BATHURST RESOURCES LIMITED

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Environmental Protection Authority
Fast-track Approvals Team

To whom it may concern

SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION – BULLER PLATEAUX CONTINUATION PROJECT – FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024

Buller Plateaux Continuation Project (BPCP) is a listed project included in Schedule 2 of the *Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA).*

The applicants are Bathurst Resources Limited, BT Mining Limited, Buller Coal Limited and Bathurst Coal Limited (together, Bathurst) are pleased to submit this substantive application which is a project of regional and national significance. This application is a resubmission of an application made 24 August 2026.

The BPCP seeks the approvals necessary to continue the existing Stockton mining operation, access replacement coal resources on the Stockton and Denniston Plateaux (together referred to as the "Buller Plateaux"), construct and operate associated infrastructure, and implement the environmental management, rehabilitation, closure and residual effects measures described in this application.

Approvals are being sought under the FTAA are:

- *Resource Management Act 1991*(district consents and regional council permits)
- *Crown Minerals Act 1991* (mining permits and access arrangements)
- *Wildlife Act 1953* (wildlife authority)
- *Conservation Act 1987* (concessions)
- *Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983* (freshwater fisheries approvals and dispensations)
- *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* (archeological authority).

The Project has national strategic significance. Stockton is New Zealand's largest opencast coal mine and a major producer of metallurgical coal, which the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment identifies as a critical mineral. The quantified national economic benefit over the mining phase is estimated at approximately $661 million to $957 million. The Project would sustain exports, support New Zealand's international trade relationships and maintains an important contribution to the national mining sector and export economy. Stockton is one of the largest exporters by value to India.

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The Project also aligns with the purpose of the Act by delivering significant regional benefits, including:

- Sustaining approximately 390 direct jobs in the Buller area and an additional 50 jobs outside of the Buller area
- Salaries and wages contributing approximately $40M to the West Coast (FY25);
- Supporting over 125 businesses across the West Coast with an annual expenditure of around $75M
- Maintaining household incomes and expenditure across the Buller District (96% of the existing workforce live local)
- Continuing to underpin the viability of regional infrastructure and services (i.e. Midland rail line).
- Providing an ongoing approvals framework and on the ground management of legacy acid mine drainage caused by historic Crown mining.

We confirm that:

- All required supporting documentation is included.
- A redacted version suitable for public release is attached.
- Pre-lodgement consultation has been undertaken with relevant agencies and groups.

We look forward to working with the EPA and the appointed expert panel to progress this application.

Yours sincerely

[redacted]

Richard Tacon
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer