

## Jacob Paget

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**From:** John Upperton s 9(2)(a)  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 June 2024 2:40 pm  
**To:** Listed Projects  
**Subject:** Re: Fast-track application for New Talisman Underground Gold Mine (Our ref: FTA176)  
**Attachments:** Talisman Portal Location Map Karangahake.pdf

### MFE CYBER SECURITY WARNING

This email originated from outside our organisation. Please take extra care when clicking on any links or opening any attachments.

Thank you for the opportunity to supply the further requested information. Due to the short time frame for response, please see my responses inserted in red.

Regards

John Upperton

Manager Strategic Delivery

New Talisman Gold Mines Ltd

ph s 9(2)(a)

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**From:** Listed Projects <ListedProjects@mfe.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:50 PM

**To:** John Upperton s 9(2)(a)

**Subject:** Fast-track application for New Talisman Underground Gold Mine (Our ref: FTA176)

Kia ora John,

Thank you for your application requesting inclusion of Talisman Underground Gold Mine in Schedule 2 of the Fast-track Approvals Bill.

Under clause 14(3) of the Fast-track Approvals Bill, applications require information including:

- a description of the proposed project and the activities it involves
- the geographic location of the project (which may be included in the form of a map), that is sufficient, for example, to identify whether or not the project would occur on public conservation land

From your application, it is not clear whether your project will utilise existing surface facilities, or whether new activities or structures required for mining will be required. The project will utilise existing surface features and structures. There is an existing 0.5 ha fenced compound at the mine portal, within the DoC estate, with surface infrastructure installed and operative. New Talisman currently holds a short term AA with DoC to this compound and the mine portal. There is an existing formed road from the end of Crown Hill Rd into the DoC estate to the mine portal. The compound and road are shown on the attached location map.

It is also not clear where the offsite processing is to occur, and whether any new authorisations for processing are required to enable this project to occur. The offsite processing is to occur in s 9(2)(b)(ii) at a site decided upon post our application. It will require authorisations and we would like to expand our application to include it. s 9(2)(b)(ii)  
The site is deemed by us to be both security and commercially sensitive and we request its location is not divulged publicly. A high level assessment of environmental effects for the processing site follows.

The proposed site is located within a natural basin in s 9(2)(b)(ii) Waikato District farmland and is zoned Rural Zone. Activities will have less than minor visual effects as they will be topographically separated from public areas and dwellings, the nearest of which is more than 200m away. An acoustic assessment will be undertaken for operating the plant 24/7, with a throughput of up to 100 tonnes per day. Much of the processing plant equipment will be housed in containers, with soundproofing as necessary. This set up, along with the confined location, prevailing wind direction and local traffic and quarry noise are considerations for the noise report. It is anticipated that the processing plant noise levels will be no greater than the pilot plant that was consented elsewhere in 2019 and 2020. The ore will be transported by up to five truck deliveries each day. Dust effects will be minor because the ore will be

largely wet-processed, in addition stockpiles will be covered, and internal roads sprayed with water as necessary. All processing water will be recycled within the plant, and there will be no discharges to land or water. The quartz sand that remains from ore processing will be dewatered on site prior to transported off site, probably back to the mine as underground fill. There is also potential to sell the sand as a product. There will be no adverse ecological or cultural effects. The processing plant will provide full time employment for two to three staff, and will enable the company to add value to the extracted ore by processing it within New Zealand, rather than selling to an overseas processor.

It would also be useful to understand the scale of the underground mining proposal – for example, how many kilometres of tunnels are intended, over what area, to what depth, and what volume of rock will be removed? The scale of the mining operation currently consented allows for 20,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum for 2 years, which is a figure we are unlikely to exceed, but 30,000m<sup>3</sup> per annum would be a maximum. The mine life would be a minimum 10 years, although this may extend as more knowledge is gained of the resource. New Talisman's current Mining Permit (MP51326) runs until 2034, and as we understand, renewable. The kilometres of tunnels aren't greatly relevant, as the largest volumes will come from stoping between drives, and the ore bodies are already accessible. ie there is no WKP or Federation Snowy River type access tunnel required.

Note that if new authorisations for processing are required, your assessment of environmental effects is currently limited to those associated with the underground mine only.

Could you please clarify the scope of your proposed project and any other relevant locations where it may occur, no later than **4pm Friday 7 June 2024**. I hope that the added information in my response adequately deals with your request. If a more detailed response is required, we are happy to do so, but given the time constraints we hope this further informs the process.

Nga mihi

**MfE Listed Projects Team**



Ministry for the  
**Environment**  
*Manatū Mō Te Taiao*

