

1. PROJECT WIDE OVERVIEW

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Bathurst Resources Limited (including its subsidiary companies Bathurst Coal Limited and Buller Coal Limited, and joint venture company BT Mining Limited) (“**Bathurst**” or “**the Applicant**”) seeks approvals under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”) for the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project (“**BPCP**” or “**the Project**”).

The BPCP is a strategically important Project that will enable the continued operation of New Zealand’s largest opencast coal mine at Stockton while providing access to additional coal resources required to sustain production, employment, and export revenue. The Project is also critical to the ongoing management of legacy environmental liabilities, particularly Acid Mine Drainage (“**AMD**”), at Stockton, which requires active, long-term treatment and infrastructure.

Located approximately 15 kilometres northeast of Westport on the West Coast of the South Island, the Project spans the Buller Plateaux, encompassing both the Stockton Plateau and the Denniston Plateau. Within this setting, the Project integrates existing operations with new mining areas into a coordinated, long-term programme designed to maintain the supply of high-quality metallurgical coal. The general location of the BPCP is shown in **Figure 1-1** below.

The Project comprises five interrelated mining Sub-Areas: Stockton, Escarpment Extended (“**ESE**”), Upper Waimangaroa Haul Road (“**UWHR**”), Mount Frederick South (“**MFS**”), and Cypress. These Sub-Areas are intended to form a single, integrated operation that enables the extraction and blending of coal with differing quality characteristics to meet the precise specifications required for steelmaking. Because no individual area contains coal capable of meeting these specifications on its own, coordinated development of all Sub-Areas is essential to the Project's technical and economic viability.

At a high level, the BPCP will re-authorise existing mining operations and infrastructure at Stockton, while enabling staged access to additional coal resources across the wider Buller Plateaux. Over the next two decades, the Project is expected to produce approximately 20 million tonnes of product coal, supporting ongoing employment, regional economic activity, and New Zealand’s participation in global steel supply chains.

The Project is listed in Schedule 2 of the FTAA, reflecting its anticipated regional and national benefits and enabling Bathurst to seek a comprehensive suite of approvals through a single, streamlined process administered by the Environmental Protection Authority (“**EPA**”).

Specifically for this Project includes approvals that would otherwise be required through separate processes under the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”), the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (“**CMA**”), the Conservation Act 1987 (“**Conservation Act**”), the Fisheries Act 1996 (“**Fisheries Act**”), the Wildlife Act 1953 (“**Wildlife Act**”), and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (“**HNZPTA**”). This integrated approvals pathway is particularly suited to the BPCP, given its scale, complexity, and the range of statutory approvals otherwise required across multiple legislative frameworks.

The Project comprises a number of interrelated mining, infrastructure, environmental management, rehabilitation and residual effects components that operate as one coordinated system across the Buller Plateaux. While the detailed approach to developing the Project, evaluating alternatives, and shaping the application is set out in **Chapter A.5 – Approach to the Application**, the structure of the application reflects the integrated nature of both the Project and the FTAA approvals pathway. Project-wide matters that apply across all approvals are addressed comprehensively in **Chapters A.1 – A.7**, supported by technical assessments and other application materials, while the later chapters (**Chapters A.8 – A.15**) address the specific statutory requirements associated with each approval stream. The application should therefore be read as a single package, with the various chapters, technical reports, proposed conditions, management plans and supporting documents working together to describe the Project, assess its effects, and understand the interrelated approvals sought under the FTAA.

This section provides a high-level overview of the Project, including its rationale, components, and benefits, and establishes the context for the detailed application chapters and technical assessments that follow.

A detailed description of the activities proposed for each sub-area is provided in **Section 1.2.1** and further in **Chapter A.4 - Project Description**.

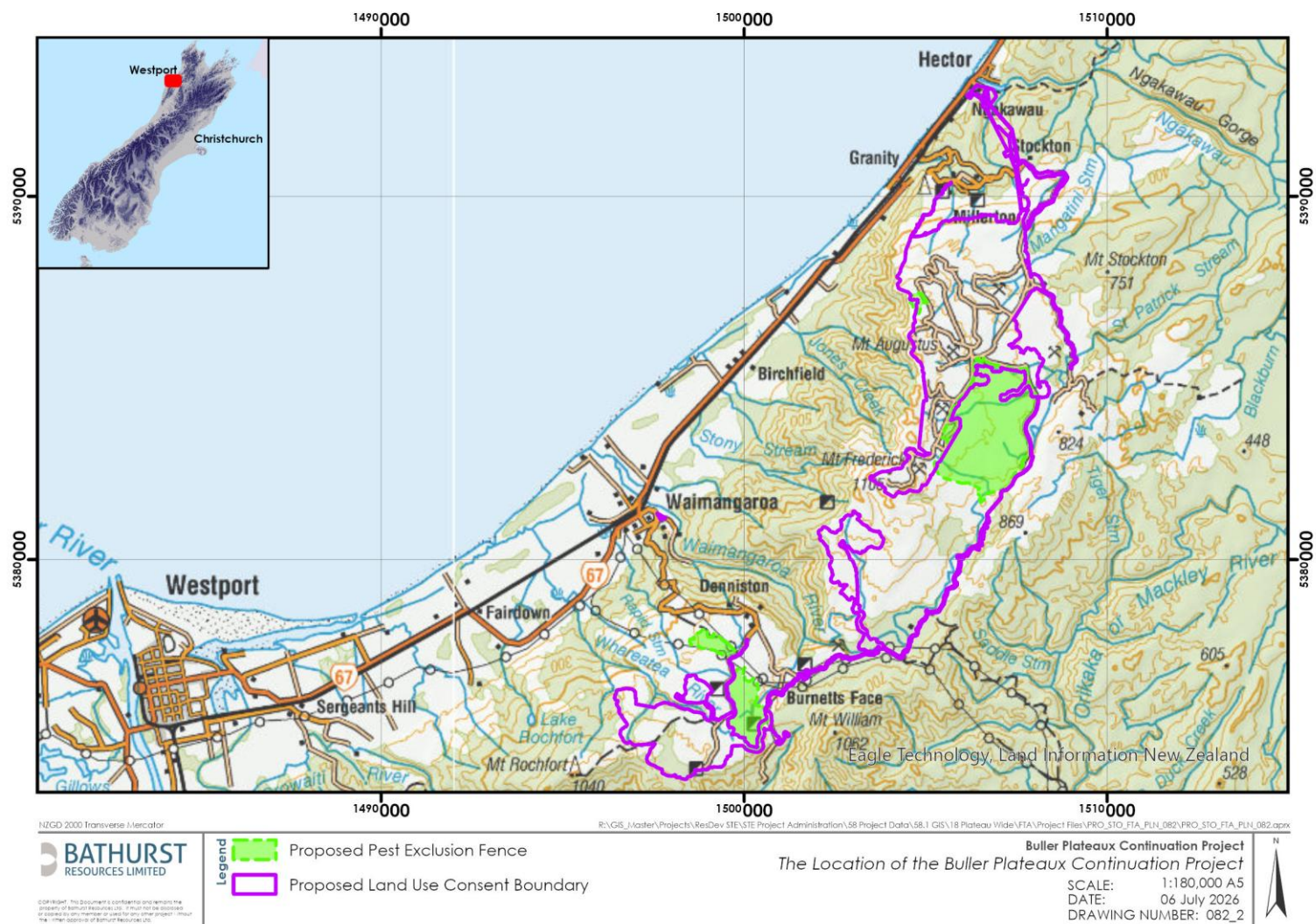


Figure 1-1: Location of the BPCP and Proposed Land Use Consent Boundary Relative to Westport

60 1.2 THE BULLER PLATEAUX CONTINUATION PROJECT

The proposal seeks to re-consent the existing infrastructure and mining operations at the Stockton Mine, while also enabling access to new mining areas across the Buller Plateaux. The coal resource within the current Stockton operations is nearing depletion, and additional resources are required to support blending and maintain ongoing production.

65 Ongoing mining at Stockton also supports the continued use of the existing infrastructure and water management systems, reducing the amount of AMD generated and treating it in accordance with the Deed of Commitment between the Government, councils and Bathurst upon its purchase of Stockton. This is discussed in further detail in **Section 1.5.1**.

70 Securing access to these additional mining areas is critical to ensuring the continuity of coking coal exports, which underpin steel production and contribute to New Zealand's export economy.

Chapter A.3 - Mining Overview and the New Zealand West Coast and Mining Operations report, attached in **Part B** to this application, set out the mining process, blending requirements, and specifications in detail.

75 1.2.1 Project Sub-areas

The Project comprises five Project Sub-Areas across the Buller Plateaux, as set out in **Table 1-1** below.

Table 1-1: Project Sub-areas

Project Area	Project Scope Within Sub-Area
Stockton (and Ngākawau)	Completion of mining of existing pits and remaining coal resources, and completion of rehabilitation throughout the site. Ongoing utilisation of existing processing, logistics, Rail Loadout and water management infrastructure, including for AMD treatment, through to closure and transfer of land back to the Crown.
UWHR	The development of a haul road connecting Stockton with the Mount Frederick South ("MFS") mine and the Escarpment Extended ("ESE") operations. It avoids using the public road network to transport coal to the processing facilities at Stockton and then to the existing Ngākawau Rail Loadout. The road comprises upgrades to existing roads and the construction of a new section through the Upper Waimangaroa Valley, connecting through Cypress to Stockton.

Project Area	Project Scope Within Sub-Area
ESE	Opencast mining is proposed within the existing Escarpment pit, the former underground mining areas at Whareatea and Sullivan, and a new extension into previously unmined areas at West Whareatea. Coal extracted from these areas will be transported to Stockton for processing via the UWHR.
MFS	A new opencast mining area with initial mining through old underground workings, and extension into unmined areas to the northwest, along with a haul road connection to the UWHR. Coal will be transported via this spur road onto the UWHR to Stockton for processing, then exported via the aerial ropeway to Ngākawau Rail Loadout.
Cypress	Cypress is existing and has all of its necessary approvals to enable Mining Operations to continue. Approvals under the BPCP include limited variations to existing Cypress resource consent conditions to manage that interface, and a Wildlife Authority for the UWHR mining permit area. These variations will also align Cypress compensation requirements with the broader BPCP residual effects package (“REP”), thereby coordinating biodiversity measures across the Buller Plateaux and delivering more consistent and effective outcomes.

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These Project Sub-Areas are shown in **Figure 1-2** below.

