a viable habitat. My fear is that the story could be repeated here. Bathurst may well be able to create a new wetland habitat for the mudfish but my premise is that the current habitat suits the mudfish just fine - leave it as it is.
6. My final reason for opposing the expansion of the mine is with respect to the detrimental impacts the increase in mining activity will have on the local community and their amenity values. It is been noted in the Selwyn District Council's own notification decision that the impact of noise and dust will be more than minor. I was shocked by the state of the roads when visiting the area late last year and was told that the increased truck movements were having an impact.
7. Should the expansion of the mine be consented I request that strict conditions be imposed particularly tighter enforcement of the regulations and greater use of fines. The company must internalise the true cost of mining, those costs must not be externalised to a third party i.e. the public, for those costs will be incurred for all future generations as they suffer the greater impacts of climate change.

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Papprell