From:	
To:	Hearings
Cc:	Edwina White
Subject:	Notifications Consent Submission: Group 542
Date:	Monday, 18 May 2020 2:31:30 PM

Group ID: 542

Consent name: Bathurst Coal Limited

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

Name: Jessica Fitzjohn

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

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Reasons comment:
Dear Consent Authority, Last year, Environment Canterbury and the Christchurch City

Council declared a climate emergency. In light of this, all applications for consent regarding the expansion of the Canterbury Coal mine should be soundly rejected by all consenting authorities. It would be socially irresponsible to allow coal mines to expand when coal is the most potent contributor to the climate crisis. I understand that the RMA explicitly excludes consideration of the impacts of fossil fuel emissions on the climate. This strikes me as a limitation deliberately included to protect the interests of extractive industries. In the current state of ecological decline and rapid climatic change, protecting the interests of extractive industries means endangering people. I am currently doing my PhD in mechanical engineering, my colleagues and I would not use analytical tools and methods developed three decades ago in the light of different and more relevant knowledge. When it comes to something as complex and important as socio-environmental relationships, we should be constantly adapting and changing our methods to respond to new knowledge and new ways of thinking. If the Covid crisis has taught us anything, it's that our actions can have far reaching effects on one another. Responsible, caring action reduces harm and avoids instances of suffering, while negligent action can cause harm to exponential others, and result in people losing their loved ones. The effects of the expansion of any coal mine will be felt by the entire human population, with younger generations bearing the most severe consequences. We cannot avoid the climate crisis, but we can respond by making decisions that will lead to the least amount of environmental harm and human suffering. According to all current reputable science on the climate catastrophe, there is no doubt that the decision to refuse Bathurst all consents will result in the least harm to people and the ecosystems we rely on. Unless we employ a more broad and complex view of the situation we will continue to make decisions that reduce ecosystems' capacity to support life, human life included. It is likely that the RMA will be adapted to include consideration of greenhouse gas emissions in the near future. These consent applications should be viewed in light of that upcoming change, or delayed until such a change comes into affect. The following are reasons to refuse Bathurst's application for consent in accordance with the RMA in its current form. Bathurst have not (and perhaps cannot) adequately accounted for the environmental effects of their application, in particularly for wetlands, native flora and fauna, and water quality. Unauthorised activities at the Canterbury mine have resulted in an unknown amount of damage to wetlands already. Both wetlands and critically threatened species like Canterbury mudfish are national priorities for protection. Bathurst has proven itself to be underhand and irresponsible by seeking consent for environmental damage that they have already conducted, and by breaching consents on the amount of coal extracted from the Canterbury mine. These crimes did not see Bathurst disciplined appropriately. Bathurst should not be granted further consents but ordered to pay environmental remediation. In regards to the decision before you, I implore the consenting body to take into account the changing social and political landscape. Coal is fast losing its social license and Fonterra is under increasing pressure to quit coal. The health of the ecosystem and water catchments in Canterbury are widely recognised as being in severe and rapid decline, and impetus to restore them is mounting. If current trends continue, damaged ecosystems of Canterbury are not going to become easier to restore with time, they are only going to become harder, or impossible to restore. If current trends continue, the climate crisis is not going to become easier to mitigate or adapt to, it is going to become harder. And the community is only becoming more aware and more concerned about the environmental crisis. Please do not let about 18 hectares of soil, plants, animals, trees and wetlands be destroyed in the death throes of an outdated industry. Granting consent for these activities would be a socially irresponsible move at this time, and would set a poor example of the consenting bodies' priorities. The decision to refuse consents for Bathurst would be applauded by the community. It would set us on a path to a smarter, more caring relationship with one another and the ecosystem we are a part of. Refusal of this consent will be a significant and welcome step towards a just transition away from fossil fuels and destructive land practices. It will send the message that our care for people precedes our care for corporate

profits. Please, make the socially responsible decision now, so that more of us may live full and sensitive lives. Yours sincerely, Jessica Fitzjohn

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Consent comment:
To refuse all consents put forward by Bathurst Resources Ltd, including those put forward in retrospect. I also wish the consent authority to seek environmental remediation from Bathurst Resources Ltd.