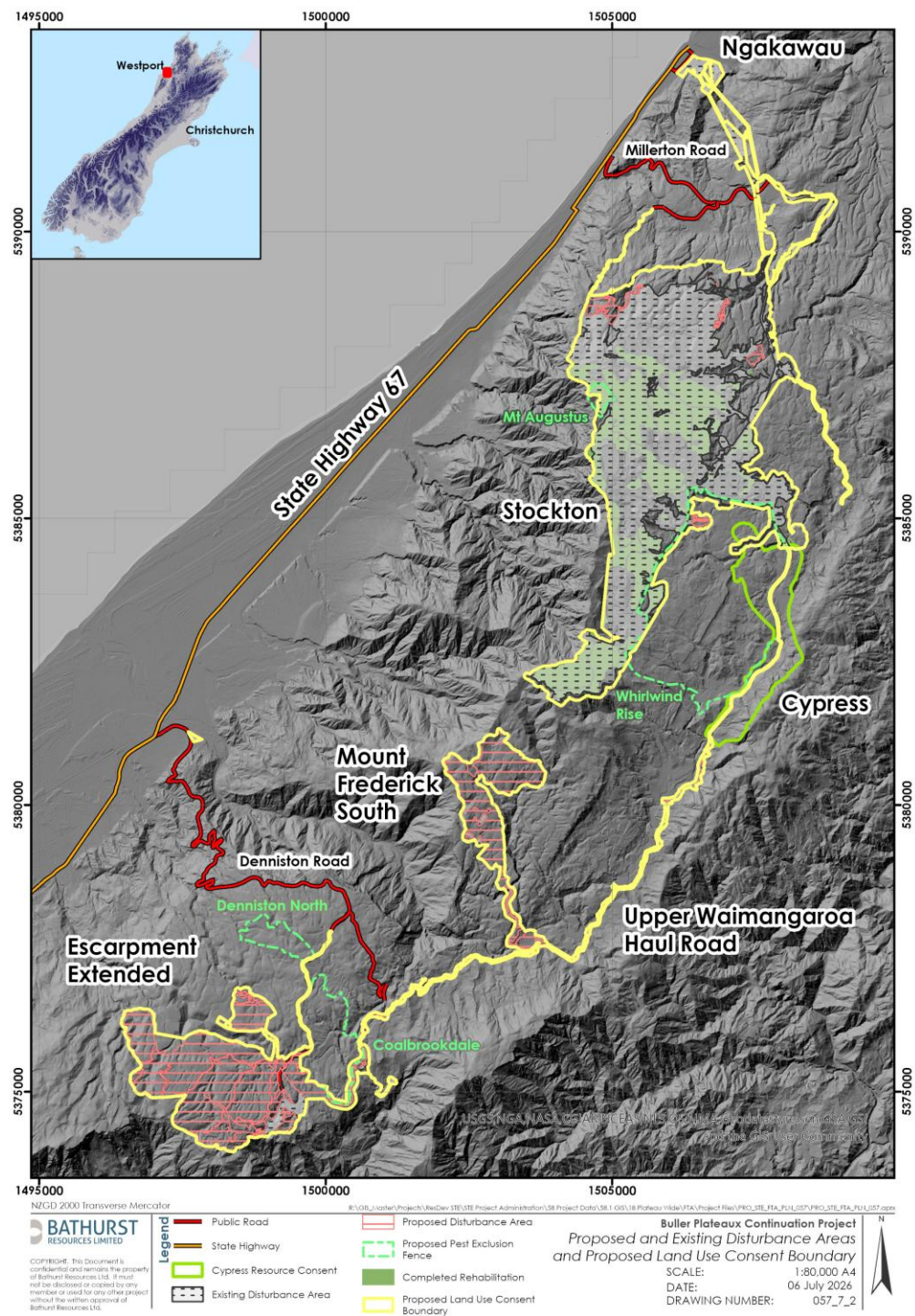


Figure 1-2: Proposed and Existing Disturbance Areas and Proposed Land Use Consent Boundary for the BPCP

Figure 1-2 illustrates the key spatial components of the Project. Proposed consent boundaries are shown in yellow, new disturbance areas in red striped shading, existing

disturbance areas in grey dashed shading, and the Cypress Mine area in green. Proposed pest-exclusion fenced areas forming part of the Residual Effects Package (“**REP**”) are shown by the green dashed line.

As outlined above and discussed further in **Chapter A.2 – Mining Overview**, approval of all Project Sub-Areas is essential to meet the blending requirements for high-quality coking coal and to maximise resource value. Each sub-area is functionally integrated with Stockton’s existing operations and infrastructure, and this integration underpins the Project’s overall viability. The coordinated operation of all Sub-Areas enables efficient use of infrastructure, sustained AMD management, and delivery of required product specifications. In practical terms, the removal of any key component would materially compromise both the technical and economic viability of the Project.

1.3 THE APPLICANT

Bathurst is a New Zealand-registered company listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: BRL) and is the country’s largest coal mining company. It produces approximately two million tonnes of coal annually for export and domestic markets. Headquartered in Wellington, Bathurst has operated in New Zealand since 2010, with mining operations on the West Coast of the South Island, as well as in Southland and the Waikato.

From the outset, Bathurst has pursued a strategy focused on high-value export coal opportunities. As part of this approach, the company acquired Buller Coal Limited in 2010, securing exploration permits and a mining permit application covering a substantial portion of the Denniston Plateau adjacent to the former Solid Energy operations at Stockton. Additional permits at Coalbrookdale and Cascade were also acquired. To support its growth in export markets, Bathurst further developed a portfolio of domestic mines to provide stable revenue during this period of expansion.

Mining operations at the Escarpment Mine commenced in 2014 but were placed into care and maintenance in early 2016 following a downturn in international coal prices.

In 2017, Bathurst expanded its position significantly through a joint venture with Talleys Energy Limited, forming BT Mining Limited (“**BT Mining**”) with a 65/35 shareholding. Through this venture, Bathurst acquired the Stockton Mine (including Cypress) and two North Island operations from the Crown-owned Solid Energy. The transaction also included the acquisition of the Sullivan coal mining licence.

As a result, Bathurst now holds interests in a continuous corridor of mining licences and permits extending from the Escarpment Mine in the south to the Ngākawau River in the

120 north, as shown in Figure 1-3. These approvals include Ancillary Coal Mining Licences (“**ACMLs**”), Coal Mining Licences (“**CMLs**”), Exploration Permits (“**EPs**”), and Mining Permits (“**MPs**”), with the proposed land-use consent boundary for the Project indicated in yellow.

Several existing licences are approaching expiry and will be replaced through this FTAA application. In addition, applications will be made to convert existing exploration permits to mining permits. Further detail is provided in **Chapter A.14 – Crown Minerals Act Approvals**
125 **Application.**

While the approvals sought under the FTAA relate to a single integrated project, they may be held by different entities within the Bathurst group to reflect underlying permit interests, land tenure arrangements, and commercial structures. Accordingly, approvals will be allocated to the relevant entity or entities depending on the nature of each activity and
130 associated rights and obligations. The proposed allocation of approvals is set out in **Table 1-3.**

135 **1.4 PROJECT RATIONALE**

Coal mining has been undertaken on the West Coast for more than a century and continues to contribute to regional economic activity.

140 The Buller Plateaux contains deposits of hard coking coal that are supplied to international steel producers. The New Zealand Minerals Strategy notes that metallurgical (coking) coal forms part of New Zealand’s mineral sector and is expected to remain a contributor to economic activity.

145 Steel is used across a range of applications, including construction, transport, manufacturing, and electrical equipment. Average steel consumption in New Zealand is approximately 220 kilograms per person per year, and a typical new house contains approximately 2.7 tonnes of steel in roofing and structural components.

Steel is also used in infrastructure associated with electricity generation, including technologies relevant to lower-emissions energy systems.

150 Almost all new steel (as opposed to that produced by recycling) is produced using blast furnace technology to reduce haematite iron ores. Metallurgical coking coal is transformed into coke, which provides the carbon reductant, heat, and a permeable medium for the furnace to operate.

155 The seaborne trade in coking coal is approximately 250 million tonnes annually, to which Buller Plateaux coking coal contributes less than 0.5% (approximately 1.1 million tonnes). However, the quality of Buller Plateaux coal is such that Bathurst can contract directly with long-term customers in India, South Korea, and Japan rather than sell to coal traders in the spot market. For example, Mitsubishi Coke and Chemical in Japan has been a contracted customer of the Stockton Mine, without interruption, for more than 50 years.

160 To make coke (a key component in quality steelmaking), customers blend coals from different sources to achieve the strength and quality characteristics required for it to perform well in the blast furnace.

165 There are a number of quality parameter specifications that the steel industry requires in coal. These include the relative percentages of ash, sulphur, phosphorus, crucible swelling numbers (“**CSN**”), vitrinite reflectance (“**RoMax**”), hardness, and vitrinite in the coal resource. These parameters can vary markedly both vertically and horizontally within any particular coal seam. Accordingly, no coal resource is “perfect”; rather, the very best coal resources are those that come closest to the ideal percentages across all of these parameters. In this regard, Buller Plateaux coals are uniquely placed. For example, Stockton

170 coal is very low in ash (<4%), compared to an average of 10-11% for Australian coking coals, and very high in vitrinite (95%), compared to 50-70% for Australian coking coals. These parameters make Stockton coal an ideal blend partner, providing the reactive material to “glue” the coke blend and produce a strong coke, while also minimising ash contaminants that would otherwise contaminate the steel. It is important to note that sulphur is a key contaminant that degrades the mechanical and chemical integrity of steel.

175 Coal quality parameters vary both laterally and vertically within seams and between seams across the Buller Plateaux. At Stockton Mine, these parameters are managed by blending coal from multiple pits, seams, and horizons in defined proportions to meet customer specifications. Due to the heterogeneous nature of the coal resource, maintaining access to multiple pits simultaneously enables the extraction and on-site blending of coal of differing qualities as part of the production process. This approach supports the efficient preparation

180 of coking coal products that meet required specifications.

Alternative approaches, such as mining individual resources separately and then stockpiling, sorting, and blending off-site, would require additional handling, infrastructure, and logistical inputs. This could increase the operational footprint and the extent of effects requiring management.

185 Accordingly, operating multiple pits concurrently provides a practical means of accessing a range of coal qualities within the Buller Plateaux and combining them to achieve the required product specifications.

190 Stockton Mine's coal resources suitable for blending are, however, declining, and without replacement, production will inevitably decline to levels that are unsustainable operationally and economically and will not provide sufficient volume to underwrite the logistics chain (both rail and port). The Stockton CML is also due to expire on 31 March 2027, such that, if the BPCP is not approved through the fast-track process, mining at Stockton would be required to cease. The ramifications of this outcome for the West Coast region, in the form of such economic and social dislocation, would be severe.

195 The BPCP addresses the need to re-consent the existing Stockton mine (which is also important for ongoing AMD management, as discussed in more detail below) and to access new coal resources on the Buller Plateaux. For the reasons described above, the new mining areas need to be accessed and mined concurrently to ensure that the required customer high-value coking coal specifications (coal blend) are met. Error! Reference source not

200 found. below highlights the coal quality characteristics for each Stockton pit and the general proportions needed in the blend to meet customer specifications.

