

**18/05/2020**

**From:** Forest & Bird Youth,

**Contact:** Kaya Shlomi,

**To:** Canterbury Regional Council, Selwyn District Council

**Subject:** Forest & Bird Youth submission to all resource consent applications from Bathurst Coal Limited.

Forest & Bird Youth wish to be heard in support of this submission.

We are facing a climate and ecological crisis. Without urgent action, we face the very real risk of ecological and societal collapse due to the enormous stress placed upon our planet by the destructive actions currently being undertaken by humans.

It is crucial that action is taken immediately to halt these environmental stressors being placed on nature. This entails limiting greenhouse gas emissions, reducing pollutant input into the environment, and introducing more sustainable practices for the use of our limited natural resources. It also means that local and central government need to think very carefully about what actions are taking place in their jurisdiction, and whether these actions are environmentally sustainable or not.

In the case of Bathurst Coal Limited's resource consent applications, Forest & Bird Youth strongly believes that if these applications were to be approved, the impact would be devastating for Canterbury and its environment - one example is the endangered Canterbury Mudfish, which may suffer the loss of important habitat. Approval would also set a damning precedent that mining is an activity which is appropriate in the 21st century - this would be wholly inappropriate. The extraction of fossil fuels must be eliminated if we are to reach our goals laid out in the Zero Carbon Bill, and the reckless exploitation of our natural resources must cease.

**Forest & Bird Youth urge you to decline all resource consent applications made by Bathurst Coal Limited.**

Forest & Bird Youth is run by and for 14-25 year olds, and as such, we represent the younger generation. We are the people who will be facing the consequences of further environmental and climatic degradation.

We ask you, our elected leaders and officials, to protect our country and our planet for both current and future generations. Discharge of pollutants into the environment and over-extraction of water resources has extremely detrimental effects on our environment and our society, and should therefore be limited as much as possible.

