Independent Peer Review of Geotechnical Reports for the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project

Andrew James Smith
1 July 2026

PATTLE DELAMORE PARTNERS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. I have reviewed several geotechnical reports and summaries for the Buller Plateaux Continuation Project. I have no substantial areas of concern about the facts, assumptions and methodologies used in these geotechnical documents or the results in terms of land stability.

INTRODUCTION

2. My full name is Andrew James Smith. I am an Engineering Geologist and Technical Director in the Geotechnics Team at Pattle Delamore Partners.

3. This independent geotechnical review covers the reports and summaries for the Upper Waimangaroa Haul Road, the Escarpment Extension mining and other Stockton Mine developments.

Qualifications and experience

4. I have the following qualifications and experience relevant to this assessment:

    (a) BSc Exploration Geology, University of Wales, Cardiff

    (b) MSc Geoenvironmental Engineering, University of Wales, Cardiff

    (c) I am a Professional Engineering Geologist and Chartered Member of Engineering New Zealand

    (d) I am a Chartered Professional (Geotechnical) with Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy (AusIMM)

    (e) I am a Chartered Geologist with the Geological Society of London

    (f) Since September 2019 I have been employed at Pattle Delamore Partners in Christchurch. Prior to that:

        (i) Davis Ogilive & Partners, Nelson as a Principal Engineering Geologist between 2015 and 2019

        (ii) Golder Associates (NZ) Limited as a Senior Engineering Geologist between 2010 and 2015

        (iii) Parsons Brinkerhoff Ltd (UK) as a Senior Engineering Geologist employment between 2008 and 2010

(iv) White Young Green Ltd (UK) as a Senior Geo-environmental Engineer between 2004 and 2006

(v) Fugro Alluvial Mining Ltd (UK) as an Engineering Geologist between 1998 and 2003

5. I have over 25 years' experience in Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Engineering with most of that time being involved with developing geotechnical models and slope stability assessments within the mining / quarrying, civil construction and solid waste industry in New Zealand and the UK. I have been involved in open cast highwall and engineered landform designs for many coal mines around New Zealand including the following:

5.1 Cascade Coal Mine (Buller)

a) Mangatangi (Waikato)

b) Maramarua (Waikato)

c) Coaldale Mine (Southland)

d) Southern Lignite's (Southland)

Code of conduct

6. I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court Practice Note 2023. This assessment has been prepared in compliance with that Code, as if it were evidence being given in Environment Court proceedings. In particular, unless I state otherwise, this assessment is within my area of expertise and I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions I express.

Purpose and scope of review

7. The purpose of this assessment is to provide an independent review of and comment on:

(a) The geotechnical assessment report for the Escarpment Extension Geotechnical Assessment Pre-Feasibility Study dated 3 July 2025 Version 1.1 completed by Bathurst Resources Limited.

(b) Executive Summary completed by Bathurst Resources Limited to the Escarpment Extension Geotechnical Assessment Report dated 2026.

(c) BT Stockton Mine Executive Summary – Geotechnical completed by Bathurst Resources Limited, dated 2026.

(d) The geotechnical assessment summary report for the proposed Upper Waimangaroa Haul Road dated February 2026 completed by Bathurst Resources Limited.

(e) The Void Assessment report for the proposed Upper Waimangaroa Haul Road & Mount Frederick South Access Roads, Version 1.2 by Bathurst Resources dated April 2026.

Assumptions and exclusions in this assessment

8. My assessment is based on the information provided by Bathurst Resources Limited and Mitchell Daysh.

THE BULLER PLATEAUX CONTINUATION PROJECT

9. The full description for the Project is provided within the AEE. I do not repeat it in my assessment.

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

10. My approach has been to review the primary reports given under Item 6 and include any additional geological and geotechnical information provided to me to develop an understanding of the likely environmental effects of the Project (construction, operation and closure), consider whether the extent and nature of the effects have been correctly and fully assessed, documented and addressed, and determine whether the proposed management appropriately addresses the impacts of the construction, operation and closure of the project.

11. I have visited and undertaken geological and geotechnical assessments on the Plateau for over 15 years.

12. My reviews included the reports and supporting documentation used to undertake the geotechnical assessment. I provided high level geotechnical commentary and direction / feedback which was incorporated into the next

iteration of the reporting and then I reviewed the final version. Only minor matters were noted during the review process.

METHODOLOGY USED IN THE VOID ASSESSMENT UPPER WAIMANGAROA HAUL ROAD & MOUNT FREDERICK SOUTH ACCESS ROADS

13. The report includes a void migration assessment based on observations from historical underground workings at Stockton in conjunction with published methods which is considered appropriate.

14. I agree with the proposed control measures to mitigate any identified void hazards.

METHODOLOGY USED IN THE SLOPE STABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR THE ESCARPMENT EXTENSION

15. The parameters used in the slope stability assessment draws on an existing extensive geological and geotechnical database including drill hole data, laboratory testing and geophysical logging combined with geological mapping of existing pit wall exposures.

16. Slope design parameters used have been developed by Bathurst Resources Limited for the local ground conditions considering the slope performance of existing local ground cuts.

COMMENT ON THE METHODOLOGY USED TO ASSESS GEOTECHNICAL RISKS

17. I have no substantial areas of concerns about the assumptions and methodologies used in these geotechnical documents or the results in terms of geotechnical risks.

COMMENT ON GEOTECHNICAL EFFECTS AND EFFECTS MANAGEMENT MEASURES

18. The potential geotechnical risks of the Project in the terms of construction, operation and closure are contained in the Applicant's geotechnical reports. The potential geotechnical risks and associated effects have been defined and highlighted for further investigation and design. These geotechnical risks and associated effects and are well understood across the Buller Plateaux with management measures already in place across active mining areas.

SUMMARY

19. I have reviewed the geotechnical reports, evaluated the methodology used to assess land stability and likely effects, and have no significant concerns about the facts presented, methodology, analysis and conclusions.

Andrew James Smith

1 July 2026