Table 1-2: Coal Quality Characteristics of Mining Areas Across the Buller Plateaux

Pit	Coal Quality Characteristics	Comments	
Stockton (Including Cypress) Mining Pits			
Millerton West / Hope Lyons	Low ash (2-4%)	Millerton currently provides approximately 50% of the coal blend required by customers, but it will be fully depleted by late 2028, at which time replacement coal from MFS or Denniston will be required to ensure a combined blend that meets the required specifications.	
	Mid-high RoMax 0.95-1.0%		
	High CSN (8-9)		
	Low sulphur (2%)		
Millerton East	Low ash (2-4%)		
	Low-mid RoMax 0.90-0.95%		
	High CSN (8-9)		
	High sulphur (>3%)		
Rockies	Low ash (2-4%)	Rockies is above the western escarpment of Stockton. Coking properties are very good in unweathered areas, but the coal is present in multiple seams and can be weathered in places with degraded coking properties (low CSN). Upper seams can be extremely high in sulphur (4-6%).	
	High RoMax 1.1-1.35%		
	Variable CSN (0-9)		
	Variable sulphur (2-6%)		
A Drive	High ash (4-10%)	Provides 10-15% of the coal blend to meet specifications.	
	Mid-high RoMax 1-1.1%		At current rates of mining Rockies will be fully depleted in 2033, but being a blend component with Millerton coal, which will be exhausted in 2028, an alternate coal blend from MFS or Denniston, is required.
	Variable CSN (0-9)		
	Variable sulphur (2-6%)		
A Drive is a remnant mining area in central Stockton. It tends to be interbedded with shales and is weathered in some areas with degraded coking properties. It is generally high in ash, so it typically makes up only 10-15% of the coal blend for each specification.			

Pit	Coal Quality Characteristics	Comments
		A Drive is expected to be fully depleted by late 2028, but similarly to Rockies, only if it can be blended with suitable coal from MFS or Denniston.
Cypress	Low ash (<4%) Low RoMax 0.74% Low CSN (5) Low sulphur (<2%)	Cypress is a lower rank coal on the eastern side of Stockton. It has lower coking properties but is low in ash and sulphur and typically makes up 25% of the coal blend to meet specification. Cypress is expected to be fully depleted by 2032, but similarly to Rockies and A Drive, only if it can be blended with suitable coal from MFS or Denniston.
New Mining Areas Proposed in the BPCP		
Mount Frederick South (MFS)	Low ash (<4%) Mid RoMax 0.95% High CSN (7-9) Mid sulphur (2%)	Quality characteristics are considered a direct replacement for Millerton coal. Its low ash content provides an ideal blend partner for the Denniston coal, allowing the blend's ash specification to be controlled and maintaining a lower overall ash specification. It will also facilitate the full utilisation of the remnant Stockton resources by providing low-ash, mid-range RoMax, and sulphur to control the blend and meet specification.
Escarpment Extended (ESE)	Mid-high ash (6-8%) High RoMax 1-1.35% High CSN (7-9) Low sulphur (<1%)	Higher ash than is currently produced by Stockton pits, but can meet the required product specifications if blended with low ash from MFS, and has better coking properties than Stockton. Its low sulphur content provides an ideal blend partner for the higher-sulphur resources at MFS and Stockton, thereby reducing the total sulphur in the blend (sulphur is a key contaminant that degrades the mechanical and chemical integrity of steel).

Pit	Coal Quality Characteristics	Comments
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Will provide 70-80% of the coal blend, with the remainder sourced from MFS and the remnant Stockton pits.

205 MFS is intended to replace the Millerton pit at the Stockton Mine, and although the tonnages are relatively small, it provides RoMax characteristics required to meet overall coal specifications. ESE provides larger tonnages that support the operational throughput of the BPCP and supplies coal with lower sulphur content, helping manage sulphur levels within the overall blend.

210 With the various Sub-Areas of the BPCP operating concurrently, together with the use of the existing infrastructure, coal processing, administration, haulage, and rail loadout (and the logistics chain to the Port of Lyttelton, from which the coal is exported) at the Stockton Mine, the BPCP will allow mining and associated activities to continue while enabling the high-value coking coal specifications to be met at a scale and in a manner similar to those of the existing Stockton Mine for approximately 20 years.

215 1.5 COAL RESOURCE STRUCTURE

In New Zealand, coal resources are owned by the Crown or private individuals. All the coal on the Buller Plateaux is Crown-owned, and the right to mine that coal is via mining permits and coal mining licences issued under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (“**CMA**”) or its predecessor legislation (Coal Mines Act 1979).

220 The ownership of the land within which the coal is located is a mixture of Crown-owned and privately owned. Where the land is in Crown ownership, it is administered either by the Department of Conservation (“**DOC**”) or by Land Information New Zealand (“**LINZ**”).

225 Bathurst currently holds coal mining licences and ancillary licences issued under the Coal Mines Act 1979 (“**Coal Mines Act**”), as well as exploration permits and mining permits granted under CMA. The licences, which are preserved under the transitional provisions of the CMA, confer the right to conduct mining operations on the specified land, with the extracted coal becoming the property of Bathurst (and payment of royalties to the Crown). Each licence includes conditions that regulate activities and set out land rehabilitation requirements.

230 The general principle, established by the Coal Mines Act and associated case law, is that a mining licence was intended to be an exclusive code for the use of land for mining purposes,

and that additional district land use consents under the RMA were not required. (Noting that any regional resource consents required for the mining activities are required to be held).

235 Mining licences also grant an automatic right to access the land to carry out mining operations. Case law has also established that buildings constructed pursuant to a mining licence do not require separate consent under the Building Act 2004 (“**Building Act**”), provided they comply with the relevant Building Codes at the time of construction. Licence enforcement is a shared responsibility between district and regional councils and WorkSafe, depending on specific jurisdictional duties.

240 The ability to apply for new coal mining licences ended with the repeal of the Coal Mines Act and the enactment of the CMA. Amendments to the CMA also eliminated the option to extend the term of existing licences.

245 Bathurst’s coal mining licences expire on 31 March 2027 and will need to be replaced by mining permits and district land use consents, along with access arrangements with third-party landowners. Many of the regional resource consents associated with the licences also expire around this date.

250 Accordingly, Bathurst is actively pursuing all requisite approvals for the BPCP under the FTAA, both for existing operations currently carried out under the licences and for the broader continuation and expansion of mining activities across the Buller Plateaux. A high-level summary of the existing approvals and those sought under this application is set out in **Table 1-3** below.

1.5.1 Stockton Liabilities – Acid and Metalliferous Drainage (“AMD”) and Non-AMD

255 As outlined in the report “Acid Mine Drainage: History of AMD Management and Proposed Future Management”, prepared by Bathurst and attached in **Part B** of this application, coal mining on the Stockton Plateau has been ongoing since the late 1800s and has left a substantial legacy of disturbed rock and historic workings that continues to generate AMD. AMD is therefore a long-standing environmental liability at Stockton, requiring ongoing containment, collection and treatment as part of both legacy management and current operations (including the use of engineered landforms and active water treatment systems) to reduce acidity and metal loads prior to discharge of treated mine water.

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AMD occurs when iron sulphides in rock material, unearthed by mining activity, interact (i.e., oxidise) with water and air. This process creates sulphuric acid, a corrosive substance capable of breaking down surrounding rock, which can cause metals to leach into, and eventually dissolve in, surrounding waterways.

265 Over 130 years, approximately 500 million tonnes of waste rock have been mined through both underground and opencast mining practices, generating AMD and impacting local waterways. Notably, an estimated 11,000 tonnes of acid per year were already draining into adjacent waterways by the time the Stockton Mine was listed for sale in 2016.

270 The Crown and Solid Energy recognised the scale of the AMD legacy at Stockton when the mine was marketed. Without Crown underwriting of historical AMD treatment, it would be economically impracticable for a private operator to assume responsibility for those liabilities, leaving the Crown exposed to the risk of a stranded asset and the need to manage AMD over the long term.

275 To address this, the Crown entered into a Deed of Commitment on 31 December 2016 (as varied on 8 September 2025) regarding responsibility for AMD rehabilitation at the Stockton Mine, in partnership with Solid Energy and the relevant local authorities. Solid Energy subsequently transferred its responsibilities under that agreement to BT Mining as part of the sale.

280 BT Mining agreed to purchase the Stockton Mine on the basis of the obligations assumed by the Crown and set out in the Deed of Commitment.

285 In essence, the Deed of Commitment provides that the Crown underwrites the costs of treating historical AMD (i.e. generated from mining activity prior to 31 December 2016) at the Stockton Mine, while BT Mining must treat all mine-related AMD while it operates the Stockton Mine (inclusive of AMD it may generate from ongoing mining post 2016). BT Mining is bonded to the Crown for the amount required to treat the AMD generated by its mining activities. At the end of mining at Stockton and upon completion of non-AMD rehabilitation, BT Mining must pay the Crown the then amount to treat its AMD liabilities, and transfer the Stockton Mine, along with the AMD treatment infrastructure, back to the Crown. At that stage, the Crown will be solely responsible for managing AMD liabilities.

290 By having BT Mining operate on-site, both historical and contemporary AMD can be treated more efficiently, allowing for shared capital and technical expertise and reducing operational costs, thereby reducing the financial burden on the Crown. BT Mining also plays a crucial role in reducing legacy AMD by removing problematic underground mining areas as part of its mining operations and carrying out land rehabilitation.

295 This collaborative management approach eliminates the need for the Crown to mobilise dedicated resources for AMD management, which is essential as historical AMD treatment on the Stockton Plateau will be required for the foreseeable future.

The Deed of Commitment includes an Annual Work Plan and Rehabilitation Schedule that outlines the proposed AMD rehabilitation activities for each financial year and requires approval from the Crown and local councils.

Current mining operations demonstrate that BT Mining employs a proven methodology for AMD management by constructing engineered landforms to encapsulate AMD-generating rock and to reduce oxygen and water ingress. AMD-impacted mine water is treated with neutralising agents to reduce acidity and the concentration of metals prior to discharge.

The Crown has comprehensively reviewed Bathurst’s current AMD management approach, drawing on internationally recognised expertise in AMD management and aquatic ecology. That review concluded the existing water management and ongoing treatment regime effectively represents the best practicable option at this time¹. The approach targets progressive improvement of affected streams, with the objective of sustaining mahinga kai values within three generations (approximately 80 years), and has the support of iwi, local councils, and the Crown.

