

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5FGQ-8

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-03 12:51:25

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (Incorporated in New Zealand NZBN 9429 0377 53023) (OceanaGold)

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Alison Paul

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Senior Vice President, NZ Legal and Public Affairs

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:

PO Box 5442
Dunedin 9058

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

Yes

Organisation:
Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Contact person:
Aison Paul

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

Email address:
s 9(2)(a)

Job title:
Senior Vice President, NZ Legal and Public Affairs

Please enter your service address:

22 Maclaggan Street
Dunedin 9016

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

OceanaGold – Waihi Operation, 43 Moresby Avenue, Waihi 3641

File upload:

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT MAPS & SCHEDULES.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:

WNP - Records of Title.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Area 1 – Wharekirauponga Underground Mine:

Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC)

Road administered by Hauraki District Council (HDC)

Area 2 – Willows Road Farm:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Area 3 – Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel Corridor:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Waihi Gold Company Limited

R McCullough and GM McCullough

JH Anderson, IV Anderson and AG Trustee Limited

BL Jarvis, S Jarvis, SW Jarvis, DL Jarvis, GM Jarvis, BW Jarvis, LI Jarvis, DM Stuart

MJ Hayden and CL Hayden

Road administered by HDC

KD McDonald

RCJ Everitt and CB Everitt

AR Wharry and RA Wharry

Harvest Moon Limited

Wildwood Ranch Limited

SR Philips and DN Barrett

GMN Belt and Sharp & Cookson Trustee Services Limited

K Scherrer

BA Stur

RW McCarthy and AH McCarthy

AH Gerrand and KH Gerrand

Ceda Inc Limited

KH Ririnui and SM Ririnui

SL Jeffries and KJ Brown

MD Haywood and SM Haywood

SJ Bremner and SA Powell

PJ Bratton, VJ Bratton and CN Spargo

SS-Y Leat

S Goodhew, LC Goodhew and JA Signal

Area 4 – Services Trench Corridor:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Waihi Gold Company Limited

Road reserve administered by HDC

Crown land administered by DOC

State Highway administered by New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA)

Area 5 – Gladstone Open Pit and Waihi Surface Facilities Area:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Waihi Gold Company Limited

Crown land administered by Land Information New Zealand (LINZ)

Area 6 – Northern Rock Stack:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Waihi Gold Company Limited

Area 7 – Tailings Storage Facility 3:
Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

Waihi North Biodiversity Project (Coromandel Conservation Park):
DOC
HDC
Thames-Coromandel District Council (TCDC)

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:

OceanaGold owns or holds the requisite rights of access to land on which the majority of the project will occur and is free to commence development once approvals for the project are obtained. Where landowners other than OceanaGold appear in answer to question 4 above, legal rights of access are as follows.

Area 1 (Wharekirauponga Underground Mine):

- Area 1 comprises a new underground mine at Wharekirauponga, just north of Waihi, accessed via a 6.8km dual decline tunnel, which is entered off private land at the end of Willows Road (Area 2). The mine will include up to 4 ventilation / escapeway shafts, capped at surface by structures known as evasés.
- The tunnel, mine and ventilation / escapeway shafts will be located under a combination of Crown land administered by DOC and road reserve administered by HDC.
- OceanaGold holds a minerals mining permit expiring in 2060 which grants rights to explore for and mine Crown-owned minerals beneath the land, with no requirement to obtain an access arrangement or express landowner consent under section 57 of the Crown Minerals Act (CMA).
- However, an access arrangement under the CMA, licence to occupy (LTO) and/or a concession under the Conservation Act 1987 are required for surface exploration, geotechnical and bore-hole drilling-sites, technical fieldwork (such as ecological studies and in-stream flow gauging), water pipelines and the evasés.
- A current access arrangement authorises exploration and geotechnical drilling and camp facilities across 10 sites (with a total maximum disturbed area of 0.15ha) on DOC land until May 2027 only and does not include the new exploration and geotechnical drilling sites required for the project or evasés, should these be required on DOC land.
- A LTO is held for the duration of the project, authorising exploration and geotechnical drilling and construction and operation of evasés on unformed council road reserve ("paper road") but does not offer access to establish drilling sites within the surrounding DOC land, while geotechnical conditions within the confines of the paper road may be unsuitable for ventilation structures. A High Court judicial review application challenging the LTO was dismissed in March but that decision is under appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Area 3 (Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel Corridor):

- A 4.7km tunnel will provide access to transport ore and waste from the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine to the existing Waihi processing plant and surface facilities (Area 5).
- The tunnel will run beneath a range of privately and publicly owned land.
- OceanaGold holds minerals mining permits expiring in 2044 and 2060 which grant a right to explore for and mine Crown-owned minerals, provided all other necessary approvals are obtained. Where exploration and mining occurs exclusively beneath the surface of land no access arrangement or express landowner consent is required under section 57 of the CMA.

