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Australian Securities Exchange  
Level 4, 20 Bridge Street  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

## FAST TRACK APPROVALS BILL PASSES

Bathurst Resources Limited (ASX:BRL) (**Bathurst**) in conjunction with its 65% owned JV company BT Mining Limited, are extremely pleased to announce that the Fast-Track Approvals Bill has passed its third reading and into legislation in Parliament.

The Fast-Track Approvals Bill was part of the coalition agreement between National, New Zealand First and Act and will allow projects that gain fast-track listing to be processed in shorter statutory timeframes than under the existing planning regime, additionally projects can apply for multiple approvals at the same time in one streamlined application.

There are currently 149 projects listed as part of the Bill and include infrastructure projects, housing developments, renewable energy projects, and mining projects. The mining projects on the list will support the Government's aim to double the value of mineral exports to \$2 billion by 2035 of which Bathurst will be included.

### BATHURST & BT MINING PROJECTS

Bathurst and BT Mining have two projects of significant regional or national benefit (Buller Plateaux Continuation Project & Rotowaro Continuation Project) that have been accepted as fast-track projects. Both projects have been previously approved by the independent Projects Advisory Group and are listed on Schedule 2 of the Bill. The projects will be able to make a full application to Environmental Protection Authority to be assessed by an Expert Panel for a final decision.

Our existing operations in the Waikato and the West Coast of the South Island provide significant socio-economic benefits to our host communities, our employees and contractors, and these two projects will maximise these benefits.

### ***BULLER PLATEAUX CONTINUATION PROJECT***

- Bathurst Resources plans to mine coking coal for export from the Buller Plateaux (West Coast) over a 25-year timeframe, to extend the life of the Stockton mine. Mining has occurred at the site for over 100 years.
- The project covers: the Stockton Plateau, including the mine, aerial ropeway and Ngakawau Rail loadout area; a mine permit at Upper Waimangaroa; and permits on the Denniston Plateau.
- The project will secure the existing Stockton infrastructure and mining operations and provide access to additional mining areas as coal resources at current sites are depleted.
- The project will retain around 390 direct jobs in the Buller District and an additional 50 jobs outside of Buller. It will maintain the viability of the Midland Rail line.

### ***ROTOWARO MINE CONTINUATION PROJECT***

- The Rotowaro mine is an open-pit excavator and truck mining operation.
- The project covers: the existing Rotowaro operations, including the mine infrastructure, coal handling plant and rail loadout area and an extension into further mining areas.
- Located in a historic mining area, the site employs 190 staff. The Rotowaro Mine Continuation Project will allow the mine to continue working until at least 2037.
- The mine produces high-quality coal with 98% of it currently supplied to a steel mill in New Zealand, and the remainder to process heat customers, e.g. agricultural limestone production.

### **ABOUT BATHURST**

Bathurst Resources Limited is a New Zealand-registered resource company listed on the ASX. We are New Zealand's leading coal producer and the largest specialist coal company. All Bathurst's mining operations are in New Zealand with projects under development in Canada.

With mines in the Waikato, Southland and the West Coast, we are a nationwide operation which produces more than 2.2 million tonnes of coal each year and employ more than 670 people nationwide and engage over 90 full time contractors. We provide coal for local steel making, delivering energy for domestic dairy and food processing industries and exporting high quality metallurgical coal to international steel makers.

Bathurst makes a significant contribution to the economic wellbeing of regions through this direct employment (\$78 million per year), as well as taxes, coal royalties, energy resources levy, and equipment and supply purchases.

## Further Information

For further information contact:

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