With respect to non-AMD rehabilitation, the Crown has also made provision for costs arising from the mining activities of State Coal Mines and Solid Energy through a Crown Indemnity for the Stockton Mine. The amount of the Crown Indemnity has been paid into an escrow account, and BT Mining can claim back from the Crown the costs of non-AMD rehabilitation required for State Coal Mines/Solid Energy activities as it undertakes that rehabilitation.

The Crown Indemnity also includes an Annual Work Plan and Rehabilitation Schedule that outlines the proposed non-AMD rehabilitation activities for each financial year and likewise requires approval from the Crown and local councils.

1.5.2 Socio-Economic Contribution

As noted above, coal mining on the West Coast has a long history and is closely tied to the region’s economic and social development. It has also produced engineering innovations, such as the Denniston Incline. The heritage report prepared by Clough and Associates included in **Part B** provides an in-depth discussion of mining history on the Buller Plateaux and its impacts. The social and economic influence of more than 130 years of coal mining on the West Coast cannot be overstated, and, without such mining, there would have been very little development of the region.

¹ <https://www.treasury.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2025-12/stockton-mine-drainage-business-case.pdf>

330 An Economic Impact Assessment prepared by AIGIS Group included in **Part B** has been completed to quantify Bathurst's economic contribution, both historically and under the proposed BPCP. The assessment concludes that Bathurst makes a significant contribution to regional employment, local business activity, and New Zealand's export earnings, and that those benefits are expected to increase under the Project. The assessment has been independently reviewed by Market Economics, which considers the methodology, reporting, and conclusions to be robust.

335 Bathurst itself is a significant contributor to the New Zealand economy and workforce. Collectively, Bathurst employs over 670 people nationwide and, in 2024 alone, contributed an estimated \$388 million to the national economy. This scale of activity demonstrates Bathurst's role as both a major employer and a key economic partner, particularly in the regional communities where the mining operations are located.

340 The BPCP seeks to extend these benefits by continuing to generate positive social and economic outcomes for the Buller District, the wider West Coast region, and New Zealand as a whole. Beyond direct employment, Bathurst's operations support local service providers, community initiatives and groups such as sporting clubs and volunteer emergency services, improve community facilities, and benefit a range of industries.

345 Bathurst's export coal is used primarily for steelmaking in regions strategically important to New Zealand, such as India, where it is New Zealand's single largest exporter. These exports of high-quality coking coal contribute significantly to New Zealand's export earnings and support global steel supply chains critical to infrastructure and industrial development.

350 Bathurst also supplies coal domestically within New Zealand for steel production at Glenbrook (Waikato), electricity generation at Huntly Power Station, and other industries that use coal for process heat.

This makes Bathurst's operations fundamental to the economy's functioning and the well-being of communities. In this way, Bathurst contributes not only to regional resilience but to the broader social and economic fabric of New Zealand.

355 **1.5.3 Responsible Operations**

360 Bathurst is committed to responsible mining practices. As a recognised industry leader, Bathurst operates in a way that respects the environment, host communities, its people, and all stakeholders, while making a positive contribution to broader society. Bathurst focuses on maximising the potential of its mining and exploration operations, ensuring that it uses the resources entrusted to it with care while delivering strong economic returns for

stakeholders. Bathurst has more than 670 employees across its operations. People are at the core of Bathurst’s business, and their safety, health, and well-being are crucial to the company.

Health, Safety, and Well-being

365 The health, safety, and well-being of employees, contractors, and the communities in which Bathurst operates are the Company’s first priority and are fundamental to its approach to responsible mining. Bathurst adopts a people-centred approach to safety, recognising that safe and sustainable operations are underpinned by a strong safety culture, capable systems, and engaged workers.

370 Bathurst’s safety framework is built on shared responsibility across all levels of the organisation, supported by robust risk management systems, clear standards, and comprehensive training programmes. Ongoing investment in workforce capability ensures that employees and contractors have the knowledge, skills, and confidence required to manage risks and operate safely in complex and dynamic environments.

375 A key focus is active worker engagement and participation. Bathurst promotes open communication about risk, encourages reporting and learning, and supports continuous improvement through regular site engagement, leadership visibility, and structured safety processes. This approach reinforces a culture in which safety is understood, owned, and consistently applied in practice, rather than treated as a compliance exercise.

380 Environmental Responsibility

Respect for the environment is also a core value for Bathurst. Environmental stewardship is integrated into all stages of operations from exploration through development, mining, and eventual site closure. Land clearing, an unavoidable aspect of mining, is carefully managed to minimise impacts on ecosystems, landscapes, and heritage values. Bathurst undertakes background and ongoing environmental studies and engages with experts to guide management plans. Where biodiversity impacts cannot be fully avoided, Bathurst endeavours to implement relocation measures and/or biodiversity enhancement projects to maintain environmental values. Rehabilitation is a crucial part of the mining operations, as observed at the Stockton Mine, which has planted over 3.2 million seedlings (as at Financial Year 2025 (“FY25”)). Cultural and historical sites are managed in consultation with local communities and Ngāti Waewae to identify appropriate protection and mitigation strategies.

390 Under its current suite of approvals, Bathurst also invests directly in biodiversity programmes that aim to enhance the resilience and long-term health of local ecosystems.

395 At the 1000-hectare Oparara Bird Sanctuary, Bathurst manages an environmental
enhancement programme that involves maintaining 900 predator traps and conducting
annual surveys of kiwi and other indigenous birds, with input from indigenous bird and
predator-control experts. Bathurst also funds a pest control programme for the Heaphy
through its existing approval obligations. On the Denniston Plateau, Bathurst, through its
existing arrangements with DOC, funds a biodiversity management programme which seeks
400 to reduce threats to native species and habitats. This work will continue to grow and evolve
into more advanced, strategic initiatives through the BPCP, including targeted pest-plant
and pest-animal control, weed management, and ongoing monitoring of native birds,
animals, and plant species to understand ecological trends and inform appropriate
management responses.

405 **1.5.4 Contribution to Local Communities**

Bathurst is committed to being a responsible and supportive neighbour, ensuring that the
benefits of its operations are shared with the communities in which it operates. Bathurst
contributes to local economies through employment, contracting, and supply chains.
Additionally, Bathurst pays significant royalties and taxes that support public services and
410 regional development.

A cornerstone of Bathurst's approach is its strong preference for hiring local workers before
sourcing labour from outside the region. This policy strengthens community ties and
ensures the direct and indirect benefits of mining are felt by local economies. Bathurst
prioritises and maintains open, collaborative relationships with communities, neighbours,
415 and regional organisations to ensure issues are identified and addressed proactively.

Beyond employment and economic contributions, Bathurst actively gives back to the
communities where it operates through sponsorships, donations, and long-standing
partnerships. Bathurst's community sponsorship programme has supported a diverse range
of initiatives and groups in the West Coast, Waikato and Southland regions, including:

- 420 > Life Education Trust West Coast
- > West Coast ROA Mining Rescue Helicopter Service;
- > Buller Resilience Trust;
- > Huntly Museum Te Whare Taonga O Raahui Pookeka;
- > Cancer Society Southern;
- 425 > Glen Afton Pukemiro Community Hub;
- > The Meningitis Foundation Aotearoa New Zealand; and

> Te Oruanui Marae.

Education remains a key focus of Bathurst's community contributions. Bathurst is particularly proud of its fifteen-year commitment to the Bathurst Buller High School Scholarship programme. Valued at \$12,000, the annual scholarship supports a student to pursue tertiary education in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, helping to foster the next generation of skilled professionals. This reflects Bathurst's ongoing dedication to supporting social, cultural, and educational initiatives across New Zealand.

1.6 CURRENT OPERATIONS

As noted above, Bathurst seeks approvals under the FTAA to enable the ongoing operation of the Stockton Mine and to authorise the additional areas that form the BPCP. It is therefore relevant to outline the existing authorisations that have enabled mining activities to occur to date, and the operational context in which those activities continue across the Buller Plateaux.

1.6.1 Stockton

Located in the Buller Coalfield on the West Coast, Stockton is the largest opencast coal mine in New Zealand and a key supplier of high-quality steelmaking coal for export markets.

The Stockton sub-area includes existing mining operations and associated coal-handling and processing activities that are currently authorised under the Stockton coal mining licence and two ancillary coal mining licences (refer to **Figure 1-3**). These licences also provide for supporting infrastructure, including the Coal Handling and Processing Plant ("CHPP"), the aerial ropeway that links the Stockton Plateau to the Ngākawau Rail Loadout, and the Ngākawau Rail Loadout itself. As the Stockton Plateau has been mined since the 1890s, much of this sub-area has already been disturbed.

Post expiry of the licences (31 March 2027), new land use consents are required to authorise the continued operation of the Stockton Mine, including the mining of the remaining resources within the Stockton Mine, and also to allow for land rehabilitation remaining to be completed (including Crown liabilities). As also discussed above, activities requiring regional council resource consent (e.g. water takes, diversions, discharges, etc.) are not covered by the coal mining licence and ancillary coal mining licence and are currently authorised at Stockton via a range of existing consents. Many of these consents are historically tied to the coal mining licence and ancillary coal mining licences in terms of duration and include core activities currently relied upon for operational purposes at

Stockton. This includes existing consents for critical water management activities and infrastructure that enable AMD treatment.

The current disturbance areas within the Stockton sub-area are highlighted in **Figure 1-4**.

