3/31/23, 9:42 AM West Coast - Spoken

Online submission

This is a submission that was made online via the Council's website.

Submitter No. S17

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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

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SCHED1A- SCHEDULE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS AND AREAS SCHED1A - SCHEDULE OF HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEMS AND AREAS

Amend

This is one of the greatest coalfields in the southern hemisphere yet unlike Denniston, has almost no official recognition.

It is the home of one of the country's worst disasters, and its mines fired New Zealand's industrialisation.

There remains mines, flumes, trams, old rail tracks, and viaducts, often in an inhospitable landscape. Around the mines grew communities and even the seeds that grew in the NZ Labour Party. This is a request for a notation status to be applied to the Historic Mining Area of the Southern Paparoas.

I am 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.

I am 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).

I believe the area of note can be listed in the HH List by reference to a geologically defined area: the "Greymouth Coalfield".

This includes 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.

The idea is 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 proposed.

I 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). I 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.

-NOTE This should not limit existing mining at Strongman, Rajah, or Spring Creek.

To create Historic Heritage area, to be known as the Historic

Mining area of the Southern Paparoas

Documents included with submission

None