

Submission by Katherine Gilbert

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To the Consents Department, West Coast Regional Council Email: info@wcrc.govt.nz

And Grey District Council Email: planning@greydc.govt.nz

And applicant: TiGa Minerals and Metals Resources Email: info@tigamm.co.nz

Submission on the TiGa Minerals and Metals Resource consent application to mine at the Barrytown Flats, State Highway 6 (Coast Road), approximately 9km south of the Punakaiki township and 36km north of Greymouth.

The proposed activity is for the establishment and operation of a mineral sands mine in an area of approximately 63ha over a 12-year period, including construction of associated infrastructure, such as a processing plant and associated facilities over an area of approximately 2.0ha up to 15m in height, and for a minimum average of 50 truck movements per day between the site and Greymouth or Westport.

I wish to be heard in the support of my submission and I would consider being a part of a joint case at any hearing, with others of the same opinions.

I am not a trade competitor for the purpose of the RMA.

I came to the Coast in 1974, (50 years ago), I lived on the Coast Road, working in Greymouth. I came here because of the natural environment. I was a serious tramper and loved getting into the mountains for skiing and climbing, exploring the values of the great outdoors. In 1986 I got the job at Tai Poutini Polytechnic to develop the first successful Outdoor Recreation full-time training programme attracting instructors and students from all over New Zealand. This programme enabled the institution to flourish in a low populated region. We did that by focusing on the best asset the Coast has and the thing that people everywhere associate with the West Coast, the diverse rich natural environment. The place sells itself with very little marketing intervention.

This region can flourish on it's best asset. There is no need for polluting industrial extractive industries as described in the application for this consent, to be established right beside a magnificent coastline and adjoining a significant quiet National Park, and a breeding ground for the rare Taiko.

Queenstown, is the region that is similar in spectacular scenery, pristine waters, forests and all manner of activities for things to do. It has more than a hundred years of experience in developing a tourism industry that protects what is so precious and rare. It sells itself over and over again in memories and on cameras, inspiring others to visit. Education, health and wellbeing programmes along with tourism could be developed here so that natural resources are fully protected for generations and the West Coast becomes the jewel of all regions. Our leaders need to be visionary

When I retired from education, I built a unique place, Paramata Lodge south of Ross in Westland at a location beside an ecological area where I had a guiding concession and run a small luxury lodge with

accommodation, meals and guided tours, mainly for international visitors. Because my knowledge of the origins of the indigenous environment is vast, I engage guests so that they go away with unforgettable memories, loaded with praise for our efforts protecting nature. In comparison there are local leaders intent on resurrecting an old rape and pillage approach to the land, will destroy the very natural values that we need to enable our communities to thrive. Their view is short term and self-serving.

- I oppose this application in its entirety.

The RMA is concerned with managing and protecting the environment. I don't believe that the TiGa application takes the environment and the impact upon people (locals and visitors) into consideration in any reasonable way. The environment and human's ability to live and enjoy this region is gradually being lost forever, and must be at the very heart of this application. The broader long term perspective must be the main approach taken by decisionmakers, to protect the environment for future generations. This proposal is simply a really dumb idea, that is obviously the beginning of a much bigger plan that will allow more destruction to the West Coast's greatest asset, incredible scenery, the landscape, in particular the Coastline, the mountain to the sea perspectives. The West Coast slogan "untamed natural beauty" is increasingly becoming a lie!

- I oppose the application due to adverse effects on amenity values and on community wellbeing.

This proposal affects me and my business, because my guests travel across the globe to visit this region. The natural features they drive through become an important part of the story about this land. Those who drive to my lodge through Punakaikial have a unique experience of significant value, very different to the ancient Kahikatea forest around my place. My interpretive tours highlight these difference and the reason for them.

It is shocking that mining, logging and intensive dairying continues to be supported by Council leaders causing extensive damage to tourism. At Barrytown Flats it's disappointing that farmland has been created as the precursor to mining making the process seem easier. Plus the idea of building a soil and vegetation stop-bank to prevent the unsightly mess of the operation being seen is simply hiding the inappropriate industrial site that it is. The blot on the landscape is going to be huge. Driving beside an unnatural mound with a slow growing planted barrier, cuts out any view to the horizon, to the surrounding view across the lowland so the broad perspective of mountains to the sea, is lost. This will cause visitors to drive right through and not stop, not explore the beach, not feel as if they are in a natural untamed wilderness.

Lastly on this, people are a part of the land and the Coast Road has an interesting history and blend a lifestylers who live there because of the natural features of the place. This mine will destroy it for the people who have made the place their homes, the people who bring variety and interest to the region.

- I oppose the application due to adverse effects on indigenous flora and fauna and their habitats.

