

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F7W-X

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-04-22 16:51:38

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Siren Gold

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Victor Rajasooriar

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Managing Director & CEO

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

Siren Gold Limited
PO Box 117
West Perth WA 6872

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

Yes

Organisation:
Siren Gold

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Level 2, 41-43 Ord Street, West Perth WA 6005
PO Box 117, West Perth WA 6872

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

Sams Creek Project
Tasman Region
Takaka Valley

File upload:

2024.04.16 Siren Gold - Sams Creek Location.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:

No file uploaded

Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

upload file:

40338 change certificate.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Permit holder:

SAMS CREEK GOLD LIMITED (NZBN 9429030989085) (Operator, 80%) OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED (NZBN 9429037753023) (Participant, 20%)

Expiry date: 26 March 2025

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

Siren Gold Ltd owns 100% of SAMS CREEK GOLD LIMITED (NZBN 9429030989085).

SAMS CREEK GOLD LIMITED (NZBN 9429030989085) is the operator and owns 80% of the Sams Creek Project.

In recent times, OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED (NZBN 9429037753023) who owned 20% of Sams Creek have diluted their holdings to 18.1% leaving SAMS CREEK GOLD LIMITED (NZBN 9429030989085) to increase its holding to 81.9%.

SAMS CREEK GOLD LIMITED and OCEANA GOLD have a Joint Venture Agreement, which lets Sams Creek (and in return Siren Gold) to be the operator.

Future works required for the project is the conversion of the exploration permit to a Mining tenement, so that additional funding can be obtained from Siren Gold (ASX:SNG) shareholders to further develop the project by carrying out a feasibility study and enter a phase of construction and eventual production of gold from the Sams Creek project.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Sams Creek - Gold Project

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The Sams Creek Project (SCP) is a mining project consisting of the extraction of Gold. The mining method being considered is an underground operation with a 15 year potential mine life. The opportunity exists for a combination of open pit and underground, which could generate a mine life in excess of 20+ years. At this stage the Company is pursuing the underground option

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The Sams Creek Project (SCP) is a mining project consisting of the extraction of Gold. The mining method being considered is an underground operation with a 15 year potential mine life. The opportunity exists for a combination of open pit and underground, which could generate a mine life in excess of 20+ years. At this stage the Company is pursuing the underground option

SCP has the potential to produce over 2Moz of gold and over a 15 - year mine life with additional exploration success.

The Sams Creek project has the potential for a large scale, low impact underground mining operation that could produce around 150,000 oz of gold per annum valued at NZ\$600m (PA) at current prices (gold NZ\$4,000/oz).

It is estimated that a highly skilled workforce of over 250 people would be required in the mining and processing operations.

SCP would produce a gold concentrate (~100ktpa) which could be exported utilising existing roads and loading facility at Port Tarakoe in Golden Bay.

The SCP also has the potential for Rare Earths Elements (REE), Copper (Cu) and Molybdenum (Mo), with additional exploration required to define these additional minerals.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

Resource Drilling April 2024 to June 2024
Scoping Study July 2024 to August 2024
Application of Mining Permit Sep-24
Resource definition drilling October 2024 to March 2025
Stakeholder engagement November 2024 to June 2025
Processing plant finalisation Mar-25
GR Engineering design for Plant April 2025 to June 2025
Feasibility Study completion July 2025 to November 2025
Siren Board Approval to Proceed Dec-25
Construction January 2026 to December 2026
UG Mining March 2026 to February 2027
Gold bar production Mar-27

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

CMA – exploration permit 40338, expires on 26 March 2025. A mining permit application will need to be lodged on or before 25 September 2024.

CMA Land access – access agreement with DOC for exploration activities.

RMA – suite of resource consents to allow for exploration activities.

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

Tasman District Council (TDC) – Siren has the necessary resource consents to allow for exploration activities.
Department of Conservation (DoC) – Siren has an Access Arrangement (AA) that allows for exploration activities including drilling and camps.
Local Landowner – This is the most likely property for the decline development and processing plant and tailing storage facility. Siren has a rental agreement for the core shed and laydown area for helicopter operations on this property.
Iwi – no written approvals sort or obtained.

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

Tasman District Council (TDC) – Siren has the necessary resource consents to allow for exploration activities.

DoC – Siren as part of the AA has to provide Annual Work Programmes (AWP) and obtain an Authority to Enter an Operate (AEO). DoC conduct regular site inspections.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Not Applicable

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

Processing plant finalisation Mar-25
GR Engineering design for Plant April 2025 to June 2025
Feasibility Study completion July 2025 to November 2025
Siren Board Approval to Proceed Dec-25
Construction January 2026 to December 2026
UG Mining March 2026 to February 2027
Gold bar production Mar-27

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Tasman District Council (TDC) – Siren has the necessary resource consents to allow for exploration activities.

