

RAVEN COAL MINE 10 reasons to be opposed



The end of the Baynes Sound shellfish industry?

Heavy metal leakage and acid rock drainage would jeopardize the watersheds that feed Baynes Sound and threaten the local shellfish industry that depends on the health of this water body. This industry employs over 600 people year round. The commercial shellfish industry has been operating for 100 years, and First Nations have been harvesting shellfish in the region since time immemorial.



Heavy metal pollution

Over 16 million tonnes of waste rock would be dumped in uncovered piles over the life of the mine. As this waste is exposed to moisture, sulphuric acid is formed. When the acid enters the water system (acid rock drainage), it can have devastating environmental consequences. Testing done in the Quinsam River watershed (north of the Comox Valley) has shown high levels of the heavy metal arsenic downstream from the Quinsam Coal Mine. The Raven Coal Mine would have a similar or worse detrimental effect on sensitive watersheds.



Drinking water at risk

Coal needs a lot of water (up to 500,000L/day) for cleaning and on-site processing. The mine would take from the aquifer that supplies drinking water to Fanny Bay residents. There is no mapping of the underground water supply and limited understanding of the overall impact this project would have on the watershed. The BC government doesn't require that comprehensive aquifer and groundwater mapping and modeling be completed as part of the environmental assessment process, leaving locals who rely on safe, clean water at great risk.

VACANCY

Coal keeps away tourists

Tourism is a major economic driver on Vancouver Island. Tourists from all over the world flock to see Cathedral Grove, Clayoquot and Barkley Sounds, and the northern Gulf Islands. Increased truck traffic and other mine infrastructure would impact regional accessibility and safety, and the mine site would be visible from the top of Denman Island. The associated port facility would be right amongst the Port Alberni farmers market and scenic harbourfront. Central Vancouver Island's reputation as a clean, environmentally responsible region would be permanently stained.



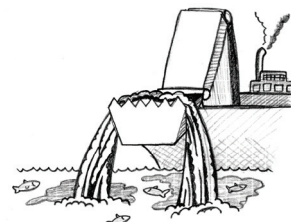
Climate change

The coal from the mine would add over 80 million tonnes of climate-changing greenhouse gases into our atmosphere. Currently, federal and provincial review agencies do not consider broader climate impacts when assessing projects like this. Climate change is our greatest global challenge, and ignoring this mine's impact on the climate is reckless and irresponsible.



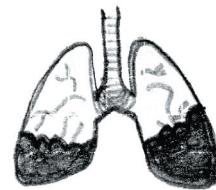
50,000 trucks a year

Over 50,000 giant B-Train coal trucks would traverse the public highway to Port Alberni every year. This road curves and twists by Cameron Lake, through the extremely busy Cathedral Grove park, over the steep and dangerous "Hump," and right through downtown Port Alberni to the port site. More heavy trucks will increase exhaust and regional CO₂ emissions and raise the risk of traffic accidents. The company has declared the highway their preferred route of transport, passing the significant upkeep costs for this infrastructure on to us.



Our marine environment

Huge transport ships servicing the coal port would travel through Barkley Sound and the Broken Group islands, both in the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve. Dredging would be required in the Alberni Inlet to make room for the ships; this would stir up sediment layers that have been contaminated over decades of pulp mill pollution, impacting the sensitive species that rely on the ocean floor. The Inlet is also part of a major salmon spawning and migration route. Spills, coal dust, noise pollution, and other accidents would harm salmon and other marine life.



Coal dust is dangerous

There are serious health issues associated with mining, storing, loading, and transporting coal in many communities. Coal dust has been linked to a variety of respiratory illnesses, kidney disease, and other health problems. Coal trucks would pass near the Port Alberni hospital before entering the port site just a few hundred metres from a residential area. Coal dust is highly volatile, and there are risks of fires and explosions at coal mining, transport, and storage facilities.

A slippery slope?

Around 20 new mine tenure applications have been made in the region in the last few years. The lack of mining infrastructure is a huge obstacle for prospective mines in the area – approving Raven would make other proposals more feasible. A large-scale shift to a finite resource-based economy on Vancouver Island would be a huge step back, shattering work to that has been done to create healthy, sustainable industries. The decision on Raven is a decision between moving forward or falling back into an archaic, boom-bust cycle.

We can win.

People working together can stop bad projects from damaging our communities. Attending meetings and events, writing letters, and speaking to your neighbours and elected officials are key actions to stop this coal mine. Thousands of British Columbians have stood up and stopped "done deal" projects, from clearcut logging in the Carmanah Valley to the Georgia Strait Natural Gas Pipeline to the private power project at Bute Inlet. We'll do it again with the Raven Coal Mine.

