

Your comment on the Barrytown Minerals Project

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz.

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)	Langridge Family		
First name	Robyn		
Last name	Langridge		
Postal address	[REDACTED]		
Home phone / Mobile phone	[REDACTED]	Work phone	
Email (a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you)	[REDACTED]		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
Yes	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	☐	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

Please provide your comments below, include additional pages as needed.

To the Fast Track Panel

Thank you for the opportunity to write as part of this process.

We have a small sheep and beef family farm, which is split with land both immediately south and north of Canoe Creek. Our other block is 1km to the north of Canoe Creek. Our farmland is directly adjacent to the mining company's proposed Southern, and Northern Blocks. All of our farmland would have mining bordering it, should the proposals go ahead. We appreciate living here for its peaceful location, good community, abundant nature and the opportunity to engage with a beautiful environment.

1) Radioactivity management and what would be returned to the land.

a) We are concerned as to where any left over components after proposed processing at Rapahoe at the MSP would go. Our Councils approved the Rapahoe plans to construct the Mineral Separation Plant for construction fairly quietly, even though this is a new kind of mining for here involving the processing, collation, transport and land disposal/redistribution of radioactive components. Its a complex type of mining that our Councils (who we rely on for oversight of this project) would likely have very little staff expertise in.

b) In Appendix point 19; there is a mention of a slurry coming back from the Mineral Separation plant at Rapahoe to be deposited in the Northern Resource Block, which is alongside our farm, as part of the rehabilitation process. (Appendix, page 19, Para 5, bullet point 3). We are wondering how the slurry will be monitored for radioactive components and radioactivity and when.

c) We hope the panel looks really closely and under advice, as to where the radioactive minerals Monazite, Thorite, Uranothorite, Zircon and others – with Thorium and Uranium contents would go during and after processing- including during transport and storage stages, for the future proofing of the health of Barrytown people and its environs, as well as for Rapahoe/Runanga Residents.

We would hope there would be good provision for monitoring in place for radioactivity both at the time, and in future.

d) The release of Radon gas during the process of mining is also a silent unknown risk we have on the Barrytown Flats, we are now aware of. It seems in New Zealand, we are very much infant in our data collection and monitoring of radon and its affects on public health. So

the long term health effects of any increase in this, from the mining, we would like some assurance on, and any monitoring that will be done to safeguard us at our property.

2) Impacts on our farm over the fence, dust and noise.

The fact that we farm over the fence from the proposed Southern Mining Block at Canoe Creek, may have been overlooked. We did not get notice we were able to comment, but rather got told by a local resident we were on the list.

While we appreciate a dredge would be electric, we are unsure how impacts from machinery/ industrial noise and dust from mining would be managed to the immediate south of us in association with activities. Would this be managed for grazing to be viable and so as not to cause any reverse sensitivity issues for our land use.

3) Potential Disruption to Birds.

We have concerns around bird scarers being named for use, in the Avian Plan. Especially for the large flocks of birds that we have watched needing to rest/feed here over the years on the flats. We see a 50+ flock of Black-backed gulls regularly come and go on farmland around here, around 130 Red-billed gulls, a large group of White-Fronted terns congregate frequently at Canoe Creek mouth. Currently theres a flock of 41 Variable Oystercatchers (black), currently in our high paddocks these past few weeks, that are resting and feeding.

Large scale industrial noise and bird scarers will likely affect these flocks in unknown ways. If industrial activity on the land and its associated noise makes it difficult for them and they become displaced, as the Barrytown flats is a geographically isolated sand plain surrounded by steep mountains, the closest flat land for birds to utilise are over long distances beyond the mountains or a long way down the coast.

4) Hydrological impacts/water quality.

We have learned from hydrologists in recent years how water runs deep, off and from the Paparoa mountains and resurfaces – providing a natural series of springs and wetlands on our property, and at places along the Barrytown flats. We have learned how biodiverse these can be and they naturally hold, direct and filter water in complex ways.

