

Barrytown steeled for mine fight

Laura Mills

A recent minister of conservation asked for urgent information about the Barrytown mineral sands mining proposal, but was told it was on private land.

Meanwhile, Barrytown residents have made a raft of submissions to the draft Te Tai o Poutini Plan, arguing against the proposal to designate the Barrytown Flat as a mineral extraction zone.

After being denied resource consent last year due to insufficient supporting

Meanwhile, a number of Coast Road residents have objected to the TTPP mineral extraction zone at Barrytown.

Barry Mason said the area was considered one of the 10 most beautiful coastal highways in the world.

“How would it then look if all the Barrytown flats were ripped up and inhabited with noisy (proposed 24 hours-a-day) mining infrastructure?”

Christine Robertson said she felt the rights of mining companies would take precedence over those of the residents, while Deb Langridge said the mineral

information, TiGa Minerals Ltd has now re-filed its application, this time backed up by reams of specialist reports.

Department of Conservation documents released to the Greymouth Star under the Official Information Act show that in late January the office of former conservation minister Poto Williams asked for urgent information on the mine proposal.

DOC replied that it was not on public conservation land, but the department had made a submission for the previous application as an affected party.

“DOC raised concerns about the potential impact on nearby wetlands and effects on Westland petrel/tāiko, which have a colony nearby.

“The previous application was declined by independent hearing commissioners on behalf of the councils.

“DOC will carefully consider any new proposal and assess whether previous concerns have been addressed.”

zone would water down neighbours’ and the community’s voice.

Graham Wood said they felt it was being pushed through by the council against local feelings and a disregard for well-being.

The tranquillity of a lifestyle block was raised by Jan Fraser, who also felt the mineral zoning would make it difficult to sell properties.

Lindy Mason said it had the potential to radically alter the character of the Coast Road, while Roger Ewer said mineral extraction should be regarded as a discretionary activity on the Barrytown Flats to allow for local consultation.

“Having lived and worked as a builder on the Coast Road for 50 years, increased heavy vehicle truck movements, noise, dust and other forms of pollution from the proposed sand mining will be seriously detrimental to me and to others who live here.”