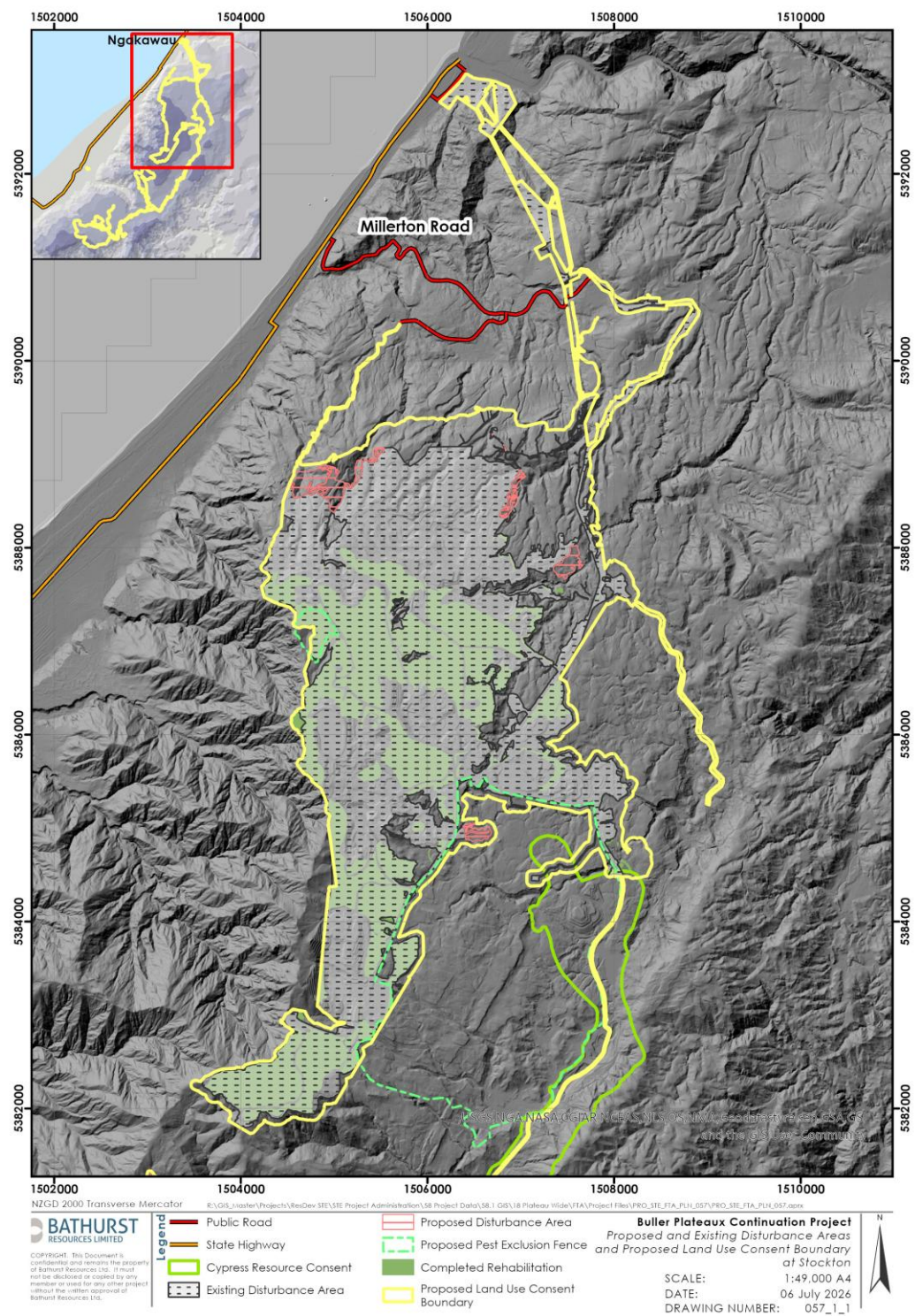


Figure 1-4: Existing and Proposed Disturbance Areas at Stockton

465 **1.6.2 Existing Escarpment Mine**

470 The existing Escarpment Mine is located on the Denniston Plateau within Crown land administered by the DOC as part of the Mount Rochfort Conservation Area. Operations at the existing Escarpment Mine first commenced in July 2014 and form part of the ESE sub-area. Production was originally scheduled to run for approximately eight years. However, with the decline in international coking coal prices, the mine was placed into care and maintenance on 1 July 2016, and has remained there since. Bathurst continues to meet its environmental compliance obligations, including monitoring AMD and water discharges, funding DOC for heritage and biodiversity management, and controlling weeds. Bonds are reassessed and updated annually to reflect current closure costs.

475 **Figure 1-5** shows the extent of the ESE in relation to the existing operations. This proposed sub-area includes the authorised existing Escarpment Mine (with most existing consents having expired in October 2025, noting that an application under the RMA for renewal under care and maintenance has been lodged with the West Coast Regional Council (“**WCRC**”) and BDC), together with a proposed extension into adjacent mining areas covered by MP 51 279 and MP 60 138, and the Sullivan coal mining licence (CML 37 161).

480

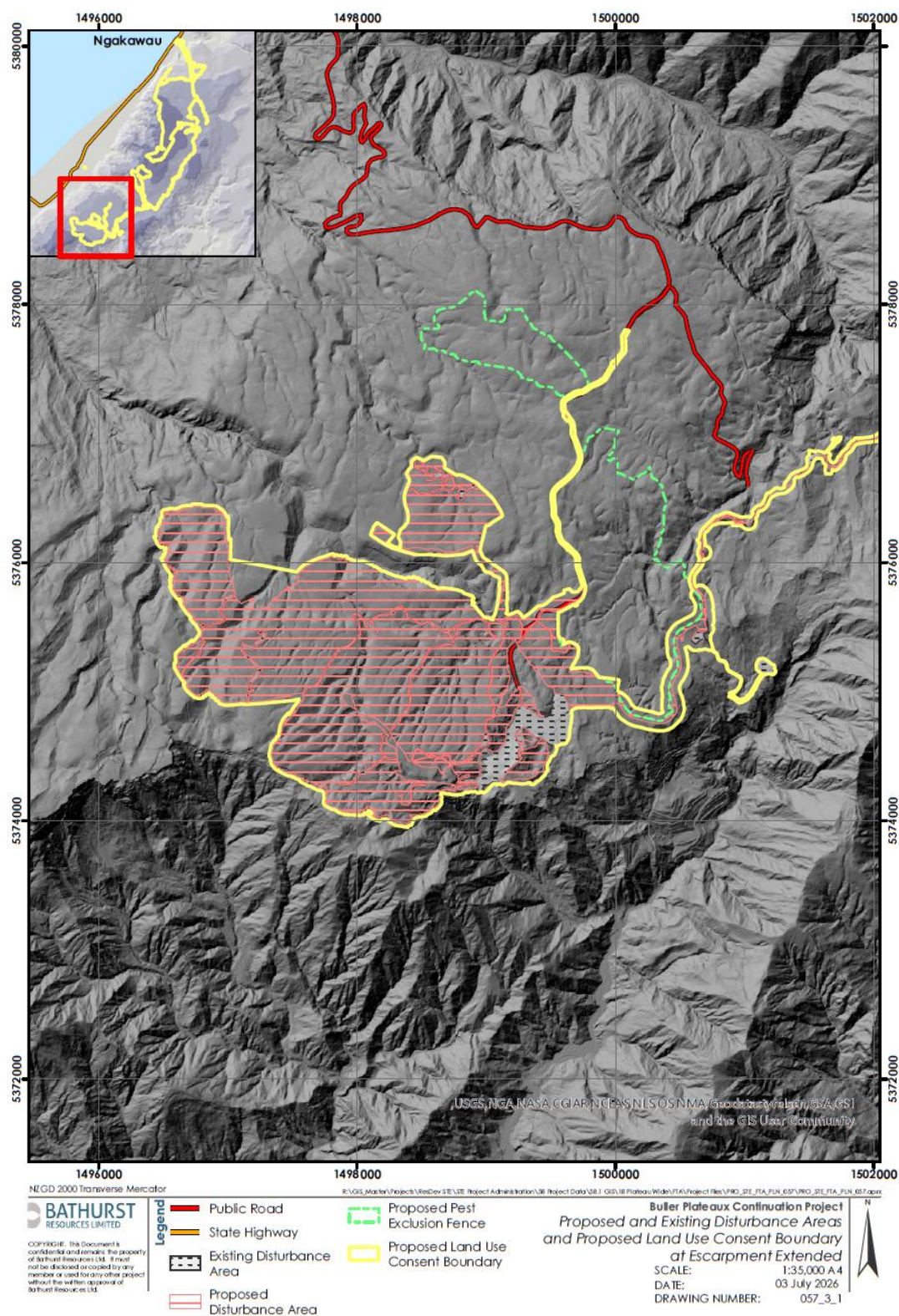


Figure 1-5: Existing and Proposed Disturbance Areas at the Existing Escarpment Mine / Escarpment Extended

1.6.3 Cypress

485 Cypress Mine is an existing, authorised opencast coal mine and is part of the Upper
Waimangaroa Mining Permit 41 515. Cypress is located adjacent to the Stockton Mine on the
Stockton Plateau, on Crown land administered by LINZ. It operates under longstanding
approvals and authorisations, with mining activities integrated into the wider Stockton
mining complex. Ongoing operations, infrastructure and environmental management
490 systems have been in place for more than a decade, and the mine functions as part of a
mature, established mining landscape on the Buller Plateaux.

The BPCP does not seek to expand or otherwise change the existing Cypress mining
envelope. However, the Project, primarily through the UWHR, overlaps with parts of the
existing authorised Cypress Mine area. Accordingly, the approvals sought include limited
495 variations to existing Cypress resource consent conditions to manage that interface, and a
Wildlife Act Authority (“WAA”) for the Upper Waimangaroa mining permit area. These
variations will also align Cypress compensation requirements with the broader BPCP REP,
thereby coordinating biodiversity measures across the Buller Plateaux and delivering more
consistent and effective outcomes.

500 1.7 PURPOSE OF THE FTAA

The purpose of the FTAA is to:

facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or
national benefits.²

505 The BPCP, being the collective suite of Sub-Areas described in **Section 1.2** above, plainly
advances the purpose of the Act, as reflected by its inclusion in Schedule 2 to the FTAA, by
delivering significant benefits to the Buller District, the West Coast Region, and New Zealand
more broadly. In that regard, the BPCP will maintain the scale, and extend the duration, of
the economic benefits that Bathurst’s mining operations already provide to the regional and
national economy, including by:

- 510
- > Maintaining the current workforce numbers through retention of approximately 390
direct jobs in the Buller district and an additional 50 jobs outside of the Buller district.
 - > Contributing approximately \$40 million annually in wages, much of which is spent
locally;

² Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, section 3.

- 515
- > Providing an average of 63 additional positions for construction contractors over two construction periods, currently planned as 2027-2028 and 2030-2032. A further increase of 150-200 jobs during the construction/establishment phase of the Project, in addition to the existing workforce;
 - > Continuing to support community programmes. For the 12 months ending 30 June 2024, Bathurst contributed more than \$850,000 to organisations across the West Coast;
- 520
- > Providing a significant REP that delivers additional benefits in relation to biodiversity (both terrestrial and aquatic), heritage conservation, and recreation. For example, this includes establishing four long-term pest-exclusion fenced areas totalling approximately 911 ha, creating an intensive 1,505 ha predator control area at Blackburn-Pakihi, and implementing landscape-scale pest suppression across
- 525
- approximately 25,000 ha;
 - > Continuing to manage historic environmental liabilities on the Stockton Plateau, including legacy AMD, on behalf of (and in conjunction with) the Crown;
 - > Improving AMD management through the removal of areas of remnant coal that are currently causing uncontrolled AMD issues;
- 530
- > Contributing to New Zealand's export earnings and supporting key strategic markets;
 - > Paying taxes and royalties to the Crown, and rates to the Councils; and
 - > Maintaining the viability of the Midland Rail line.

535

The economic benefits of the BPCP have been assessed and quantified further in an economic assessment by AIGIS Group, provided in **Part B** of these application documents. A complementary social impact assessment, also authored by the AIGIS Group, is attached in **Part B**.