Area 4 (Services Trench Corridor):

- The services trench will provide below-ground reticulated power, telecommunications, and water services, running between Area 5 (Waihi Surface Facilities Area, which includes the existing gold processing plant and water treatment plant) and Area 2 (Willows Road Farm, which is the location of the surface portal from which the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine will be accessed via the twin tunnel) and surface facilities servicing the underground mine.
- The services trench will run through road reserve administered by HDC, Crown land administered by DOC and State Highway administered by NZTA. LTOs with these agencies will be required to allow this to happen.

Waihi North Biodiversity Project (Coromandel Conservation Park):

- The proposed Waihi North Biodiversity Project will involve large-scale, long-term pest and predator control across an area of 18,870ha within Coromandel Conservation Park, for a period through to 2050, conducted in partnership with DOC and iwi.

- Trapping permits and related approvals will be required in conjunction with DOC and (in respect of paper roads) HDC and TCDC.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Waihi North Project (WNP)

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

Waihi is the country's second largest active gold producing mine, producing around 65,000 ounces of gold and at least the same amount of silver per year and directly employing over 350 people. The WNP will develop the new Wharekirauponga Underground Mine at significant depth below the surface of DOC land 10km north of Waihi, commencing in 2025 and extending the life of the Waihi operations from 2030 to 2040. It will add at least 300 new jobs and has the potential to produce over 1.6 million ounces of gold and 2.2 million ounces of silver over 13 years. It will include a predator control and ecological enhancement project within 18,870 ha of DOC land.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The Waihi North Project is an extension of OceanaGold's existing mining operations at Waihi, and is ready to commence staged development upon grant of approvals. It is intended to comprise:

- A new underground mine at Wharekirauponga with associated twin decline access to explore and mine and 4 ventilation / escapeway shafts capped at surface for air flow and safety;
- A portal entrance, waste rock storage and surface facilities servicing the underground mine, located on OceanaGold's private land at the end of Willows Road;
- An upgrade of the existing processing plant and water treatment facilities at Waihi (including re-consenting the existing discharges from these facilities);
- A new open pit on OceanaGold's private land at Gladstone Hill (with capacity to co-dispose waste and tailings) located adjacent to those processing facilities;
- Modifications to an existing overland rock conveyor system;
- A third tailings storage facility located adjacent to the two existing tailings storage facilities;
- A new rock storage facility (with capacity to co-dispose waste and/or encapsulated filtered tailings) located adjacent to the existing rock and tailings storage facilities;
- Associated access and services tunnels, trenches, roads and pipelines;
- Broadly, a doubling of current exploration activity, with 20 exploration drill sites (10 existing and 10 new) within DOC land and:
 - o a maximum of 6 rigs at any one time
 - o a disturbed area of 150m² per site
 - o standpipe or vibrating wire piezometers and packer testing in drill-holes
 - o the ability to host up to 6 camps (2 existing and 4 new)
 - o the ability to host up to 4 helipads (2 existing and 2 new) for up to 200 hours (currently 100 hours) of helicopter activity in total per month
 - o 4 in-stream water supply pump sites
- Up to 4 new ventilation / escapeway shaft sites within DOC land or council road reserve with:
 - o over a 12-month construction period a disturbed area of 900m² per site, including cut-to-fill and hard-standing, rehabilitated back to native bush when construction is complete
 - o post-construction, a disturbed area of 150 m² for the placement and fencing of each easé, to remain in place for the duration of mining
 - o the ability to conduct exploration / geotechnical drilling and pumping tests
 - o helicopter activities associated with construction and maintenance of the ventilation / escapeway shaft sites
- 4 new geotechnical drilling sites within DOC land (Area 1) aligned with the proposed twin tunnel corridor, with:
 - o a maximum of 1 rig operating at any one time (in addition to exploration rigs drilling elsewhere)
 - o a disturbed area of 150m² per site
 - o standpipe or vibrating wire piezometers and packer testing in drill-holes
 - o telemetry equipment and field tracks between sites
 - o the ability to host a camp and a helipad
- Ground water extraction bore(s) at any existing or proposed drill site and/or from known historical workings extracting up to 600m³/day.

- 4 new piezometer drilling sites

as generally in accordance with the attached Project Map.