Department of Conservation (DoC) – Siren has an Access Arrangement (AA) that allows for exploration activities including drilling and camps.

Local Landowner – This is the most likely property for the decline development (underground tunnel) and processing plant and tailing storage facility. Siren has a rental agreement for the core shed and laydown area for helicopter operations on this property.

Iwi – no written approvals sort or obtained.

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

TDC – Siren has meet regularly with the TDC Mayor Tim King to update him on progress. Siren has submitted on Outstanding Natural Landscape proposals by TDC working group.

DoC – Siren as part of the AA has to provide Annual Work Programmes (AWP) and obtain an Authority to Enter an Operate (AEO). DoC conduct regular site inspections.

Local Landowner - Siren meets regularly with the local landowner and pays a monthly rental for the core shed and laydown area.

Iwi - Annual iwi consultation reports are produced as part of Tier 1 permit requirements.

The TDC consulted with iwi as part of the resource consent applications

DoC have consulted with iwi as part of the Access Agreement applications.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

Tasman District Council (TDC) – Siren has the necessary resource consents to allow for exploration activities.

Department of Conservation (DoC) – Siren has an Access Arrangement (AA) that allows for exploration activities including drilling and camps.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

Iwi - Annual iwi consultation reports are produced as part of Tier 1 permit requirements.

The TDC consulted with iwi as part of the resource consent applications

DoC have consulted with iwi as part of the Access Agreement applications.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:

DoC Access Agreement renewal - additional information RevB.pdf was uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

An underground mine would have a small footprint relative to the mineral resource, of around 30 hectares. Land will be required for a processing plant, tailings storage facility, water management, temporary storage of waste rock, workshop, site and other facilities.

It is proposed that these facilities would be built on private farmland with minimal disturbance for the likes of vent raises, of indigenous vegetation and habitat for indigenous species. It is possible there would be impacts on such provided for under s6, RMA. That said, our understanding is that any effects would not have irreversible consequences for affected biodiversity. Management of effects on biodiversity would follow the effects management or mitigation hierarchy: to avoid effects where possible, reduce effects where possible, then remedy effects (repair disturbance), and then mitigate effects (make effects less severe, eg vegetation replanting). In the event of residual effects, Siren would offset and / or compensate for those effects using established procedures, noting that such usually entail a composite package of measures, eg ecological surveys, offsite pest and weed control, and translocation of certain wildlife. Our aim is to achieve no net loss of biodiversity values from our activities, and preferably, a net gain, over time.

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Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

The relevant NPSs cover freshwater management, and indigenous biodiversity.

The first favours the protection of certain freshwater values, eg wetlands, however, also provides a consenting pathway for certain minerals activities, including gold exploration and mining. The same considerations apply to the associated freshwater NES, which is regulation sitting under the NPS-FM.

The NPS for indigenous biodiversity is more challenging because of strict, and arguably unworkable criteria applying to mining projects to access a consenting pathway, particularly as regards s6 biodiversity. Siren understands that the Government intends to amend the NPS-IB to provide a consenting pathway following the mitigation hierarchy for projects that are regionally significant in terms of economic activity.

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The approvals process will need a mining permit, a raft of consents from the TDC, and Access Agreement with DoC (NW Nelson Forrest Park) and consultation with iwi. The project is adjacent to the Kahurangi National Park. The "one stop shop" fast tracking process will allow permits, consents and DoC access and to be considered together rather than individually, saving significant time and cost associated with the current drawn out process.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

Will provide significant economic benefits and/or significantly contribute to the growth, diversity and resilience of regional economies

Create local jobs and contribute to the regional economy.

Generate gold exports.

Generate Crown Minerals royalties.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

Not that we are aware of, but Sams Creek could become the largest employer when in operation

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

Housing in local community

A processing plant as part of the mine, which could become a "hub" for other operations in the area

The Port at Takaka, will see an increased flow of shipping

A solar farm being planned for teh region, will become profitable when Sams Creek commences mining operations

Will the project:

increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, contribute to a well-functioning urban environment

Please explain your answer here:

Additional employees will be residents of Tasman and additional housing will have to be build. Siren will build various accommodation on private land to accommodate workers on site.

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Sams Creek project has the potential for a large scale, low impact underground mining operation that could produce around 150,000 oz of gold per annum valued at NZ\$600m per year at current prices (gold NZ\$4,000/oz).

It is estimated that a highly skilled workforce of over 250 people would be required in the mining and processing operations.

Government royals will be a steady flow

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Sams Creek is a Gold project with the potential to extract additional miners such as Rare Earths Elements (REE), Copper (cu) and Molybdenum (Mo)

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Underground mining is a low impact operation

Equipment will be mostly electric driven, supplied between Hydro and a solar farm

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Not applicable

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Not aware

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

None

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Victor Rajasooriar

Important notes