

## Edith Bretherton

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**From:** Paul Thomas <paulthomasreefton@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, 30 September 2022 08:00  
**To:** TTPP Info; Jo Armstrong  
**Cc:** Paul Thomas; Paul Thomas; A HART; kiwi\_gunner@msn.com  
**Subject:** A submission to the draft TTPP Plan from the Runanga Miners' Hall Trust -to add a new historic area in the plan to be known as 'The Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoa's  
**Attachments:** TTPP Submission - JH+RD October 2022 - Supported by the RMHT.docx

This email is from an external sender. Please be careful with any links or attachments.

To: Jo Armstrong and the TTPP Planning team

Please find a submission attached written by Jo Hart and Russell Deyell that promotes the establishment of an Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoa's.

This is a request for a notation status to be applied to the *Historic Mining Area of the Southern Paparoa's*. To achieve this, we are requesting that the area be listed as one of the *West Coast Historic Heritage Items and Areas and Archaeological Sites* (aka the HH list), in what has to date been Schedule 1, Part 4 of the Te Tai o Poutini District Plan.

The desire is to add a new Historic Heritage Area to be known as 'The Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoa's - the area defined as the Greymouth Coalfields as defined in map in the attached submission document produced for a GNS Science Report 2010/61, November 2010, page 68.

The attached submission is supported in its entirety by Runanga Miners' Hall Trust.

The Trust owns the Runanga Miners' Hall, Runanga. The Hall is a listed building in the TTPP Plan, HH47. The Hall is a Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Category 1 listed building, a building of National significance. Currently the building is being considered for UNESCO World Heritage Status as part of a serial nomination by Arbejdermuseet 'The Workers Museum', Copenhagen, Denmark, recognising the significant role that Workers Halls played in shaping the social and political environments globally.

The Hall is Circa 1937 and it replaced the first built of Circa 1908, for which the history between is considered to be seamless. It was built by the Miners Union that was established to represent miners' that significantly worked in the Greymouth Coalfields as well as other areas. The Union wanted to achieve social, work place, and political change. The Union advocates of the time, with their socialist leanings worked with other socialist groups across New Zealand to establish the formation of the Labour Party and some of those advocates became ministers, like Bob Semple in the first Labour Government of 1935, the transformational Labour Government led by Prime Minister Michael Joseph Savage.

The Greymouth Coalfields as defined in the attached submission, are not only important for their geological attributes, the tangible physical remnants, but are important for the social,

workplace and political dimensions that helped shape Aotearoa New Zealand, and in turn had an influence is shaping those dimensions globally.

Regards

Paul Thomas

Chair

Runanga Miners' Hall Trust

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E: [paulthomasreefton@icloud.com](mailto:paulthomasreefton@icloud.com)

Or

E: [paulthomasreefton@hotmail.com](mailto:paulthomasreefton@hotmail.com)

**Submission to Te Tai o Poutini District Plan** – ten-year plan (“the TTPP”).

(Formal submissions will be accepted until midday on 30 September 2022)

Council Activity Area: **Community & Recreation – Heritage**

Subject: **The Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoas.**

(We have prepared this submission based on the earlier TTPP exposure draft.)

**Aim:** The Southern Paparoa mining area is a mountainous block of land that contains the vestiges of a complete historic mining economy – the mines (State, co-operative, and privately owned), the communities and the infrastructure including the following: prospecting tracks, towns, railways, tramways, bridges and industrial mining equipment. The sustaining of this inherited character should be taken account of when evaluating substantial developments proposed within the area.

This is a request for a notation status to be applied to the *Historic Mining Area of the Southern Paparoas*. To achieve this, we are requesting that the area be listed as one of the *West Coast Historic Heritage Items and Areas and Archaeological Sites* (aka the HH list), in what has to date been Schedule 1, Part 4 of the Te Tai o Poutini District Plan.

We are requesting something like an extended version of the registrations currently held by the Denniston Historical Area (noted at HH5 in the present version of the District Plan), or HH45 listing the Waiuta Historic Area. Similarly, the Reefton historic area is substantially dealt with via a number of individual listings (HH28-HH41).

We believe the area of note can be listed in the HH List by reference to a geologically defined area: the “Greymouth Coalfield” (see map below). Anchored within the area delineated by the Greymouth Coalfield are some acknowledged historic taonga and monuments – the Brunner Mine site (HH53-57) in the south on the eastern side of the Southern Paparoas, and north to Blackball (HH48-52), and on the western side of the Paparoas, the Rūnanga Miners’ Hall (HH47) up to the Strongman Mine memorial. The towns involved would include Dobson, Stillwater, Blackball, Taylorville, Runanga, Dunollie and Rapahoe - as well as the sites of several old towns such as Rewanui, Wallsend and Brunnerton.

We also note that as a “Coalfield” is defined geologically as an area in which coal measures have been found, it is a scientific delineation that avoids the complications that can arise when defining areas in terms of land tenure.

**The idea is two-fold:**

1. To initiate a survey/study of the natural and built heritage of the area by Heritage NZ, evaluating it as a joined-up, holistic whole – in the way the Ruhr Region in Germany promotes and looks upon itself as an “industrial cultural landscape”, and the “Coal Region” is identified in eastern

Pennsylvania, USA. This exercise would enrich the geological definition of the initial listing we are proposing.

2. To add another evaluation lens to any proposals for large developments that may have substantial impact on the built or natural heritage within this zone.

We understand that a notation on the list of *West Coast Historic Heritage Items and Areas and Archaeological Sites* will not impose any sort of new preservation order over such an extensive area - which includes land variously controlled by the State, iwi and private owners – other than where that status already attaches to sites specifically acknowledged as having national heritage status (e.g., the Brunner site, Rūnanga Miners' Hall, and Blackball sites with Heritage NZ listings).

It is envisaged that this listing will mean that subsequent proposals for substantial new developments in the area should then be required to give some consideration as to how they might affect the "Heritage Dimension" of the *Historic Mining Area of the Southern Paparoas*.

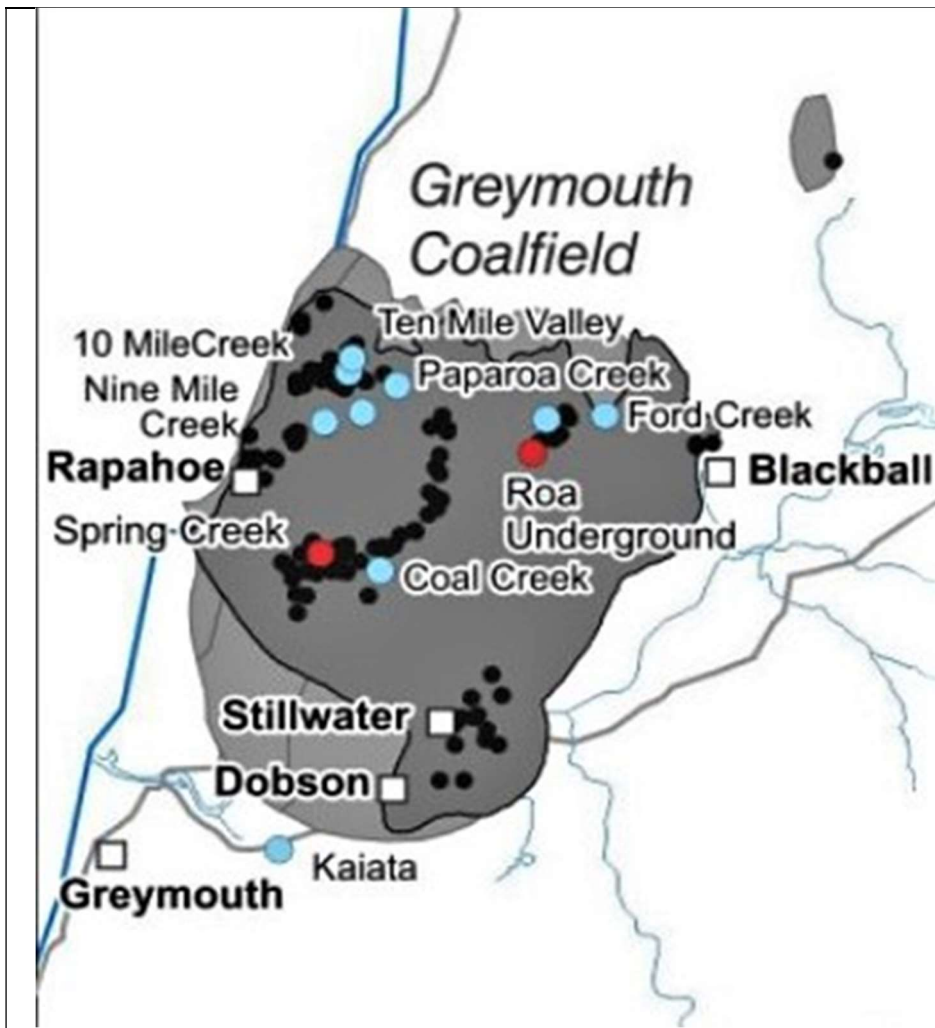
Similarly, future, and existing proposals might be promoted by reference to the "Heritage Dimension" of the new *Historic Mining Area of the Southern Paparoas*; for example, the establishment of a network of 26 or so Southern Paparoa walking/cycling trails based on historic mining infrastructure tracks, rail and tramways which have stood the test of time (as initially proposed c2015).