The proposed mining activities will likely cause disturbance through noise, lighting, dust, vibration, truck movements, waterway sedimentation loading, excavation, and alteration of the hydrology, and will therefore have adverse effects on indigenous flora and fauna and their habitats.

The mining proposal would come at the cost of delaying an opportunity to restore the coastal lowlands to achieve climate, biodiversity, and freshwater goals. This is what I would recommend as being the most appropriate thing for this land now. Follow the example of Conservation Volunteers NZ who have restored lowlands of the Barrytown Flats. This should link the two areas with indigenous flora and fauna restoring the Barrytown Flats wetlands and enhancing the whole area. I recommend creating more options for driving and parking at the beach. Sand dune restoration also needs to occur so that shelter trees and dunes help counter sea level rise and the consequential erosion.

Regarding water ways and leaching of metals and mineral waste there is a critical lack of information to demonstrate that the proposed mining will not result in leaching of heavy metals from the disturbed subsoils, mineral sands and mine waste backfill. Leaching could result in heavy metal contamination of the coastal lagoons, wetlands, and freshwater springs, impacting up flora and fauna.

- I oppose the application due to adverse effects both on and of climate change

The proposal is emission intensive, from diesel fueled trucking and open cast mining. Taking responsibility for addressing the issues of climate change is critical now days and TiGa is being irresponsible for not addressing this issue.

Carbon emissions from the proposal will generate more than minor effects during a government declared climate crisis, contributing to the myriad of adverse effects from global warming. The site itself and the surrounding area are likely to flood excessively, erode unnecessarily and become inundated by surges due to the mining methods proposed. To consider an unsightly pit in this lovely area is totally unreasonable.

We can't afford to waste any more time, we must deal with the causes of climate change not ignore them. This application should be declined for climate change reasons.

- I oppose the application due to adverse effects on the Tāiko / Westland petrel.

There is the potential for unacceptable cumulative effects on the Tāiko population. These birds are rare and special to the history of the area. They have a low reproduction rate which makes them particularly vulnerable to any adverse effects from human activity.

- I oppose the application due to adverse effects of heavy trucking on the State Highway, on its users, on community wellbeing and on the environment.

This trucking requirements and impact on our roads to transport sand at the rate proposed is most unreasonable. This road is fragile, vulnerable, high maintenance and dangerous to all travelers before the trucks are introduced. Slips and road closures are much more common here than is normal.

The road is narrow in places, windy and steep. There are tight bends, blind corners and northern hemisphere tourists who are unused to driving on the left don't also expect to find large trucks on a highly marketed tourist route. It's a ridiculous idea.

Residential driveways approved as satisfactory are often narrow entrances and exits and will now become more dangerous to the locals and tourists alike. There are school bus routes, cyclists and pedestrians walking along the road. In particular cyclists are going to increase in numbers and travelers

reduce their desire to use fossil fuels and move to electric bikes. Trucks, cyclists and poor roads don't go together at all well. The anticipated number of trucks is disasterous.

- Lastly I oppose the application in particular due to adverse social and environmental costs outweighing any short-term economic wellbeing benefits.

Adverse effects of the proposal on the Coast Road community and local environment far outweigh any possible benefit such as job creation. The local community who oppose the mine MUST be listened to. Their wellbeing should not be compromised in the pursuit of uncertain economic benefits. The hype around TiGa generating millions of dollars is probably fantasy.

The proposal is unreasonable and based on an unsustainable model and causes the crisis of climate, biodiversity, health, and wellbeing failure. This type of mining will not benefit society, or the region, will not improve health and wellbeing for those who need it. It will certainly not benefit the environment. It is designed to benefit the overseas investors at the West Coast's expense. There is plenty of evidence that mining communities never prosper. Don't let this company do this to our communities because a much greater area covering the entire West Coast region will most likely become affected. This resource consent it most likely to set a precedent for many more areas of our coastline. We have seen this approach many times before. The West Coast doesn't need this mine.

The applicant makes out that the West Coast region is a low socio economic region economically poor with high unemployment. There have been periods when this has certainly been the case in the past but it is completely incorrect for today. The West Coast has one of NZ's fastest growing economies, and the equal lowest unemployment rate. TiGa claims that this proposal is the answer to employment and economic woes, yet such woes doesn't exist. The proposal is yet another venture that privatises the profits and does nothing to address the issues of social welfare and mental health. This proposal sounds like a quick fix for our Mayors to be reelected but for our communities it is no more than a disaster, they'll walk away from.

This mining proposal would mean delaying the opportunity for an alternative, sustainable and low emission mixed land use model for the Barrytown Flats, including tourism, to advance the nature economy and in doing so to support and enhance Te Tai Poutini's greatest asset.

I wholeheartedly support the submission of John Caygill for providing technical knowledge.

Kathy Gilbert

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