

Submission in opposition of the applied consents by Bathwater coal mining.

To whom it may concern,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Christchurch to oppose the retrospective and new consents being sought by Bathwater.

These are my objections;

Historically

Bathwater has breached previous consents. It has taken more coal out of the ground than it was given permission for. From my understanding it was allowed to mine 20,000 tons but took 100.000 tons without consent.

It ignored its responsibilities to remediate the land as required by the consents.

It created environmental damage by taking water, then polluting it through the extraction process and then releasing acid water, dust and debris. This has polluted the waterways and has spread to Lake Ellesmere/ Te Waihora undermining efforts to clean and restore this national taonga at a cost to taxpayers.

Its waste also effected our wet-lands and endangered the mudfish which are a protected species.

It was fined by the district court for breaching consents

For these reasons alone Bathwater should be refused any further consents as they seem unwilling to abide by any ruling or restrictions that the consents specify.

Social effect

I understand that there has been no public consultation with local people only a notification telling them that they could be "adversely impacted"

I ask you, would you like it if noise and bright lights were keeping you awake 24/7 as that is what they are applying for. Trucks driving past your home and dust all over your homes, gardens and washing. I hope you will take these impacts for families into your considerations.

Environmental damage and Climate change

I understand that in its present form the Resource Management act does not direct you to take into consideration greenhouse emissions until December 2021. We know that the RMA is undergoing a long overdue re-working to bring it up to date with an ever-changing situation. It seems therefore, that any decisions made today must be with an eye for the future. Locking in any consents for 30 years which will probably be out of date within 2 years would have bureaucratic and legal implications for the future. The fossil fuel industry is a dinosaur sector that needs a push to wind down its activity in line with the world -wide trend.

We know that Climate change is already wreaking havoc worldwide and New Zealand has made commitments to the Paris agreement to address its greenhouse gas emissions. Prime Minister Ardern has said that this is another Nuclear Free moment. Consents granted years ago are already hampering our efforts to fulfil our commitments. We owe it to the youth of today who are calling on all of us to secure the future of a planet. A planet safe enough to live on, for them and their children.

It would be shameful for us adults not to heed that call and I ask you to think and act carefully of the future we are creating for them and future generations,

Economy

I understand that with the dire consequences for the economy that Covid 19 has wreaked, a quick fix with something we know might be tempting. However, maintaining the status quo is not what is needed at the moment. We need the government to create new green sustainable jobs and retrain people working in the fossil fuel industry with the necessary skill set to participate in a green workforce of the future.

We see from the world trend that banks and other entities are divesting from fossil fuels at an impressive rate. The future economic security of any fossil fuel industry is being seriously affected. Consents given today could result in Bathwater clearing land, damaging our environment and then finding it economically unviable to continue, leaving us to clear up their mess. This has been the general behaviour of corporations who come into countries, wreak havoc and then leave. Do you want to be responsible for that very probable outcome in this present climate?

Granting new consents for mining is a backward step and granting retrospective grants would be shameful considering the arrogance and illegality of Bathwaters actions by ignoring past consent requirements.

I am grateful for this opportunity to submit my opposition to the consents and my hope and trust is that New Zealand has learned enough with the present crisis to know that we cannot thrive if we continue in the old non-sustainable ways. We have to look ahead. We have to be bold and innovative in ways that create opportunities and hope for the future.

I hope that those of you who are considering these submissions will recognise the futility of granting these consents and refuse them.

Yours in trust,

Shafia Stevens