540

The FTAA seeks to establish a streamlined approvals process for significant proposals, serving as a comprehensive solution to reduce delays and associated costs from navigating multiple statutory requirements and legislative regimes. Given the scale and complexity of the BPCP, and its need for approval under various statutes and by diverse regulatory authorities (including layers of existing legislative approvals), it is a prime candidate for assessment under the FTAA.

1.8 HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY OF APPROVALS SOUGHT

545

Having been confirmed as a listed project in Schedule 2 of the FTAA, Bathurst is applying for all necessary approvals for the construction, operation, maintenance, rehabilitation and

closure of all of the component Sub-Areas comprising the BPCP and for the REP. Bathurst is seeking the following approvals under the FTAA for the Project:

- > Resource consents that would otherwise be applied for under the RMA;
- > Mining permits under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 and associated access
550 arrangements to enable mining activities on Crown land administered by either DOC or LINZ;
- > Multiple concessions that would otherwise be applied for under the Conservation Act;
- > Authorities that would otherwise be applied for under the Wildlife Act;
- > Approvals and/or dispensations under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983
555 (“**Fisheries Regulations**”); and
- > Heritage New Zealand archaeological authorities, which would otherwise be applied for under HNZPTA.

A summary of the existing authorisations and the proposed approvals sought under this application within each sub-area is set out in **Table 1-3** below. Further details on the existing
560 permissions and authorisations, and how they interact with the proposed approvals sought for this Project, are provided in **Appendix 8.B** of this application.

Table 1-3: High-Level Overview of Existing and Proposed Approvals for Each Sub-Area / Key Activities

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
Stockton			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)	> Existing regional council consents	> Section 9 Land Use Consents	> BT Mining Ltd
	> Deemed permits	> Section 13 Land Use Consents	
		> Section 14 Water Permits	
		> Section 15 Discharge Permits	
		> National Environmental Standard (“NES”) Approvals	
Crown Minerals Act Approvals	> CML 37 150	> Stockton CML Replacement (new mining permit to replace CML 37 150 and ACMLs 37 150-02 and 03 over Stockton and Ngākawau, which expire on 31 March 2027)	> BT Mining Ltd
	> ACMLs 37 150-02 & 03		
	> MP 41 810 (known as the DOC Triangle)	> A variation to access arrangement 37 444-AA within MP 41 810	
	> Access arrangement (37444) for the DOC triangle	> A new access arrangement over the Stockton CML Replacement	
		> Retention of MP 41 810	

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
Conservation Act Approvals	> Concession 67930-OTH (Fly Rock) > Concession WC-26733-OTH (Access Aerial Ropeway) > Concession 16811-OTH (Access Stockton Haul Road) > Concession 111267-OTH (Access) > Concession EAS-0069 (Power poles)	> New concession to replace 67930-OTH (Fly Rock). > The amalgamation of WC-26733-OTH Aerial Ropeway, 16811-OTH Access, 111267 OTH Access and EAS-0069 Poles into one new concession with additional areas (providing access between Millerton Town and Stockton Mine and for vehicular access to Ngakawau). > New concession for water and dust monitoring on the Stockton Plateau. > New concession for the Whirlwind Rise pest exclusion fenced area.	> BT Mining Ltd
Wildlife Act Approvals	> WC-97412-FAU	> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife (i.e. replacement of existing Wildlife Act Approvals) across the entirety of the BPCP.	> BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Project-wide Archaeological Authority. > Archaeological Authority to disturb and destroy the remains of the Mine Creek Settlement and Infrastructure Site (L28/17).	> BT Mining Ltd

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
ESE			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)	> Existing regional and district council consents for the existing Escarpment Mine	> Section 9 Land Use Consents. > Section 13 Land Use Consents. > Section 14 Water Permits. > Section 15 Discharge Permits. > NES Approvals.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd
Crown Minerals Act Approvals	> MP 51 279 (existing Escarpment Mine) > CML 37 161 (existing Sullivan Mine) > ACMLs 37 161-01, 02, 03 & 04 (existing Sullivan Mine) > MP 60 138 (existing Whareatea West Mine) > Access arrangement 37873 over the existing Escarpment Mine (MP 51 279)	> MP 51 279 (existing Escarpment Mine). > Sullivan CML Replacement (new MP). > Retention of MP 60 138. > Access arrangement to replace the existing Escarpment Mine arrangement (37 873). > Access arrangement across both MP 60 138 and the Sullivan CML Replacement.	> Buller Coal Ltd are the approval holder of MP 51279, and the proposed access arrangement for the replacement of 37 873 > Bathurst Coal Ltd are the approval holder of CML 37 161 and ACMLs 37 161-01, 02, 03 & 04, MP 60 138 and the proposed access arrangement across MP 60 138 and the

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
			Sullivan CML Replacement
Conservation Act Approvals	> 113740-OTH Use of Whareatea Road > 67824-RES Existing monitoring sites and sampling for water > 66807-GEO Existing monitoring sites and sampling for water	> New concession for fly-rock deposition from mining across the ESE (joint concession with fly-rock deposition at the MFS sub-area) > New concession for water and dust monitoring on the Denniston Plateau > New concession for the Denniston North and Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fenced areas	> Bathurst Resources Ltd
Fisheries Act Approvals		> Dispensation for culverts and diversions throughout the ESE sub-area.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd
Wildlife Act Approvals		> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife across the entirety of the BPCP.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Project-wide Archaeological Authority.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
UWHR			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)	> Existing regional and district permits for the Coalbrookdale Storage Area which is within the UWHR proposed southern portion.	> Section 9 Land Use Consents. > Section 13 Land Use Consents. > Section 14 Water Permits. > Section 15 Discharge Permits. > NES Approvals.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Crown Minerals Act Approvals	> MP 41 515 and MP 51 279 > LINZ access arrangement 19116-1 > LINZ access arrangement 12984-1		
Fisheries Act Approvals		> Approval and dispensation for culverts installed throughout the UWHR sub-area.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Wildlife Act Approvals		> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife across the entirety of the BPCP.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Archaeological Authority to disturb and destroy the remains of the Iron Bridge Mine (L29/98).	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
		> Project-wide Archaeological Authority.	
MFS			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)		> Section 9 Land Use Consents. > Section 13 Land Use Consents. > Section 14 Water Permits. > Section 15 Discharge Permits. > NES Approvals.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Crown Minerals Act Approvals	> EP 61 157 > MP 41 515	> Mount Frederick South Mining Permit (New mining permit out of EP 61 157). > Retention of the balance of EP 61 157 that is not subject to the application for a new mining permit > Access arrangement(s) from DOC and LINZ for within the new mining permit > Retention of MP 41 515	> Buller Coal Ltd hold EP 61 157 and are proposed to hold the mining permit being sought and the access arrangements being sought > BT Mining Ltd hold MP 41 515

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
Conservation Act Approvals		> New concession for fly-rock deposition from mining at the MFS sub-area (joint concession with fly-rock deposition at the ESE sub-area)	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Fisheries Act Approvals		> Dispensation for culverts and diversions throughout the MFS sub-area. > Approval for culverts installed along the access route into MFS.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Wildlife Act Approvals		> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife across the entirety of the BPCP.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Archaeological Authority to disturb and destroy the remains of the Koranui Mining Area (L29/14). > Project-wide Archaeological Authority.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Cypress			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)	> Existing regional and district council consents.	> Section 127 RMA Approval.	> BT Mining Ltd

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
Wildlife Act Approvals	> WC-97411-FAU > WC-108591-FAU	> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife (i.e. replacement of existing Wildlife Act Approvals) across the entirety of the BPCP.	> BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Project-wide Archaeological Authority.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Residual Effects Package Implementation Approvals			
RMA Approvals (or equivalent)		> Section 9 Land Use Consents. > Section 13 Land Use Consents. > Section 14 Water Permits. > Section 15 Discharge Permits. > NES Approvals.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Conservation Act Approvals		> Concessions for the construction, operation and maintenance of Fenced Exclusion Areas where it crosses DOC-administered land (as outlined in the applicable sub-area above) > Research, and collection (Trapping, monitoring, surveys), forming and marking	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd

Sub-area / Legislative framework	Existing approvals	Proposed approvals	Approval Holder(s)
		walking routes, to trap lines and monitoring sites where this occurs on DOC-administered land.	
Fisheries Act Approvals		> Dispensation for culverts throughout the Pest Exclusion Areas.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Wildlife Act Approvals		> New Project-wide WAA for the management and incidental killing of protected wildlife across the entirety of the BPCP.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd
Heritage NZ Approvals		> Project-wide Archaeological Authority for the potential modification and/or destruction of unrecorded subsurface archaeological sites along areas of the proposed Denniston North and Coalbrookdale pest exclusion fenced areas. > Project-wide General Archaeological Authority.	> Bathurst Resources Ltd / BT Mining Ltd

565 **1.9 INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

Section 5 of the FTAA addresses ineligible activities which cannot be authorised under the Act. In this respect, the BPCP:

- > Is not located on identified Māori land;³
- > Is not located in a customary marine title area;⁴
- 570 > Is not located in a protected customary rights area;⁵
- > Is not located on Māori customary land or land set apart as Māori reservation;⁶
- > Is not an aquaculture activity or an activity that is incompatible with aquaculture activities;⁷
- 575 > Bathurst's proposed mining activities will occur on Crown-owned land and therefore will require an access arrangement under section 61 of the CMA. The land in question is not land to which section 61(1A) of the CMA applies (i.e., it is not land where access arrangements are statutorily prohibited). The area is not one for which a mineral permit cannot be granted under the CMA;⁸
- > Is not an activity occurring on land listed in Schedule 4;⁹
- 580 > Is not located within a national reserve;¹⁰ and
- > Is not an activity located on a reserve held under the Reserves Act that is vested in someone other than the Crown or a local authority or managed by someone other than DOC or a local authority.¹¹

Therefore, this application is not for an ineligible activity.

- 585 Schedule 4 of the FTAA identifies land on which non-mining activities are ineligible and cannot be authorised by the FTAA. No non-mining activities are being applied for on Schedule 4 ineligible land as part of this substantive application.

³ Section 5(1)(a) of the Act.

⁴ Section 5(1)(b) of the Act.

⁵ Section 5(1)(c) of the Act.

⁶ Section 5(1)(d) of the Act.

⁷ Section 5(1)(e) of the Act.

⁸ Section 5(1)(f) of the Act.

⁹ Section 5(1)(h) of the Act.

¹⁰ Section 5(1)(i) of the Act.

¹¹ Section 5(j) and (k) of the Act.

