

Fonterra plans a coal mine here!



Fonterra's subsidiary Glencoal is seeking planning permissions for an open cast coal mine on 30 ha of farmland between SH2 and Mangatawhiri Rd. This is to replace the coal from their existing Kopako III mine on Finlayson Rd which will run out of coal in 2014. It supplies their 3 dairy factories at Waitoa, Te Awamutu and Hautapu. However Fonterra does have other options. (see over)

Production is planned to be 120,000 tonnes/y.

Removal of "overburden" (their name for the soil and all the life it supports) would begin later this year with coal removal starting in 2014. Coal would be trucked to

the crushing and processing plant on the old site, then trucked to the dairy factories. An increase of 28 trucks a day rising to 66 extra trucks at the peak.

Glencoal owns the coal so will pay no royalties to the public and needs no minerals permit. It does, however, need RMA consent and that is where the public has a say.

What you can do

Make a submission opposing consent for the mine. Details on our website.

If you are a milk supplier, write to Fonterra and ask them to stop using coal and change to wood chips which don't damage the climate.

AUCKLAND COAL ACTION

for further information or to offer help go to:

www.aucklandcoalaction.org

COAL COOKS THE CLIMATE

The local effects of coal mining are not pleasant – dust, noise, traffic, potentially water issues with mine dewatering. But even more significant is the role of coal in changing the climate farmers depend on for their livelihoods.

We have seen the effects of climate change beginning with more powerful storms like Sandy, worse floods and droughts. Records are being broken constantly – we’ve just had the driest January for 50 years, the hottest Australian summer on record, the hottest year on record in the US, the most severe Arctic ice melt ever. It’s too late for argument, it’s time to act.

Worldwide, coal is the biggest source of rising carbon dioxide levels which have already reached danger point. If we are to have any hope of stabilising the climate at a safe level we must start phasing out coal now. There is 5 times more coal already discovered and counted as an asset on the books of fossil fuel companies than can ever be burned safely. So 80% of known coal reserves must stay in the ground. The NZ economy is more dependent on a benign climate than any other developed country.

It is time for clean energy for the sake of our children and our economy.

Fonterra has options

Fortunately NZ is very well endowed with renewable energy. While this coal would be exceptionally cheap, wood chips from logging waste could be supplied reliably from forests within the area for a price that wouldn’t greatly affect the economics of the dairy industry. Fonterra has been challenged to use wood waste before, but is not interested.

Farmers should be concerned at the possible effect on our markets when our customers learn that our milk powder is dried and our cheeses and baby formula made with the dirtiest, most climate-changing fuel.

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