In addition to the key features listed above, the Waihi North Project includes:

- The undertaking of associated on-site and off-site environmental baseline and impact surveys, monitoring activities and mitigation and enhancement activities (including predator control programmes); and
- Associated exploration, geotechnical and hydrogeological activities and infrastructure at selected locations throughout the project footprint.

Access and ancillary approvals will be sought under the CMA, the Conservation Act and the Wildlife Act 1953 to support the above project activities including:

- Authorisation throughout the life of mine for any piezometers, level-loggers, vibration monitors, any other environmental monitoring equipment as required, together with telemetry equipment to be installed on public conservation land.
- Authorisation throughout the life of mine for a meteorological station and two rain gauges, including telemetry equipment.
- Authorisation throughout exploration operations for any water pipeline installed on public conservation land or road reserve.
- Authorisation to undertake water quality sampling, groundwater monitoring, flow gauging, vibration monitoring or air or noise monitoring on public conservation land and/or road reserve throughout the life of mine.
- Authorisation to undertake instream aquatic ecology monitoring, including electric fishing.
- Authorisation to handle, salvage and relocate lizards and frogs protected under the Wildlife Act prior to undertaking vegetation clearance at vent or drill site locations, or construction locations.
- Authorisation to handle Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs, lizards and other wildlife as appropriate (potentially bats) to undertake a long-term monitoring programme in the Wharekirauponga and Maratoto areas.
- Authorisation to undertake pest control using traps, toxic bait, and hunting with a firearm on public conservation land and/or road reserve in the Wharekirauponga and Otahu 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area, totalling up to 18,870ha in the southern Coromandel catchments.
- Authorisation to undertake pest and native species monitoring in the 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area through the life of the biodiversity project, including two years of baseline monitoring prior to WNP commencement.
- Authorisation to undertake helicopter operations on and above public conservation land and road reserve throughout the life of mine to facilitate monitoring activities, servicing of vent shafts, and to undertake pest control.

OceanaGold confirms that:

- It has the financial and technical capability to advance the development of the project.
- As indicated above the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and associated exploration, geotechnical drilling, environmental fieldwork and monitoring, mitigation and biodiversity management activities, including proposed pest and predator control across a proposed 18,870 ha of conservation park, will require landowner access from DOC, HDC and TCDC, which is partially secured under existing permissions.
- Access for the balance of the Waihi North Project from Willows Road Farm to the Waihi Mine is mostly secured as OceanaGold is landowner for the majority of the project footprint but will need to arrange road and river reserve land access to route services and for other operational and mitigation purposes (such as riparian planting within council and government-owned river reserve as part of proposed ecological mitigation measures).
- The project has not been declined resource consent prior, including through previous fast-track or normal consenting pathways. It is noted, however, that resource consent applications for most of WNP were lodged in June 2022 and are currently mid-process, with "the clock stopped" while OceanaGold answers Requests for Information (RFIs) from WRC and HDC and their technical experts. RFIs are due to be completed by 31 October 2024, ahead of notification decisions by the councils. To the extent that these applications may have progressed through Resource Management Act (RMA) processes ahead of any Fast Track Approvals process, OceanaGold would expect to update its Schedule 2A submission in due course. The final suite of approvals that would be the subject to applications under the RMA and other regulatory processes and for submission under the Fast-track Approvals process (as listed in response to question 10) may change depending on the extent to which the existing applications can be advanced before the Bill is passed into law.

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

Please write your answer here:

Commercial in confidence:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

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

Please write your answer here:

In addition to the regulatory consents, permits and authorisations already held, OceanaGold will require new, extended or otherwise varied legal authorisations.

Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA):

OceanaGold lodged resource consent applications in June 2022 for the establishment and operation of the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and other aspects of the Waihi North Project. The application is for an extensive suite of land use consents, discharge permits and water permits from both the HDC and Waikato Regional Council (WRC) as detailed in "Part C - Resource Consent Application Forms" available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>.

The project submitted for Schedule A listing would be substantially the same as that lodged in June 2022, but incorporating the results of technical studies, engineering and geotechnical assessments and an expanded programme of exploration and engineering investigations, developed since the lodging date.

o notice of requirement - N/A

o certificate of compliance - N/A

o coastal permit that authorises aquaculture activities to be undertaken in the coastal marine area and requires decisions under Part 9A of the Fisheries Act 1996 - N/A

Building Act 2004:

Building Consents would be required for elements of the project, including:

- Northern Rock Stack
- New tailings storage facility
- Water storage dams and silt dams
- Drill platforms, camp sites and helipads
- Incidental portacabins, structures and plant upgrades

Conservation Act 1987:

- Authorisation throughout the life of mine for any piezometers, level-loggers, vibration monitors, any other environmental monitoring equipment as required, together with telemetry equipment, required to be installed on public conservation land.

