

**Before a Hearings Panel Appointed by the
Selwyn District Council and Canterbury Regional Council**

Under

the Resource Management Act 1991
(Act)

And

In the Matter

an application under section 88 of the
Act by Bathurst Coal Limited in
relation to the completion of mining
and closure and rehabilitation of the
Canterbury Coal Mine in the Malvern
Hills, Canterbury

**Summary Statement of
Craig John Pilcher (General Manager)
for Bathurst Coal Limited**

Dated: 26 October 2021

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INTRODUCTION

1. My full name is Craig John Pilcher.
2. I am the General Manager of Domestic Operations for the Bathurst Resources Limited (**BRL**) group of companies which includes BT Mining Limited and Bathurst Coal Limited (**BCL**). BCL owns and operates the Canterbury Coal Mine (**CCM**). I have the qualifications and experience set out at paragraphs 1 - 3 of my statement of evidence dated 1 October 2021.
3. In this statement, I provide a summary of the key points in my evidence and respond to the evidence provided for the Council which I have read.

HISTORY AND OPERATION OF THE CCM

4. Bathurst Resources Limited (**BRL**) is New Zealand's largest coal mining company.
5. BRL took over the operation of the Canterbury Coal Mine (**CCM**) in 2012 and legal ownership in 2013.
6. The CCM is located 70 kilometres west of Christchurch in the Malvern Hills, between Coalgate and Sheffield. Mining in this area has been in near continuous operation since 1872 and there has been an opencast coal mine on the CCM site since approximately 2003.
7. Since taking over operations in 2012 and acquiring legal ownership in 2013, BCL has worked hard to develop the comparatively small CCM into a well-run, award winning and environmentally sound operation that provides jobs for New Zealanders and energy for businesses in a regional area.
8. In particular, BCL has spent significant sums of money on improving treatment of water on-site, ensuring that discharges to adjacent streams do not adversely affect local Canterbury ecosystem including mudfish/kōwaro and dealing with historic AMD issues inherited on the purchase of the mine.
9. The CCM won the Innovation Award at the New Zealand Minerals Forum in 2019. This award recognised innovation in the life-of-mine planning, productivity and market improvements at the mine. The CCM was also a finalist in the Environmental Management Award category at the 2020 New Zealand Minerals Forum. This was welcome recognition of the long-

standing efforts to address legacy AMD issues and prevent future AMD at the mine.

CLOSURE DECISION

10. BRL announced on 10 February 2021 that due to the ongoing costs and time delays associated with obtaining resource consents it had decided to cease mining activity at the CCM in 2021 and bring forward the closure process. In essence, the timeframes and costs of the regulatory processes have outweighed the commercial returns of continuing to operate this mine.
11. This decision was not made lightly. BRL acknowledges that the decision will impact the local workforce and that there have already been job losses with more to come following the end of coal winning activity and closure and rehabilitation. There will also be obvious impacts on the local industrial market before viable alternative energy sources become available. The CCM's current customers will now need to source coal from much further away, meaning an increased transportation cost and carbon footprint.
12. The underlying land of the CCM is held privately by two landowners being Avoca Trust and Matariki Forests Limited. BCL has access arrangements in place with the landowners. These access arrangements include a range of obligations relating to rehabilitation and end-use requirements for the land. As part of the closure and rehabilitation process, BCL has obligations to the underlying landowners and under the existing resource consents.
13. Avoca Trust and Matariki Forests Limited support the BCL's closure proposal and have provided written statements on this basis, which I attach at **Appendix 1** to this summary.

IWI CONSULTATION

14. BCL has endeavoured to maintain an open and ongoing dialogue with the Papatipu Rūnanga who hold manawhenua over the area. Engagement has been facilitated via Mahaanui Kurataio Ltd (**MKT**) who is a charitable resource and environmental management advisory company established by the Papatipu Rūnanga to assist and improve the recognition and protection of tāngata whenua values in their takiwā.

15. Following the decision to close CCM, we consulted with MKT and sought feedback and input into the mine closure process. The scope of work that MKT were commissioned to undertake included;
- (a) review the proposal and prepare a briefing document for Te Ngai Tūahuriri Rūnanga and Te Tāūmutu Rūnanga (who hold mana whenua over the area);
 - (b) meet with kaitiakitanga portfolio committee; and
 - (c) provide a written report of rūnanga response (from a Maturanga Mana Whenua perspective) to the proposal, including any recommendations.
16. The deliverable report that resulted from the above consultation was received in April 2021 and provided to SDC and ECan along with the Addendum AEE.¹ This deliverable report and the action that BCL support and are taking to adhere to it is addressed in more detail in the evidence of Mr Sinclair.

