

**From:**  
**To:** [Hearings](#)  
**Cc:** [Edwina White](#)  
**Subject:** Notifications Consent Submission: Group 542  
**Date:** Thursday, 14 May 2020 6:48:42 PM

---

**Group ID: 542**

**Consent name:** Bathurst Coal Limited

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

**Name:** Finn Boyle

**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 consider a joint hearing
- CRC200500: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC201366: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC201367: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC201368: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- CRC203016: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing
- RC185622: oppose | WANT to be heard | WILL consider a joint hearing

---

**Reasons comment:**

My reasons for opposing this consent application center around four areas: local ecological

factors, global climate factors, spiritual factors, and economic factors. Regarding local ecologies: The proposed expansions and works on the Coalgate mine take place in a context of a rich but struggling local eco system. Of primary concern are the wetland areas which would be affected by the works. Wetlands are ESSENTIAL ecosystems for our native flora and fauna and represent precious habitat for many birds and fish. Wetlands are also essential as natural water quality regulators. The importance of these cannot be overstated. This work also takes place in a water catchment that until European colonisation, was a vast system of wetlands, stretching from the Canterbury highcountry to the coastal plains. These wetlands, now mostly destroyed, are what ensures a clean water supply for the people, animals and plants of Canterbury. The Selwyn river catchment is in steady decline in terms of both water quality and availability due to a number of factors. The proposed works will further degrade precious wetland systems and could affect water systems lower in the catchment area. This is a risk we should not take. Regarding Global Climate factors: It is well documented and widely accepted that energy sources such as coal are extremely detrimental to global climate patterns. I need not elaborate on this other than to say that given the number of Accords, agreements, treaties and policies NZ has made domestically and internationally, any expansion of coal mines is in direct conflict with these goals. Regarding Spiritual factors: My personal connection to the Canterbury plains and lowlands runs deep and means a lot to me. Any violence done to this landscape pains me to consider and witness. Seeing the Coalgate mine in its present state, as I have, has brought enough pain to me, with the scar it leaves on the landscape and the flow-on effects of loss of biodiversity and water quality. Regarding Economic factors: The meta-narrative of the economic system that the proposed works are based on is fundamentally flawed and at odds with the wellbeing of our peoples and our ecologies. That meta-narrative is one of extraction from the commons >> privatised profits >> socialised externalities. The proposed works may bring short-term economic gain in our current system but given the reliance on fragile global trade (that fragility showcased by the current Covid-19 crisis) and a limitless growth model, the proposed works will not enable resilient local economies in the longterm. As a citizen of Aotearoa, a lover of the Canterbury lowlands, a swimmer in the Selwyn river and a human of earth, I thoroughly oppose the consent application made by Bathurst Coal Limited.

---

**Consent comment:**

Deny consent for all proposed expansions.