

SUBMISSION TO ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY
ON BATHURST MINES APPLICATION FOR EXPANSION

18 MAY 2020

1. Submitter – Karla Lawrie, I am submitting as a private citizen and do not request to appear before the committee to present an oral submission. My contact details are: phone _____, email _____
2. Summary of this submission
I do not support the application to expand Bathurst Coal Mining operations in Canterbury. This is on the grounds that such an expansion will contribute to the climate crisis facing the world. I also strongly oppose the application due to the threat it poses to water quality.
3. I ask that the committee reject the following applications: CRC184166, CRC200500, CRC201366, CRC201367, CRC201368, CRC203016
4. Coal is a disaster for the climate, we need to move towards keeping the coal in the hole, not building infrastructure for extracting more. I realise the Resource Management Act currently does not allow for climate change issues to be part of the resource consent process, however, this is in contravention of our climate commitments, for example the Paris Convention and the Zero Carbon Act.

I would like to congratulate Environment Canterbury on declaring a climate emergency in 2019. The sincerity of this declaration would be severely brought into question if the application for expansion of Bathurst is approved. To follow through on the climate emergency declaration, and to honour a commitment towards protecting our land and people, the Bathurst application must be rejected.

Coal is an outdated fuel, which has severe impacts on carbon levels in the atmosphere. Alternatives exist which must be supported and encouraged. Increasing coal does not support an increase in green technologies, which is what we desperately need to mitigate the worst effects of climate change. This requires long term thinking, and a commitment to doing the right thing to protect people and planet.

When considering the application I feel the track record which Bathurst have for breaching their consents and discharging toxins in the waterways must be a factor. They have not shown themselves to be trustworthy operators, and will put profit before protection of water. Degradation of waterways is an urgent issue, both for Canterbury and all of Aotearoa. The time has come to recognise the vital need we have for restoring and protecting our precious fresh water and ecosystems.