

From:
To: [Hearings](#)
Cc: [Edwina White](#)
Subject: Notifications Consent Submission: Group 542
Date: Thursday, 21 May 2020 9:43:35 AM

Group ID: 542

Consent name: Bathurst Coal Limited

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

Name: Eden Sinclair

Care of:

Mailing address 1

Mailing address 2:

Suburb:

Town/City:

Post-code:

Country:

Mobile phone:

Work phone:

Home phone:

Email:

Contact by email: No

Is a trade competitor: No

Directly affected: No

Consent support/hearing details

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

Reasons comment:

I was first introduced to Canterbury Coal during a series of geology and mining lectures at

Canterbury University in 2005 – lectures about economic geology, and effects of mining such as AMD, dust, noise, and employment. The Canterbury Coal site was small, was well known to the professor, and the site provided very good learning opportunities. 15 years on, I must say that the mine has come a long way from the operation that existed then, both in terms of environmental effects mitigation/management, and in terms of efficient and well managed resource extraction. The coal extraction rate is an obvious one, BCL currently produces ~95ktpa of sub bituminous coal from the site from ~30ktpa in 2012 when owned by the previous operator. This increase has been achieved by expanding the understanding of the coal resource and discovering significantly more coal seams than previously thought from the same area. Using highly skilled operators to mine more coal from the thin seams, and great improvements to processing the coal has enabled the increase in coal sales from within the area that had been mined previously. BCL had applied for and been granted numerous consents since 2013 to allow for its mining operations footprint. BCL Canterbury Mine currently has a turnover of ~\$11 million in annual revenue, most of which is reinvested back into the operation, it's employees and contractors, and it's community. Downstream economic effects cannot be discounted. In terms of dollars per Hectare, this operation would far exceed the returns to the community of most other rural industries, whether it be intensive farming or forestry or some other industry (with each having their own environmental footprints). I often find myself trying to focus on the key issues the environment faces from an operation such as Canterbury Coal. The perceived issues are numerous and often reproduced through social media with strong emotive arguments. I can only comment on what I observe. The key effects for me are discharges to water of sediment laden water, mine relate traffic, and wetland disturbance. BCL had well documented issues with managing effects of discharges to water in the early day of the operation, however after much improved modelling, and an improvement to the way sediment treatment was designed, combined with a large investment in water treatment infrastructure such as ponds, pipes and pumps, the effects have been greatly reduced. Erosion controls have also gone through step change from anything previously implemented at the site. Traffic to/from the mine is managed well, with good buy-in from transport operators, contractors, and staff. Great expense is incurred to apply dust suppression to public roads to reduce effects to neighbouring properties. I must say residents on bush gully road would receive much lower rates of nuisance dust than on most other gravel roads in Selwyn. Effects of wetland disturbance I think has been greatly overblown. The wetlands in question no doubt buffer residual flows into bush gully stream, however the ecological significance of these are not assessed as significant. Hydrological base flow continues to emanate from constructed landforms at the site. Upon well completed mine closure the effects to receiving streams will be negligible. Significant offset or compensation options exist to balance the effects to the Malvern Hills wetlands and ecosystems. BCL has already initiated some of these.

Consent comment:

I think ECan and SDC should work constructively with BCL to develop helpful, meaningful, and workable consent conditions to hold BCL to account and protect the environment from any real negative effects. BCL must continue to engage and work with the community in which it operates.