1.10 SUMMARY OF BENEFITS

Under section 85(3) of the FTAA, the Panel must undertake a comparative evaluation of a Project's adverse impacts and its regional or national benefits. A summary of the key benefits is provided here. **Chapter A.6 - Assessment of Environmental Effects** and **Chapter A.7 – Management of Effects** provide a summary of the key issues the Panel needs to consider in making its evaluative decision, and how those matters will be comprehensively addressed through appropriate effects management.

1.10.1 Interpretation of “Significant” Benefits

As will be explained in the legal submissions, the term “significant”, as explained in the Waihi North Fast-track decision, is deliberately broad and context dependent. It refers to benefits that are notable in scale, rather than those that fundamentally alter national economic indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (“**GDP**”) or government revenue.

1.10.2 Economic

The proposed Project is set to yield significant economic benefits for New Zealand at both the regional and national levels, providing long-term value throughout its lifespan.

The economic impact over the life of the Project is estimated to range from \$661 million to \$957 million, representing a substantial increase compared to the current base-case scenario, which forecasts only \$73–75 million. This demonstrates the Project’s potential as a key driver of economic growth, particularly in the region where it operates.

Fiscal contributions to the New Zealand Government are also noteworthy, with anticipated corporate tax revenues of \$225–\$328 million and royalties of \$20–\$31 million. Additional revenue from licence fees and rates, estimated at \$8.1 million, further strengthens government finances and supports public services and infrastructure. The Project provides for significant financial returns for local equity holders, estimated at \$255 million to \$371 million, thereby enhancing domestic investment income and supporting the national mining sector.

Employment generation is a major and sustained benefit of the Project. The Economic Impact Assessment confirms that operations will maintain a stable workforce of 317 direct full-time equivalent employees at Bathurst and 71 contractor roles, with an average of 66 additional workers during construction phases. This continuity of employment is particularly significant for regional communities, where mining remains one of the largest sources of stable, well-paid jobs. In the context of the Buller District labour market, these 388 operational positions (317 + 71) represent 8.6% of all filled jobs in the district, making

Bathurst one of the single largest employers in the region. This concentration of employment highlights the Project's critical role in sustaining the Buller workforce and supporting broader regional economic activity across the West Coast.

625 The Project's output of metallurgical coal is strategically important, contributing to New Zealand's economic development and balance of trade performance. As the largest supplier of this critical resource, Bathurst plays a pivotal role in solidifying New Zealand's trade relations, especially with India, enhancing trade stability and the nation's global supplier reputation.

630 At the community level, the Project is projected to generate approximately \$380.5 million in gross incomes, translating to about \$198.3 million in disposable income for workers, with a significant portion reinvested in local economies. Furthermore, Bathurst's procurement spending of approximately \$75.8 million with 127 regional businesses in the past year is expected to range from \$73 million to \$105 million per year over the Project's lifespan, ensuring ongoing engagement with local suppliers and bolstering the broader business ecosystem.

635

In summary, the Project stands to deliver substantial economic, fiscal, and community benefits, firmly establishing its role as a vital contributor to the regional economy.

1.10.3 Social

640 The Project is anticipated to deliver a wide range of positive social outcomes that will strengthen community wellbeing, enhance local services, and support long-term regional stability. These benefits extend beyond the immediate workforce and reach deeply into the fabric of the surrounding communities, contributing to resilience, social cohesion, and sustained development over time.

645 One of the most significant social contributions arises from the Project's ongoing support for community organisations. Bathurst and its employees have a well-established history of volunteering and engagement within the region. Continuation of the Project will allow this support to remain a cornerstone of community life. Such involvement not only enhances the capacity of volunteer groups but also fosters stronger relationships between the company and local residents.

650 The Project will also uphold and improve emergency response capability within the district. Bathurst's personnel are trained in emergency response (including over 45 persons trained in New Zealand's Coordinated Incident Management System), and their skills and resources have historically been deployed to assist the community in emergencies. By maintaining a

655 trained workforce on site, the region benefits from preparedness and rapid-response capacity that would be considerably diminished in the absence of ongoing Project operations.

660 Another key social benefit relates to infrastructure support, particularly through Bathurst's role in sustaining the Midland Rail Line. As KiwiRail's largest customer on the West Coast, Bathurst contributes significantly to the line's economic viability. The continuation of the Project therefore supports the functioning of a critical regional transport link, which delivers social value through passenger services, freight reliability, and connectivity for isolated communities.

665 The Project also indirectly helps reduce electricity costs for other regional consumers. Bathurst uses approximately 20% of Buller Electricity's power throughput, meaning its presence helps to distribute fixed transmission and generation costs across a larger base. Electricity prices are therefore effectively subsidised for households and businesses in the region - a tangible and ongoing social benefit that would be lost if operations ceased.

670 A large mining operation like Stockton creates a base of local contractors and suppliers that specialise in mining services and equipment. As of February 2025, Stockton has approximately 128 current contracting company registrations, comprising 560 individuals approved to work on-site. The provision of this base work allows other smaller Buller and West Coast mining companies to access these contractors and suppliers, which may not be possible without Stockton and the future BPCP activities.

675 Direct financial support for community organisations is another major social benefit. In FY25, Bathurst contributed \$650,368 to 53 charitable, community, and service groups. Over the life of the Project, these contributions are expected to total between \$4 million and \$8 million, representing a substantial investment in local wellbeing, cultural activities, support services, and youth development. Educational opportunities are likewise enhanced through Bathurst's annual major scholarship offered to a student from Buller High School.

680 The Project also provides a stabilising effect on the social fabric of the surrounding communities by delaying the eventual closure of mining activities and avoiding an abrupt, hard stop and sudden social and economic change in the area. The Project allows time for Central and Local Government to develop a managed transition for households, schools, communities and industries to prepare for a future without mining. In the interim, schools
685 benefit from sustained student numbers, which supports staffing and programme continuity. Other sectors have more time to plan for potential workforce changes associated with household relocations. This managed transition reduces social disruption and preserves community cohesion during a period of structural economic shift.

690 Finally, the Project helps maintain the stability of the overall community structure and functioning. Mining has long been a foundational industry in the region, and its continued operation supports population retention, service demand, cultural continuity, and the overall social fabric of the area. By sustaining employment, income, and community engagement, the Project reinforces the social systems that underpin regional wellbeing.

1.10.4 Cultural

695 The Cultural Impact Assessment (“**CIA**”) prepared by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae (“**Ngāti Waewae**”) (attached in **Part B** to these application documents) identifies a range of potential cultural benefits associated with the BPCP, particularly where mitigation, rehabilitation, and ongoing partnership commitments are implemented effectively.

700 A central positive aspect of the Project is the commitment to continued engagement and partnership with Ngāti Waewae as mana whenua. The Project is framed not simply as a regulatory process but as an opportunity for a meaningful and ongoing relationship, with Ngāti Waewae actively involved in monitoring, governance, and decision-making processes. This approach supports the expression of rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga, enabling iwi to contribute directly to how environmental and cultural values are managed throughout the life of the Project.

705 The CIA also highlights significant opportunities for environmental enhancement and restoration, particularly through the proposed mitigation and compensation measures. These include wetland enhancement, rehabilitation of degraded landscapes, restoration of waterways, and improvements to historically affected streams (including those impacted by AMD). Such initiatives are expected to contribute to long-term improvements in ecological health and, by extension, to the mauri (life force) of the environment.

710 Importantly, the Project provides for active rehabilitation and mine closure planning, with a focus on returning landscapes to a natural state over time. The use of indigenous species, the establishment of on-site nurseries, and the rehabilitation of both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems create opportunities to restore culturally significant environments and strengthen biodiversity outcomes, including for taonga species.

720 The biodiversity REP is identified as a key positive component. While requiring careful implementation, it is anticipated to deliver net gains for indigenous ecosystems and taonga species, including predator control initiatives and habitat enhancement. The CIA notes that if implemented as intended, these measures could achieve environmental outcomes that would not otherwise occur in the absence of the project.

The CIA further identifies opportunities for cultural capacity building and participation, including roles for Ngāti Waewae in environmental monitoring, biodiversity management, cultural health assessments, and implementation of mitigation measures. This creates avenues for incorporating mātauranga Māori into project design and environmental management, strengthening cultural outcomes and ensuring culturally informed decision-making.

1.10.5 Other Benefits

In addition to its significant economic and social contributions, the BPCP delivers further benefits that enhance its overall value to New Zealand. These benefits span from environmental management to scientific advancement. Ultimately, these reflect the Project’s broader commitment to responsible resource management and long-term stewardship.

A key benefit of the proposal is its role in supporting the ongoing management of legacy AMD and the continued rehabilitation of disturbed areas on behalf of the Crown. AMD represents a long-term environmental liability that requires sustained monitoring, treatment, and technical expertise. By maintaining active operations at the site, Bathurst (via BT Mining) is positioned to continue delivering the infrastructure, capabilities, and financial resources required to manage these legacy issues effectively.

The Project also contributes meaningfully to scientific advancement within New Zealand. Bathurst has a history of supporting research through both direct sponsorship and the facilitation of substantial scientific studies undertaken across the life of its projects. This ongoing involvement enriches national scientific understanding in fields such as ecology, geology, hydrology, geochemistry and environmental management. These contributions not only inform regulatory frameworks and best-practice standards but also strengthen the evidence base that guides sustainable development across the country. By continuing the Project, these research partnerships and scientific outputs will be extended, benefiting both academic institutions and applied environmental science.

1.11 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT WITH MANA WHENUA, COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

Consultation for the BPCP has been extensive, multi-layered, and iterative, and has played an important role in shaping both the Project and its presentation in this application. Engagement has been guided by Bathurst’s Stakeholder Engagement Plan (refer **Part F**) and has included meetings, workshops, site visits, briefings, community drop-in sessions, direct correspondence, technical information sharing and targeted discussions. The programme

has deliberately reached a broad range of parties, including mana whenua, local communities, employees and contractors, landowners, recreation users, heritage groups, infrastructure providers, emergency services, industry operators, NGOs, statutory agencies and regulators.

760 A key focus of the engagement has been understanding the matters most important to those with cultural, community, environmental, commercial and statutory interests in the Project. Engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Waewae has been central to this process, including preparing the CIA and ongoing discussions on matters such as water, ecology, landscape, closure, pest management, and wider environmental effects.

765 A letter from Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu regarding the Project has also been obtained and is contained in **Part F**. The letter notes that Te Rūnanga has a key role in managing, advocating for and protecting the rights and interests of Ngāi Tahu whānui. While Te Rūnanga is the statutory representative voice of Ngāi Tahu, it recognises and respects the rights of individual Papatipu Rūnanga to express their own views as mana whenua. Accordingly, in
770 relation to the Project, Te Rūnanga looks to Ngāi Waewae as the relevant mana whenua authority and acknowledges its role in ensuring that mana whenua perspectives are appropriately incorporated into the Project and the Fast-track approvals process. The letter also notes that Ngāi Waewae has been actively engaging with Bathurst throughout the development of the Project and expects this engagement to continue so that mana whenua
775 views can inform the substantive application and associated decision-making processes.