CONCLUSION

17. Overall, BCL has worked hard to design a proposed closure and rehabilitation process that will both honour its obligations to the landowners and ensure appropriate environmental outcomes as is proposed through BCL's evidence for this hearing.



Craig Pilcher

26 October 2021

¹ See the relevant recommendations set out at part 11.12 of the Draft Mine Closure Management Plan at Appendix 1 of the Addendum AEE dated 6 April 2021.

Appendix 1

Letters of support from Avoca Trust and Matariki Forests Limited

Date 22/10/2021

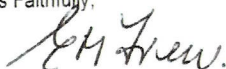
Bathurst Coal Limited
PO Box 5963
Lambton Quay
Wellington 6145
Attention Craig Pilcher

Dear Craig

Letter of Support – Canterbury Coal Mine Closure Application

1. Avoca Trust owns the following land upon which the Canterbury Coal Mine operates being:
 - a) Part Lot 2 DP 6591; and
 - b) Part Lot 3 DP 6591
1. The Avoca Trust supports the consenting of the closure of the Canterbury Coal Mine and has agreed to Bathurst Coal Limited (**BCL**) carrying out the closure and rehabilitation activities described in the addendum Assessment of Environmental Effects dated 6 April 2021.
2. The Avoca Trust therefore supports the outcomes sought by Bathurst Coal Limited in relation to the closure and rehabilitation of Canterbury Coal Mine and support the grant of the proposed resource consents.

Yours Faithfully,



Evan Miles Frew
Trustee of the Avoca Trust



18 October 2021

Bathurst Coal Limited
PO Box 5963
Lambton Quay
Wellington 6145
Attention Craig Pilcher

Dear Craig

Letter of Support – Canterbury Coal Mine Closure Application

Matariki Forests Limited (Matariki) owns the following land upon which the Canterbury Coal Mine operates being:

- (a) Part Lot 3 DP 6591;
 - (b) Part Lot 1 DP 18018;
 - (c) RS 32347;
 - (d) Lot 3 DP 8898; and
 - (e) Part lot 2 DP 6591.
2. Matariki supports the consenting of the closure of the Canterbury Coal Mine and has agreed to Bathurst Coal Limited (**BCL**) carrying out the closure and rehabilitation activities described in the addendum Assessment of Environmental Effects dated 6 April 2021.
3. In particular, Matariki agrees to BCL undertaking the wetland restoration and enhancement proposed shown in **Figure 1** below and as described in the Canterbury Coal Mine Wetland Management Plan, Malvern Hills, Coalgate dated 17 March 2021.

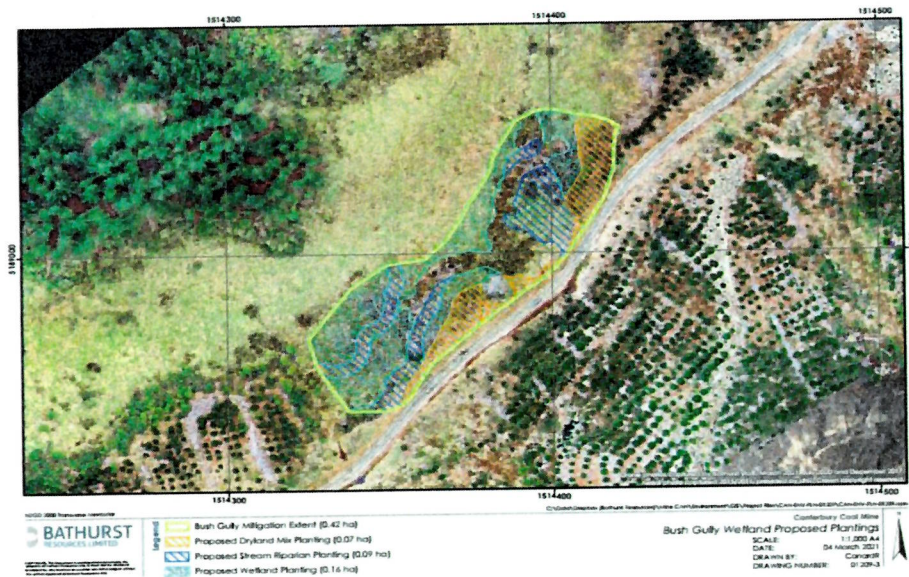


Figure 1 - Indicative location of the proposed Bush Gully wetland restoration site, Malvern Hills, Coalgate.

4. Matariki agree to the ongoing establishment and retention of the activities shown in **Figure 1**, as will be ensured by the proposed conditions of consent.
5. Matariki therefore supports the outcomes sought by Bathurst Coal Limited in relation to the closure and rehabilitation of Canterbury Coal Mine and support the grant of the proposed resource consents.

Yours Faithfully,

Peter Spencer
Director, Lands & Legal