

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FMY-P

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications  
Submitted on 2024-05-03 11:07:44

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:  
New Talisman Gold Mines Limited

2 Contact person

Contact person name:  
John Upperton

3 What is your job title

Job title:  
Company Director

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:  
  
2b Gibraltar Cres.  
Parnell  
Auckland 1052

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

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park  
Crown Hill Rd  
Karangahake

Napalis ID 2794236

File upload:

Talisman Portal Location Map Karangahake.pdf was uploaded

Upload file here:

No file uploaded

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

No

upload file:

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Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

NZ Crown

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:

New Talisman holds Mining Permit 51326 which encompasses the access road and mine portal compound, and has access arrangements with the Dept of Conservation.

New Talisman holds a Bulk Sampling Resource Consent from Hauraki District and a water take Consent from Waikato Regional Council.

The mining permit and DoC access are the two critical aspects with respect to the land where the project is situated. However long-term access with DoC has never been a certainty and has created a dilemma for both the project and investors.

## Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Talisman Underground Gold Mine

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

An underground mine utilising historic tunnels to access and mine high grade gold and silver epithermal quartz veins in an identified JORC Resource. The project is a low volume/high grade proposition that has the potential to be a blueprint for the industry.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

Commercial and in Confidence. Not to be released without consultation.

The purpose of the project is to develop, expand and utilise an identified JORC Resource of primarily gold and silver.

The objectives are

1. to profitably extract the identified minerals in the most efficient and environmentally friendly manner possible given the constraints of access both above and below ground.
2. develop and broaden the underground hard rock mining skill base of the industry in a region that has a long history of gold mining and a nationally significant operation in neighbouring Waihi that struggles to find skilled staff.

The activities include advancing drives on vein by means of blasting and air-leg resu mining methods, logging grades as they progress, and stoping between drives where the grades warrant it. Also removal of ore to an offsite gravity separation processing plant via 10 tonne truckloads (no trailer due to narrow access road). The high grade nature of the Resource makes it viable to mine on relatively small volumes and as a result minimise environmental impact.

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

Please write your answer here:

The project is shovel ready. A limited Bulk Sampling Consent is already in place, but progress has been hampered by the lack of "joined-up" inter-governmental processes and has effectively been stalled while we await long term Access renewal from DoC.

Granting of full mining consent and associated access would see immediate commencement of production.

Production would scale upwards over the first two years as different areas of the Resource are targeted and underground infrastructure increased. Once underground infrastructure is further developed production and productivity levels gather momentum over years 2-5, continuing for the life of the Resource, anticipated as not less than 10 years, and potentially far longer as more knowledge of the Resource is garnered.

A 5 year workplan has been formulated.

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

Please write your answer here:

RMA 1991 - Resource consent  
Conservation Act 1987 - Approval and Access  
Crown Minerals Act 1991 - Land Access Arrangement

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

Please write your answer here:

Hauraki District Council  
Waikato Regional Council

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

Please write your answer here:

New Talisman does not have any current applications for Resource Consent. The company holds a limited Bulk Sampling Consent from Hauraki District and water take consent from Waikato Regional Council.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Department of Conservation controls access to the site.

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

Please write your answer here:

The project is shovel ready. The above ground infrastructure is already in place with a secure compound. Ventilation and electrical systems are already installed underground, with tunnel access to the face of the first vein target.

A 5 year workplan has been formulated, but the project will evolve as more knowledge is gained of the mineral resource.

Funding for working capital and further development will be sought from shareholders as required, but the project is budgeted to be cashflow positive within 6 months of commencement of production.

### Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

Hauraki District  
Waikato Regional Council  
Department of Conservation  
Ngati Tara Tokonui  
Ngati Tamatera

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:

Consultation with a variety of Iwi groups and structures has been continuous since application for the Mining Permit in 2008. Some of these structures (runanga etc) have been superseded by Iwi settlement structures and bodies.

Feedback and engagement has been mixed from local groups. Nati Tara Tokanui in particular have acknowledged the role of their tipuna in the establishment of the mining industry in the region and have expressed an interest in maintaining heritage sites from those early days.

The engagement process has also made it obvious that Iwi groups struggle with the burden of consultation in the consenting process.

