

From:
To: [Hearings](#)
Cc: [Edwina White](#)
Subject: Notifications Consent Submission: Group 542
Date: Monday, 18 May 2020 12:16:31 PM

Group ID: 542

Consent name: Bathurst Coal Limited

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

Name: Gilbert M van Reenen

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

Reasons comment:

I am a former resident of the Selwyn district where I was one of the three local

Veterinarians. I know the area very well especially the Malvern Hills where the extension of the Coalmine and ancillary earthworks is proposed to take place. I welcome this opportunity to make a submission to Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council regarding the proposed expansion of the Canterbury Coal Mine owned and operated by Bathurst Resources Limited. Due to the high risk an extension of the mine facilitated by the granting of these consents would pose to our climate especially, I oppose each of these applications. The consents sought by Bathurst Resources Limited would grant the company permission to expand its open-cut coal mining operations near Coaldale by 18 hectares and extend the life of the mine an additional 13 years from 2022 until 2035. This expansion and the increased carbon emissions that would result from extending mine operations poses an unacceptable risk to our climate and our future. The science is clear that if we are to have any chance of avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, we must limit our carbon emissions to keep global warming to below 1.5 degrees. The mining and combustion of fossil fuels like coal are major contributors to global carbon emissions. Thus, serious efforts to keep climate change to under 1.5 degrees acknowledge not only the need to no longer open new fossil fuel projects but also to keep known fossil fuel reserves in the ground. As Environment Canterbury has itself acknowledged in its 2019 Declaration of a Climate Emergency, the science on climate change is “irrefutable” and there is an “urgent need to address climate change for the benefit of current and future generations.”¹ Granting consents that would allow the expansion of this coal mine directly contradicts this need and the intent of the Council’s own declaration. Our society can meaningfully address climate change in Aotearoa by keeping fossil fuels in the ground, not enabling foreign owned companies such as Bathurst Resources Limited to extend the life of mines like their Canterbury Coal Mine at Coalgate. This is particularly pertinent given that Bathurst Resources Limited have no publicly available climate change policy or plan to reduce carbon emissions in line with the government’s goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Any fossil fuel company that does not meaningfully acknowledge its role in reducing carbon emissions should not be given permission to expand its operations. I am aware that approximately 90% of the coal mined by the foreign applicant Bathurst Resources Limited is being used domestically by local dairy companies, Fonterra and Synlait, whose operations have historically depended on coal-fired boilers to process their raw milk. Both of these companies have recently made commitments to not build new coal-fired boilers, with Fonterra going one step further and announcing a phase-out of all coal power to dry milk following a campaign by grassroots community groups across New Zealand. With its major customers moving to limit the amount of coal they consume in response to climate change, it seems counterintuitive that these consents be granted at a time when fossil fuel operations should be scaling back rather than expanding as Bathurst Resources Limited is proposing to do. The proposal is obscene. Unfortunately while potential climate impacts currently do not constitute sufficient grounds to deny an application under the Resource Management Act (RMA), I will draw your attention that this situation is currently subject to review and may soon be revised in line with the commitments made by the central government under the Climate Change Response (Zero-Carbon) Amendment Act 2019. Addressing climate change should not only be the responsibility of the central government – all levels of government must be cognisant of risks to our climate when making decisions which will set us on a certain course for decades to come. I respectfully request that those of you charged with reviewing Bathurst Resources Limited’s application will be proactive and visionary in considering the potential climate impacts of expanding this mine and their responsibility to protect our communities and our whenua, for current and future generations. There is abundant evidence also that the operation of this mine is having adverse and irreversible effects in the groundwater in the general locality of the mine and much further downstream on aquifers underneath the Canterbury plains. I therefore formally oppose each of the resource consent applications made by Bathurst Resources Limited which would facilitate the extension of the mine and implore Environment Canterbury and Selwyn District Council to take into account consideration of the

significant climate and environmental risks the expansion of this mine may have.

Consent comment:

I wish the consent to be declined in its entirety and that no provision for any extension of the mine or reducing existing conditions be allowed.