

Support or oppose the application: **Oppose**

Wish to be heard in support of your submission: **Yes**

Reason for submission:

To whom it may concern

1. I am a regular kiwi trying to do the right thing. I have no special credentials; I am simply a concerned citizen. I would like to speak to the proposal if you would grant me two minutes of your time.
2. We have a statutory framework upon which Selwyn District Council and Canterbury Regional Council must abide to reach a decision on whether to grant or deny consent for the various applications (CRC184166, CRC200500, CRC201366, CRC201367, CRC201368, CRC203016 & RC185622) sought by Bathurst Coal Limited.
3. My submission to you does not seek to explore this statutory framework in any detail. Others have done so with better depth and clarity. This submission instead seeks to engage something we each possess, something that pervades us on a level we are undeniably aware and familiar. I ask the consent authority members reading this to rely on their conscience and to engage it to its fullest extent.
4. Every person reading this, I imagine, wants to leave this planet in a better condition than when he or she first arrived into this world. This is a simple value on which I hope we can all agree. Secondly, the planetary systems that allow us to live and thrive are in crisis. I hope we can agree on this too. If you do not agree, I sincerely hope you look inwardly. There is a high chance that you are an adult, and probably more than halfway through your life. Please meditate on exactly what it is you wish to achieve with your remaining time and station on this earth. Look at this application with your full honest self.
5. The proposal is not in the interest of the planet. The extraction and combustion of coal is unconscionable in a global climate crisis. The proposal seeks to perpetuate this. Plain and simple, we cannot condone this. We can no longer stoke our furnaces with coal. Every instance of coal-burning technology, regardless of grade, can be replaced with alternative solutions that are renewable and available today. We have molten oxide electrolysis technology to replace coking coal, for example, and yet

we still mine coke to be burned. We have been too slow to adopt to new technologies and no longer have the luxury of gradual changes, or the slow weaning of our reliance on fossil fuels. The time to stop extracting coal for combustion was decades upon decades ago. The second-best time is today. We can and must stop this now.

6. I ask the consent authorities to consider the meaning of effect in Section 3 of the Resource Management Act 1991. It is incontrovertible that extracting and burning coal has a direct impact on our climate systems. These effects are (a) adverse effects (b) permanent effects (c) present and future effects (d) cumulative effects (e) potential effects of high probability; and (f) potential effects of low probability which have a high potential impact. Coal extraction has effects in every possible meaning under the Act.
7. The consent authorities must exercise their powers and functions accordingly. They are bound by Section 7(i) "in relation to managing the use, development and protection of natural and physical resources to have particular regard to:

(a) kaitiakitanga, (aa) the ethic of stewardship, (b) the efficient use and development of natural and physical resources, (ba) the efficiency of the end use of energy, (c) the maintenance and enhancement of amenity values, (d) intrinsic values of ecosystems, (f) maintenance and enhancement of the quality of the environment, (g) any finite characteristics of natural and physical resources, (i) the effects of climate change, (j) the benefits to be derived from the use and development of renewable energy.
8. Leaving coal in the ground goes hand-in-hand with these matters above. Please examine why we as a nation have enacted the RMA, if not to protect the above? It is codified by our lawmakers.
9. But more than our law. Listen to your conscience. You have a frontal lobe, a backbone and a jugular that pulses with blood rushing from your beating heart. Please for a moment, take a breath. You have everything you need to assess this as honestly and authentically as possible. Ask yourself what it means to make a decision that will be felt by future generations. What does it mean to tell your grandchildren and theirs that you had a role in the age of fossil fuels, a role in

affecting the unfolding of an ecological and humanitarian catastrophe? Will you be able tell them that you, in full syntonik understanding of the situation, did what you did, with the power you possessed?

10. For the sake of our planet and its current and future inhabitants, let us please assess the application accordingly, and do the right thing.

With passion and urgency, kia kaha.

David Patterson