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Buller Coal Resource Consent applications to be Considered at Public Hearing on 7 June 2011

Bathurst Resources Limited's (ASX & NZSX: BTU) wholly owned subsidiary – Buller Coal Limited (BCL) – has been advised that its applications for resource consents (environmental approvals) for its proposed Escarpment Mine Project (EMP) will begin in Westport, New Zealand on 7 June 2011.

The hearing will consider 24 applications for resource consents required from the Buller District Council and West Coast Regional Council, under the provisions of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The EMP is an open cast coal mine on a 200 hectare mining permit in the southern part of the Denniston Plateau in the Buller District, which is expected to produce about one million tonnes of premium hard coking coal per year.

Resource Consent Applications

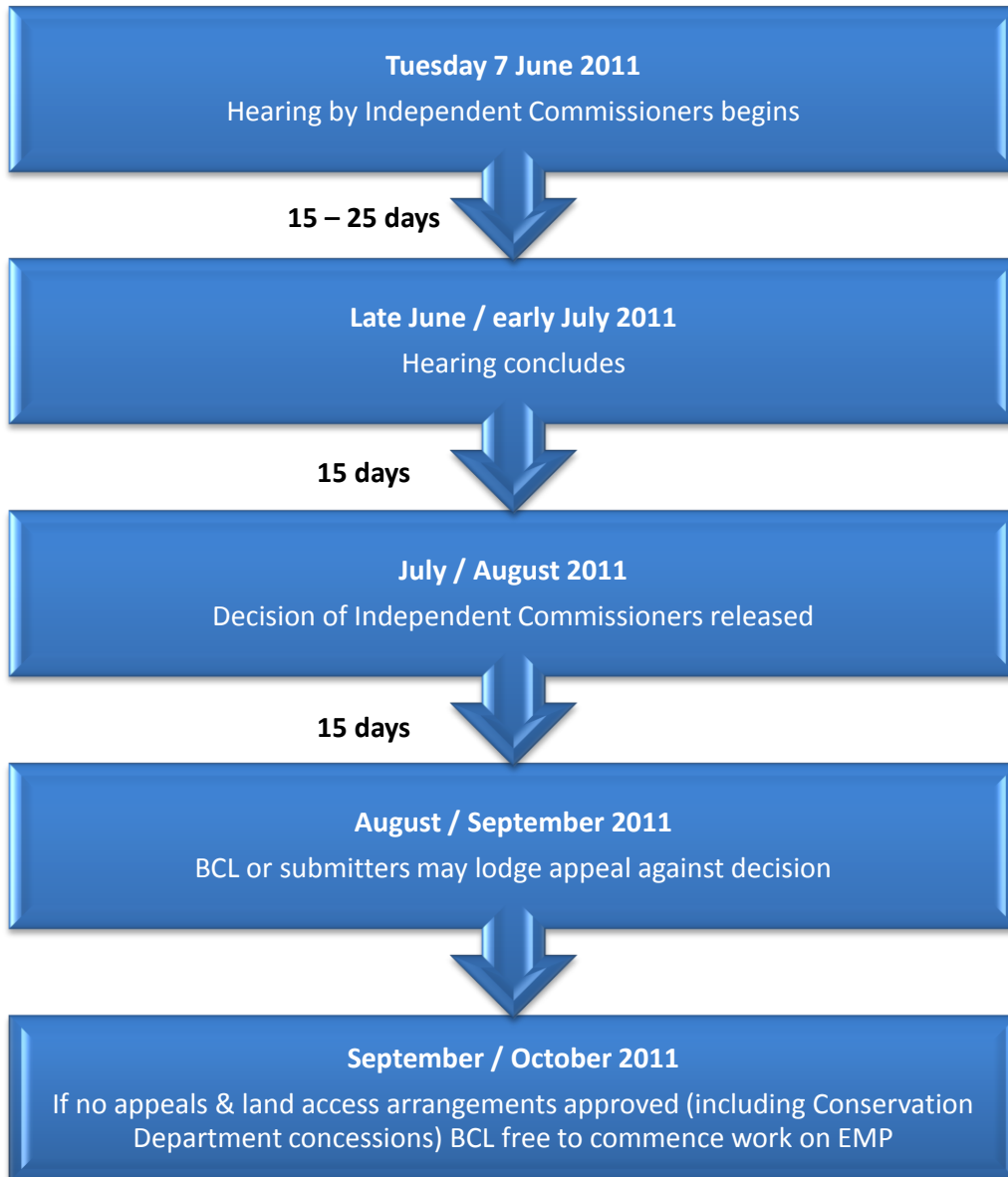
In September 2010, BCL lodged 16 resource consent applications with the West Coast Regional Council and eight with the Buller District Council for the proposed EMP. The applications were lodged in the name of L&M Coal Limited, which BTU acquired last year.

The Councils publicly notified the applications and invited submissions, which closed on Friday 22 October 2010.

The Councils have appointed three Independent Commissioners to conduct the hearing, which is expected to take up to three weeks, during which BCL will provide expert evidence on the economic, social, and environmental effects associated with the proposal. A decision is expected about three weeks after the hearing closes.

Should resource consents be approved and various land access arrangements finalised (including a concession from the Department of Conservation) BCL anticipates it will be able to start work on the EMP in late 2011, provided there are no appeals to the Commissioners' decision (or appeals are resolved).

Indicative Process Timetable



On behalf of Bathurst Resources Ltd

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About Bathurst Resources Ltd

Bathurst Resources Limited is an Australian and New Zealand listed company focused on becoming a producer of high quality coking and thermal coal to niche export markets.

The Buller Coal EMP is Bathurst Resources' flagship project and aims to produce a large volume of high quality, low ash and high fluidity coking coals.

Bathurst acquired the Buller project through the acquisition of L&M Coal Limited. The Buller project area comprises a number of permits surrounding state-owned Solid Energy's Stockton opencast mining operation.

In November 2010 Bathurst also entered into a Share Purchase Agreement with Galilee Energy Limited to acquire its New Zealand coal assets owned by its wholly owned subsidiary Eastern Resources Group Limited. The acquisition, which was completed in March 2011, includes the Whareatea West coal project adjacent to the Buller project as well as two operating coal mines – Cascade adjacent to the Buller operations and Takitimu in Ohai region of New Zealand.

ENDS

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