We see this proposal as a way to promote, protect and market the heritage values of the Southern Paparoas in relation to the industrial, social and economic history of New Zealand. A heritage evaluation (undertaken by Heritage NZ) will be a useful educational overlay - specifically covering the area and infrastructure of the coal-mining activity in the Southern Paparoas since the 1860s.

We note that there will be other initiatives which will sit alongside and enhance the concept of *The Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoas*. For instance, there is clearly some geographic cross-over with some of the considerations around the status of the Paparoa National Park and areas nearby. We see those concerns relating more to the "natural heritage" of those areas, while we are trying to raise the profile of an integrated zone of both "built heritage" and natural environmental features. But the initiatives should compliment each other.

**As residents of the area with a passion to explain the unique nature of the history that has been made in the Southern Paparoas, we commend the concept of the recognition of the *The Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoas* as one of the *West Coast Historic Heritage Items and Areas and Archaeological Sites*, within the Te Tai o Poutini District Plan.**

**Jo Hart and Russell Deyell**, 6 Railway Tce, Runanga



Taken from: **Mineral resource assessment of the West Coast Region, New Zealand**

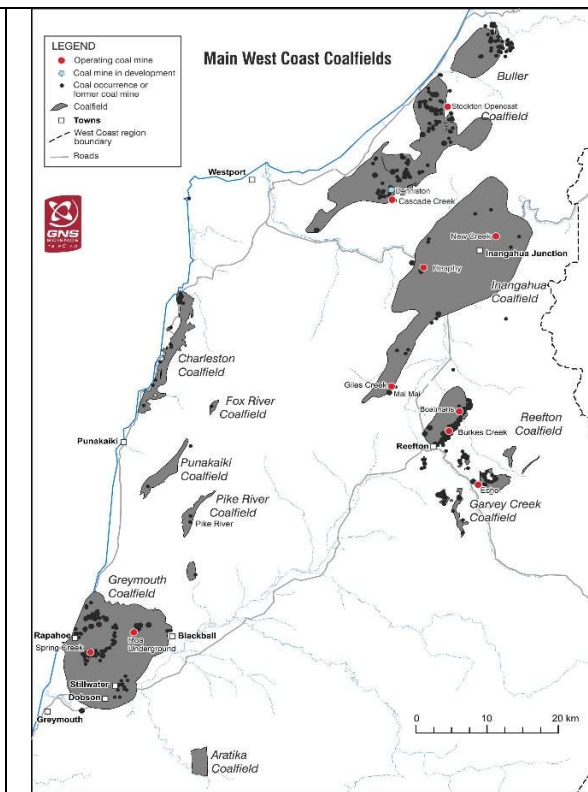
A.B. Christie  
R.G. Barker  
R.L. Brathwaite

**(GNS Science Report 2010/61 November 2010) P68**

**LEGEND**

- Operating coal mine
- Coal mine in development
- Coal occurrence or former coal mine
- Coalfield
- Towns
- West Coast region boundary
- Roads

Nb – the status of some of the mines marked has changed since 2010



Nb – through designating the proposed *Historic Mining area of the Southern Paparoas* by reference to the “Greymouth Coalfield” - which is a defined geological area mapped over many years by the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited (GNS Science, Te Pū Ao) - we are delineating the area for recognition from other historic coal-mining locales on the West Coast (including Pike River) which are separate Coalfields (see map left). Many of these other Coalfields already have local or national historic recognition.