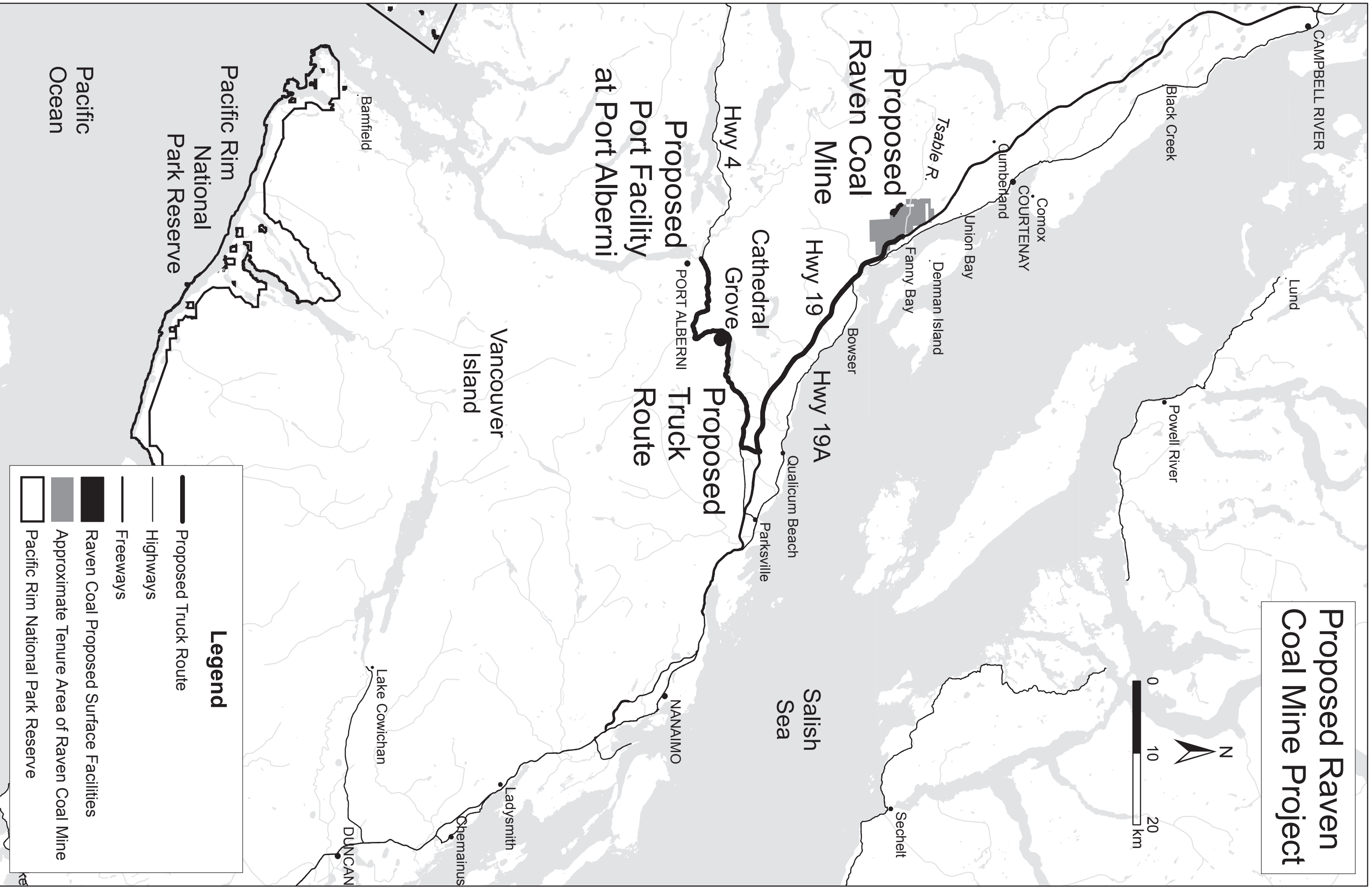
take action! Visit us online at



**WILDERNESS
COMMITTEE**

WildernessCommittee.org

Proposed Raven Coal Mine Project



Legend

- Proposed Truck Route
- Highways
- Freeways
- Raven Coal Proposed Surface Facilities
- Approximate Tenure Area of Raven Coal Mine
- Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

Pacific Ocean

Pacific Rim National Park Reserve

Bamfield

Vancouver Island

Proposed Port Facility at Port Alberni

Proposed Truck Route

Raven Coal Mine

Salish Sea

CAMPBELL RIVER

Black Creek

Lund

Powell River

0 10 20 km

N

Comox

COURTENAY

Qumbeband

Union Bay

Tsable R.

Denman Island

Fanny Bay

Bowser

Hwy 19

Hwy 19A

Cathedral Grove

Hwy 4

Qualicum Beach

Parksville

PORT ALBERNI

NANAIMO

Vancouver Island

Lady Smith

Chemainus

Lake Cowichan

DUNCAN