We attach a log of stakeholder engagements for 2023 with the relevant groups.

Upload file here:

Attachment 2 - Iwi Consultation Report period 1-01-2023 - 31-12-2023 (1).pdf was uploaded

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:

N/A

#### Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

The summit of Karangahake maunga has been vested in a settlement with four Iwi groups. While the summit is within MP 51326, it is not directly impacted by any activities proposed by this application, and not within the land area of the surface infrastructure or portal of the mine, both of which are shown on the location map.

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?

Yes

If yes, what are they?:

Refer previous as per the unaffected summit of Karangahake maunga. The land area of the summit is not part of the access requirements for the project and is not in anyway impacted.

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?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

While the project has been demonstrated to have minimal environmental impact, no particular protected customary right has been identified as being impacted. So while we have made an assessment, no protected customary rights have been identified as being affected.

Upload your assessment if necessary:

No file uploaded

#### Section 5: Adverse effects

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

Please describe:

In granting a Bulk Sampling Consent, the Hauraki District Council ascertained that the mining environmental impact would be no more than minor. Water quality monitoring points have been established and base monitoring data ascertained.

Upload file:

HDC\_041213\_Resource Consent Letter (1).pdf was uploaded

## 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 project has been demonstrated to have minimal environmental impact as per prior local authority decisions and therefore we have assessed that it complies with requirements of national policy statements.

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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:

New Talisman has found bureaucratic delays in dealing with regional authorities and DoC enormously expensive, to the point of exhausting the company's finances. The lack of coordinated decision making between MBIE and DoC has placed New Talisman in the invidious position of having the government mining permit issuer (NZPAM) expecting compliance with the permit and another arm of government (DoC) taking an admitted unacceptable length of time to reconfirm access arrangements that have been in place for 25+ years.

New Talisman is a classic case of falling victim to governmental bureaucratic inefficiency and unnecessary hurdles.

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

Please write your answer here:

The Talisman Gold mine is tailor made for the fast-track process as it is shovel ready but seriously hampered by multi-layered bureaucratic delays.

Approval of this application would highlight the benefits that the legislation is designed to encompass, by enabling a shovel ready project of regional significance that has been unnecessarily hampered by multi-layered levels of red tape and lack of coordination between government entities.

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

Other

Please explain your answer here:

Minerals extraction in general has been identified as a priority by the current government and is a necessary plank in building the country's resilience and self sufficiency in response to the demands and requirements of a high tech economy.

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Regional significant infrastructure

Please explain your answer here:

The project will require an ancillary off site gravity processing plant which provides an alternative to the large scale operator in the wider region that is currently unavailable to smaller operators.

The project will also train highly sought after hard rock underground miners within a NZ context whereas currently such expertise largely has to be learnt overseas.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

N/A

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project will deliver skilled high paid jobs in the mine itself, and provide regular work for local sub-contractors and engineering firms in the Hauraki/BOP region. The operation is budgeted to be highly profitable and supply dividends to more than 3000 shareholders, mostly within NZ.

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:

As explained previously, the Talisman mine will utilise an already identified JORC Resource. It will provide and increase a highly skilled work force for the wider mining industry. This means that NZers can enter the industry at home, without the need to gain experience in offshore projects.

It will have onflow effects of ore processing for smaller operators and wider wealth creation in the Hauraki/BOP region.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

While the known answer is no, there is research being undertaken by Waikato university that is seeking to demonstrate that ground rock (akin to Talisman tailings) is suitable for spreading on pasture for carbon capture. New Talisman is interested in supporting this research.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Not other than improving general resilience to the NZ economy.

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?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The project already has a limited Bulk Sampling Consent from Hauraki District in what has been historically an intensively mined area.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

The Karangahake township and locale has a proud mining heritage dating to the 1880s. Much of the local infrastructure has its origins in the mining industry, some of which is now adapted for heritage hiking and cycling trails. The Talisman mine project will continue this legacy while adding wealth and prosperity to the region.

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:

The mine has been in existence more than 100 years and has been demonstrably resilient to natural hazards over that time.

## 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:

N/A

Load your file here:

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## Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on [environment.govt.nz](https://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:

John Kildare Upperton

Important notes