More broadly, consultation has confirmed that iwi and community perspectives are fundamental to the Project's design and assessment, and that ongoing partnership, transparency and responsiveness will be critical throughout the life of the Project.

780 The consultation process has also highlighted strong local interest in, and support for, the Project's contribution to employment continuity, regional economic resilience and community wellbeing. Employees, contractors, unions and community representatives have emphasised the Project's importance in sustaining existing jobs, retaining workforce capability, supporting local businesses and maintaining the broader social and economic fabric of Buller and the West Coast. These matters have strongly influenced the way the
785 Project objectives have been framed, with Bathurst presenting the BPCP not only as a mine-continuation proposal, but as a Project that supports regional certainty, ongoing environmental management responsibilities, and a managed transition over time.

Feedback received through consultation has directly influenced several practical responses and proposed management measures. These include refinements to water management,
790 particularly in response to concerns raised by Millerton and Plateau Protection Society

(“**MAPPS**”); commitments to maintain meaningful recreation access where practicable, including to Mt Rochfort and Mackley Track; development of heritage artefact management protocols with local museums and heritage groups; access arrangements for utility providers and emergency services; and targeted responses to local amenity concerns such as noise and rail operations at Ngākawau.

Overall, consultation has helped identify the issues that matter most to stakeholders and translate them into Project design refinements, mitigation measures, access protocols, management plans, proposed conditions, and ongoing engagement commitments.

1.12 APPROACH TO THE APPLICATION AND MANAGEMENT OF KEY ISSUES

Although the benefits of the BPCP are significant and clearly advance the purpose of the FTAA, Bathurst recognises that the Project’s environmental effects must also be appropriately managed.

Chapter A.6 – Assessment of Environmental Effects sets out the key issues associated with the BPCP, drawing on technical assessments prepared by Bathurst’s experts, independent peer reviews in key disciplines (including water, ecology, landscape, and heritage), and consultation with the community and mana whenua, particularly in relation to cultural effects. Those assessments identify measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, or otherwise address potential adverse environmental effects. **Chapter A.5 – Approach to the Application** explains how Bathurst has shaped and refined the BPCP by incorporating meaningful and practicable avoidance measures into mine planning and design from the outset, while recognising the constraints arising from the fixed location of the coal resource.

Specifically, there will be residual ecological effects associated with the Project that require further response. Bathurst is therefore proposing a series of measures to manage adverse effects on terrestrial, wetland and freshwater ecology values within the Buller Plateaux.

These measures reflect a cascading management approach consistent with the requirements of the relevant national, regional, and district planning frameworks for such projects, firstly seeking to avoid, remedy, and mitigate (where such measures are meaningful and practicable) any adverse effects, and propose a REP to address remaining issues.

Bathurst’s expert technical advisers’ recommendations have informed the development of a robust suite of proposed conditions, provided in **Part E** of these application documents. Bathurst’s consultation with mana whenua and stakeholders, including DOC, LINZ, HNZPT, New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (“**NZPAM**”), and the relevant Councils, has also informed the approach to the proposed conditions of consent and the effects-management

825 measures that underpin them. Those conditions provide confidence that the Project and its effects can be appropriately managed while preserving sufficient operational flexibility for Bathurst to implement the Project and realise its benefits in a manner consistent with the FTAA.

830 Bathurst will undertake the Project in accordance with a robust suite of enforceable consent conditions and detailed management plans, ensuring that measures to avoid, minimise, remedy, or otherwise address potential adverse effects are implemented throughout construction, operation, rehabilitation and closure. The FTAA pathway is particularly well suited to the BPCP because it enables the Panel to consider the Project as it will be delivered in practice: as a single, integrated mining, infrastructure, rehabilitation and residual-effects programme, rather than through fragmented approvals considered in isolation. This consolidated approach provides a stronger basis for coordinated environmental management, clearer accountability, and more effective long-term outcomes across the Buller Plateaux.

840 Bathurst considers that the Project represents a carefully designed and responsible proposal. The BPCP has been shaped to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse environmental effects to the extent practicable, recognising the fixed location of the coal resource and the operational need for the Project Sub-Areas to function together. Where residual effects remain, they have been rigorously assessed and are addressed through a comprehensive REP focused both on and adjacent to the Plateaux. This includes fenced pest-exclusion areas, landscape-scale predator control, weed and pest management, freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity measures, and enhancements to recreational, community and heritage values. These measures are not incidental additions to the Project; they are integral components of the overall proposal and provide enduring environmental and community benefits that would not otherwise be delivered at this scale.

850 Under the FTAA, the Panel must determine whether each approval sought should be granted, and on what conditions, or declined on the basis of the evidence. The statutory framework is deliberately evaluative. It requires the Panel to consider the Project's remaining adverse impacts after enforceable conditions and effects-management measures have been taken into account, and to assess whether those impacts are sufficiently significant to be out of proportion to the Project's regional or national benefits. Approval cannot be granted where a threshold prohibition applies, including where an activity is ineligible or inconsistent with obligations arising from Treaty settlements or recognised customary rights; however, where those thresholds are satisfied, the Act directs attention to the overall proportionality of the Project's managed effects and its benefits.

860 In the context of the BPCP, that evaluative exercise supports the granting of the approvals
sought. The Project will sustain a nationally significant source of high-quality metallurgical
coal, maintain substantial regional and district employment (and support communities),
support export earnings and strategic trade relationships, preserve key logistics
infrastructure, and enable the continued active management of legacy environmental
865 liabilities at Stockton. These benefits are substantial, long-term and place-specific. They
cannot be replicated by a smaller or materially different proposal because the value of the
BPCP depends on its integrated operational model, its use of existing Stockton
infrastructure, and the concurrent development of multiple Sub-Areas needed to meet coal-
quality specifications.

870 The relevant question is therefore not whether all adverse effects can be eliminated, nor
whether the Project should be reduced to a narrow accounting exercise of quantified costs
and benefits. The proper inquiry is whether, having regard to all of the evidence, the
remaining effects of the BPCP are proportionate to, and justified by, the significant regional
and national benefits it will deliver. For the reasons set out in this application, Bathurst
875 considers that they are. The Project has been designed responsibly, its effects are capable
of being managed through conditions and management plans, and the REP provides
meaningful additional environmental and community outcomes. On that basis, the BPCP
meets the purpose of the FTAA.

The regional and national benefits of the BPCP are outlined above. In parallel, Bathurst
880 recognises that the Project gives rise to a range of potential environmental and social effects
that must be robustly addressed.

Table 1-4 provides a consolidated summary of the key issues identified through the
technical assessments, together with the primary management measures proposed to
address them.

885 **Table 1-4: Summary of Key Issues and Primary Management Measures to Address
them**

Key Issue	Management
Water management (clean water vs mine-impacted water (“MIW”))	Proposes a comprehensive water management system that prioritises strict separation of clean water and MIW, with clean water diverted where practicable and MIW captured in a controlled network for treatment (via active and/or passive systems) prior to discharge.

Key Issue	Management
Acid mine drainage (AMD) risk— prevention, treatment, and legacy	AMD will be managed primarily through source control, including selective handling of potentially acid-forming material and its placement in engineered landforms. Active treatment will be applied during operations, transitioning to passive systems post-closure where appropriate. Legacy AMD at Stockton will be managed to prevent deterioration and enable ongoing improvement in the long term.
Engineered Land Forms (ELFs) performance & long-term stability	Engineered Land Forms will be designed and constructed to minimise sulphide oxidation and associated AMD risks. Progressive construction and conservative capping will be applied, with seepage and water-quality monitoring to inform adaptive management, if required.
Erosion and sediment (high rainfall, steep terrain)	Erosion and sediment will be managed through construction-stage controls and permanent treatment systems designed for high rainfall conditions.
Aquatic ecosystems (habitat, contaminants, stream works)	An integrated hydrology, water quality, and ecology framework will guide design and management. Construction of stream diversions and culverts will minimise habitat disruption and maintain stability and replacement of stream extent. Monitoring will inform adaptive management to meet project-specific environmental standards.
Terrestrial, wetland & freshwater ecology (on-site mitigation and rehabilitation)	Uses a coordinated set of ecological management plans (species/habitat specific) to manage clearance protocols, staging, salvage/relocation where relevant, and rehabilitation controls; acknowledges that robust mitigation reduces effects but does not eliminate all residual effects.
Residual ecological effects	Where residual ecological effects remain after the effects hierarchy is applied, they are addressed through the REP that delivers landscape-scale biodiversity enhancement, including pest-exclusion fences, intensive/extensive predator control, weed management, wetland and stream reinstatement, and long-term outcome monitoring with adaptive management.

Key Issue	Management
Pests and weeds (biodiversity outcomes and reinvasion pressure)	Predator and weed management will be implemented at multiple scales, including fenced sanctuaries, intensive control areas, and broader landscape management. Programmes will include measurable targets to protect sensitive habitats and support rehabilitation.
Rehabilitation and closure (landform, ecosystems, post-closure water)	Rehabilitation will be integrated from the outset through mine planning and sequencing aligned with closure objectives. Vegetation Direct Transfer (“ VDT ”) and soil direct transfer will be prioritised where practicable. Progressive rehabilitation and post-closure monitoring will be undertaken, with passive treatment systems applied where required.
Amenity effects (noise, vibration, lighting, dust/air)	Operational limits and controls will be applied to manage noise, vibration, lighting, and air quality. These will be supported by monitoring, responsive management, and ongoing refinement.
Traffic and transport	Traffic management measures will minimise impacts on public roads and users, supported by a Traffic Management Plan with monitoring and adaptive improvements.
Historic heritage & archaeology	Heritage effects will be managed through avoidance where practicable, alongside recording, investigation, and interpretation. Long-term benefits will be supported through enhancement initiatives, including a Historic Heritage Enhancement Fund and stakeholder collaboration.
Recreation and public access	Temporary disruption to recreation will be managed through staged access, clear communication, and progressive rehabilitation. A Recreation User Group will coordinate access and identify opportunities for post-mining improvements through funding provided by Bathurst.
Social	Ongoing engagement, transparency, and responsiveness will support community continuity over time. Closure planning will be managed appropriately to support positive long-term outcomes.

Key Issue	Management
Financial assurance (bonds) & regulator assurance	Rehabilitation bonds will ensure funds are available to complete closure if required. Bonding arrangements will be coordinated across approvals to avoid duplication and reviewed periodically to ensure they remain appropriate. A trust is also being proposed that will enable funds to be gathered to ensure compensation obligations, such as the fenced areas, endure post mining cessation.