

Online submission

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Submitter is contact	Yes
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Wish to be heard	No
Joint presentation	Yes
Trade competition	I could not gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.
Directly affected	N/A
Withhold contact details?	No

Submission points

Plan section	Provision	Support/oppose	Reasons	Decision sought
[General]	[General]	Amend	<p>Te Tai o Poutini Plan</p> <p>I congratulate the WCRC staff and planners for the detail, depth and scope of the TTPP document. We are in a time that requires us to protect not exploit. This is a time to grapple with the possible balancing concept of degrowth, with our eyes firmly on sustainable practices, the time to take very seriously how our actions will leave this place for future generations, to all take on board Kaitiakitanga.</p> <p>I oppose the zoning of Barrytown Flats as a Mineral Extraction Zone.</p> <p>The tiny sandplain that is the Barrytown flats is a not suitable for large scale or multiple open cast mining extraction. In the past Australian mining companies have prospected on the Barrytown flats and left without mining, to seek larger more suitable/profitable areas. Gladly the last company to leave, Rio Tinto, contributed to the restoration of cleared pasture back to native forest on the northern boundary to Te Nikau reserve. With Maher swamp 1 km south of Te Nikau reserve these are significant wetland environments that are now rare in Aotearoa and in critical need of protection.</p> <p>It is heartening to see TTPP has this area listed as Punakaiki/Barrytown Flats Ecological District in Schedule 4 Significant Natural Areas (PUN -W033-W034, PUN -123, PUN-124, PUN-044.) Also included PUN-049 'Lowland kahikatea forest provides connecting stepping stone between the coast and forested ranges.'</p> <p>The proposed mineral extraction zone outlined in the TTPP plan eases the way for premature and not comprehensively assessed proposals for mining to be granted without consultation by way of public notification, even for those 'directly affected.'</p> <p>To quote the commissioners' summary of the recent application of Barrytown Joint Venture (BJV) proposal to open cast mine mineral sands at Barrytown:</p> <p>'The applicant has provided inadequate information on the actual and potential adverse ecological, hydrological and water quality effects associated with the proposed activities. There was clearly a lack of recognition of the potential effects of the proposed activities on the aquifer, surrounding natural wetlands and springs in the application.'</p> <p>Cynically, BJV now renamed TIGA Minerals, swagger with the endorsement of many elected members of the WCRC and GDC. Alarmingly, examples of leadership even in Aotearoa, can reflect the behaviour and ideologies of those of global notoriety, shamelessly ignoring community voice and aspirations.</p> <p>I have no confidence that wetland and significant indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat will be protected from the reaches this industry and contest the dismissal of adverse effects on residents.</p> <p>MIN 06b 'Allow adverse effects to be addressed by alternative mitigation measures such as biodiversity off setting and environmental compensation' implies that companies can negotiate for expedient measures to compensate for environmental damage when preventative practice should have been first and foremost.</p> <p>MIN 06 a, states; To avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of mineral extraction activities on the West Coast/ Te Tai Poutini.....vi) The well-being of people and communities;</p> <p>'The well-being of people and communities', (listed as the 6th point), certainly need a voice in regard to the zoning of their locality and the past omission of public notification for mining consent application.</p> <p>I support the Barrytown Flats as a General Rural Zone and Rural Lifestyle Zone.</p> <p>Mineral extraction on the Barrytown flats should be a Restricted Discretionary or Discretionary activity (GRUZ-R25) comprised of Rural Lifestyle and General Rural Zones. This then allows community consultation and better understanding of the consenting process towards mineral extraction activities.</p>	Amend zoning of Barrytown flats from Mineral extraction to General Rural and Rural Lifestyle Zone

Barrytown is an attractive place to live. I had an idyllic childhood there. People live on the Barrytown flats because it provides a temperate climate, open space and peace to garden and be part of the wondrous natural world. Residents commute to Greymouth, work on line or have small businesses, some of which are related to tourism. Small farms from the 1960's are now amalgamated into large dairy units or have been subdivided for life style blocks. The population of the Barrytown flats would greatly increase if there were more residential sites available. Post covid the West Coast, is currently experiencing a health staffing crisis, and launched last month a recruitment drive called 'Cut out for the Coast'. Also advertising how a place like Barrytown could be 'Sutured for the health professional', may also have yielded long term recruits. And more ratepayers.

Min 04 'To ensure that new subdivision, use and development does not compromise existing mineral extraction activities including through reverse sensitivity to effects such as, noise and traffic congestion.'

The above implies that aspirations for more population, residents and businesses on the Barrytown flats would compromise mineral extraction in a MINZ and therefore new subdivision use and development would be restricted.

The proposed mining does not yet have consent so is not yet 'existing'. However existing long-term landholders of five generations, who do not want to have their land mined will be potentially adversely affected by dust, noise and heavy traffic, potential contamination and the prospect of 10-metre-high buildings as close as 10 metres from their boundary. They may well have the added conundrum of not being able to subdivide or sell their land for other use or development. The only likely buyers would be mining companies.

Other use and developments should be explored that are not intrusive or threatening to te whenua or the community. Barrytown flats is a tiny area, already populated and should be allowed to increase in human numbers and peaceful activities: but there is room for small, well behaved artisanal mining operations. Accommodation for employees is needed nearby for Punakaiki Tourism.

The post covid return of tourism to the Barrytown/Punakaiki area and the possible addition to the Paparoa National Park of neighbouring stewardship land allows for the success of additional eco-tourism operations. The new visitor centre at Punakaiki owned and operated by Ngati Waewae will also attract visitors and increase the volume of traffic on State Highway 6, the Great Coast Road.

The many well-established tourism businesses are likely to be adversely affected by the proposed mineral extraction zone on the Barrytown flats particularly by the volume of large transportation trucks.

Begun as a path for gold miners to access Barrytown gold sands, now known as the Great Coast Road, the 100 kms between Greymouth and Westport is one of the best drives in the world. It is indeed one of our cultural and historic treasures, carved by generations of West coast contractors with their bulldozers, dynamite, trucks and tar seal.

Loved by tourists and coast families, the road's twisting length provides access to a diverse range of beaches and places to explore. An endless list of beautiful places to picnic, fish, gather kai moana, swim, gold pan, surf, fossick, walk, jog, bike, climb or rest. The Great Coast R oad is a narrow strip of human activity; industry and recreation, place of sublime delight and revere. It is an iconic stretch of roading that we need to respect not only for the history of its making, and the time and engineering of its makers but also for the wealth of enhancement it gives to our lives. Human safety and recreational enjoyment of this special and fragile coastal ledge will be greatly compromised by large articulated truck and trailer units carrying mega tonnes of Barrytown heavy mineral concentrate (HMC) to a port in either direction, Westport or Greymouth. We risk ruining this part of our cultural heritage and, in fact our life line, by the proposed transportation of heavy mineral sands along this road.

The milk tankers that travel from Hokitika to Karamea and return twice daily during the dairy season are tolerable because we know when to expect them. I respect the caution and care the tanker drivers take. The trucks are slim and when empty, certainly lighter than the proposed HMC haulage. Thankfully the two occasions in which milk tankers have overturned within 500 metres of my home did not cause injury.

Documents included with submission

None