Cutting up the deeper layers of any still naturally layered wetlands on the flats, means they will not hold, drain or direct the water in the same way again. The unknown of that is, the literal ‘flow-on’ effects of this disturbance into the future.

We hope the panel to really consider carefully the impacts on the preexisting waterways, springs and wetlands this proposal would have.

6) Traffic.

While the argument of “The roads are there for everyone” is often heard in development proposals, the Coast Road is not a good option for industrial scale activity or a place for mining traffic for numerous reasons.

a) The HMC laden trucks for this proposal would exacerbate existing dangers, and be heavy, slow, and at times frequent.

Following impatient drivers who do not know the safe passing places, and seeing them take risks- in order to pass, is something residents and regular Coast Road users know very well. Frequent, large, slow vehicles would also exacerbate risks especially On the Ten Mile hair-pin bend, at a tight bend at Motukiekie, and on top of the 17 Mile bluff.

Locals commute The Coast Road often- sometimes for work in Greymouth, and our kids on the school buses go to and from schools in Barrytown and Greymouth. We want them to be as safe as possible.

Our Road, due to our relative isolation, forms a big character aspect of living here.

We also want to continue to *enjoy* this road. If you don't like travelling the Coast Road, you simply would not want to live here!

b) The character and driving experience of the Coast Road, forms a major part of the wider Punakaiki/Coast Road Visitor Experience. Mining trucks would do no favours to our ‘Top 10 Coastal Drive’ in the world status (as voted by Lonely Planet).

Tourism has fed many Coast Road residents here for a long time thanks to Punakaiki being a known ‘icon’ visitor site on many international and domestic visitor itineraries. It supports many people economically from front counter staff, accommodation providers to cleaners, builders, food and accommodation service providers, even those in property management and development. It also gives many of our young people here their first employment at places like the local visitor centre, restaurants, pubs etc.

Local tourism survived well the pandemic and its closed borders, with domestic travellers supporting us still with activity bookings and bed nights.

Turning our iconic scenic drive into a mining route, would be a big risk and would prioritise Mining as an industry over our established Visitor Industry. Shorter term financial gains by extra mining jobs, need to be weighed against the longer term gains of an already long-enduring and contributing visitor sector- the reputation of which, has been worked hard upon by all those in the industry over the years.

In short, we have a lot of repeat kiwi and international visitors who visit thanks to a good reputation as a visitor destination. We need people to keep enjoying the Coast Road drive; and wanting to come here.

8) Genuine Consideration of those who would have to 'Live' it.

We hope as the panel, you are able to get to know who owns what land title where, so you know who would be most affected by this mining proposal. People are busy, and have full lives, so if you have not heard from a person adjacent or near to this proposed mining area, undoubtedly that does not necessarily mean they do not care. While 'experts' are hired to add their professional opinion in their own field, by mainly the applicant, the real impacts on the people of Barrytown/The Coast Road and how it is actually living here long-term, both socially and environmentally, are not necessarily reflected.

The ordinary folk who get pulled into writing impacts down, writing hours of submissions, are not 'clipping the ticket' /being paid in any way for their efforts. They also often don't know intimately the system/the RMA, council or this Fast Track processes. Its a huge commitment, and can be a huge stress. The regular rate payers who happen to be living where these proposals appear, have to hit the ground running into a likely very foreign system.

Those who are the scribes of this application, and other major new mining proposals like this, have moved into the private Mining Sector, carrying much knowledge from previous times employed as Council planners/Officers/Compliance Officers, or even in past Council management. A lot of professional content is generated, that will tick the right boxes and say the right things, which those living alongside a proposal (and Commissioners and Planners etc) have to wade through. That does not make the less obvious impacts, that are not mentioned as they do not have the time or money behind them to be featured, any less important.

Thank you to those in the panel who may be really considering the impacts on the Barrytown Flats people who would be affected by this proposed mine.

The Langridge Family.

Thank you for your comments