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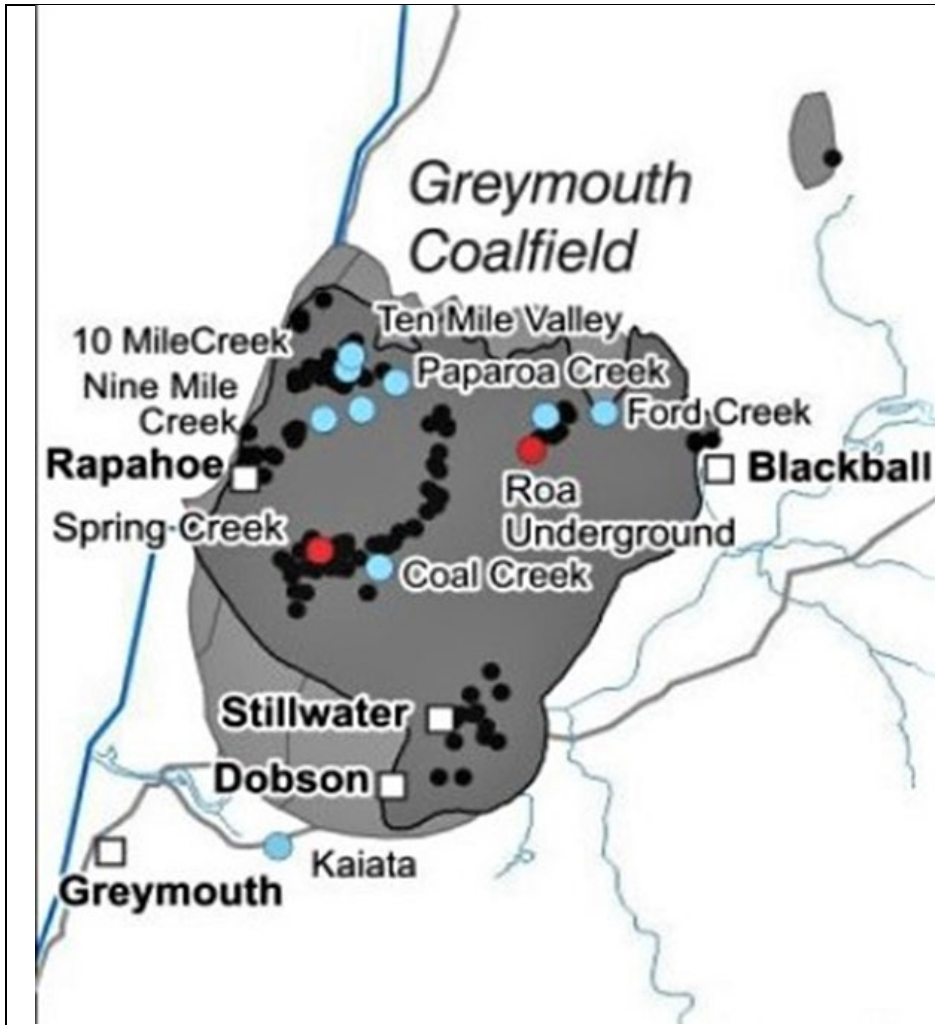
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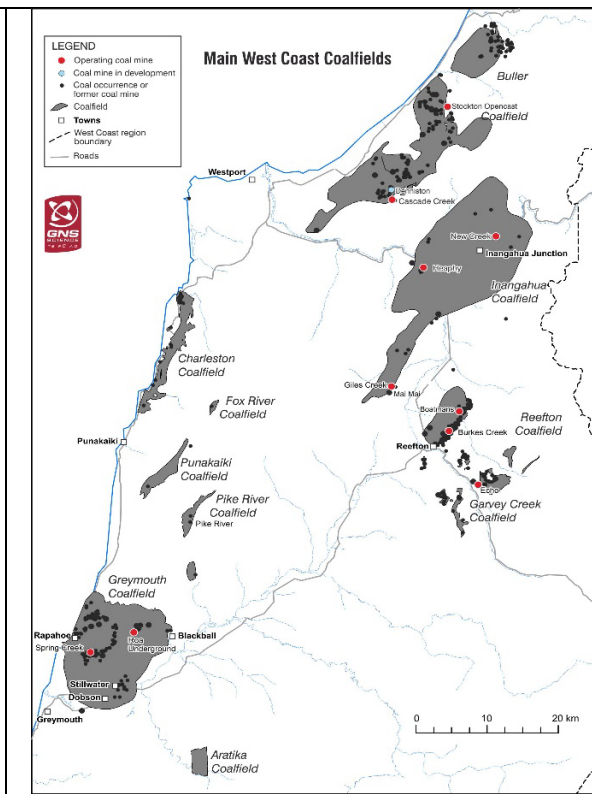
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**From:** Edith Bretherton  
**Sent:** Thursday, 3 November 2022 14:09  
**To:** Paul Thomas  
**Cc:** TTPP Info  
**Subject:** Confirmation of speaking rights

Good Afternoon Paul,

Thank you for your time on the phone.

I confirm receipt of your submission, it has been entered into our online system, and your submitter reference number is 134.

When we get to the hearings stage you are welcome to speak as an individual, or collectively with other submitters that wish to speak, or both. You will be contacted once we are at the stage of organising a hearings schedule to confirm which you would like to do. There isn't a requirement to speak, and your submission will given full consideration either way.

Best regards

**Edith Bretherton**

Senior Planner – Te Tai o Poutini Plan

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