- Authorisation throughout the life of mine for a meteorological station and two rain gauges, including telemetry equipment.
- Authorisation throughout exploration operations for any water pipeline installed on public conservation land or road reserve.
- Authorisation to undertake water quality sampling, groundwater monitoring, flow gauging, vibration monitoring or air or noise monitoring on public conservation land and/or road reserve throughout the life of mine.
- Authorisation to undertake pest control using traps, toxic bait, and hunting with a firearm on public conservation land and/or road reserve in the Wharekirauponga and Otahu 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area, totalling up to 18,870ha in the southern Coromandel catchments.
- Authorisation to undertake pest and native species monitoring in the 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area through the life of the biodiversity project, including two years of baseline monitoring prior to WNP commencement.
- Authorisation to undertake helicopter operations on and above public conservation land and road reserve throughout the life of mine to facilitate monitoring activities, servicing of vent shafts, and to undertake pest control.

Reserves Act 1977 - N/A

Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 - N/A

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014:

- Archaeological Authorities in accordance with the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 to authorise investigations and/or disturbance, destruction or removal of any pre-1900 features that occur within the footprint of the proposed works.

Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 - N/A

Crown Minerals Act 1991:

- Land access arrangement under section 61 or 61B, new or varied, to include:
 - o An increase to the 428.44 hectare area overlying the Wharekirauponga resource, to incorporate the area of the twin-tunnel corridor.
 - o Extension beyond May 2027
 - o Changes to authorized activities to encompass increases in drill-sites (for exploration, geotechnical and hydrogeological purposes), camps, helipads, water pumping and piping of water from off-site bores and mining-related activities associated with construction and operation of ventilation shafts
 - o Associated activities and changes to conditions

Wildlife Act 1953:

- Authorisation to undertake instream aquatic ecology monitoring, including electric fishing.
- Authorisation to handle, salvage and relocate lizards and frogs protected under the Wildlife Act prior to undertaking vegetation clearance at vent or drill site locations, or construction locations.
- Authorisation to handle Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs, lizards and other wildlife as appropriate (potentially bats) to undertake a long-term monitoring programme in the Wharekirauponga and Maratoto areas.
- Authorisation to undertake pest control using traps, toxic bait, and hunting with a firearm on public conservation land and/or road reserve in the Wharekirauponga and Otahu 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area, totalling up to 18,870ha in the southern Coromandel catchments.
- Authorisation to undertake pest and native species monitoring in the 'Waihi North Biodiversity Project' area through the life of the biodiversity project, including two years of baseline monitoring prior to WNP commencement.
- Authorisation to undertake helicopter operations on and above public conservation land and road reserve throughout the life of mine to facilitate monitoring activities, servicing of vent shafts, and to undertake pest control.

Public Works Act 1981:

- Public Works Act 1981 and/or Local Government Act 1974 authorisations for road closures/stopping and realignments.
- Licences and easements to place infrastructure such as pipes on Council and Crown owned land.

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

Please write your answer here:

HDC and WRC in respect of the project as a whole and TCDC in respect of the Waihi North Biodiversity Project.

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

Please write your answer here:

• Applications:

o Oceana Gold submitted resource consent applications for the Waihi North Project in June 2022, received Councils' requests for further information in August 2022, and has since been supplying further information. In March 2024 the company proposed an extended report-back date of 31 October 2024 and in April 2024 the Councils accepted that proposal.

o In September 2022 OceanaGold submitted to DOC an application for a concession under the Conservation Act 1987 to authorise baseline environmental monitoring in the Coromandel Forest Park, including 12 near stream piezometers on 6 sites with two holes drilled at each site and 1 piezometer installed in each hole, 6 additional level logger locations and a telemetry system. Presently the application remains under evaluation.

o A bore-water take permit application is planned for lodgement with DOC (and the WRC if required) in June 2024

o New DOC applications are planned during 2024 encompassing the access required under the CMA, concessions required under the Conservation Act, land use and water permits and associated Wildlife Act authorisations, all as needed to undertake an expanded programme of exploration and

engineering investigations at Wharekirauponga.

• Consents and approvals applied for and received:

o Mineral Mining Permit 60541 (expiring 2060) and Mineral Mining Permit 41808 (expiring 2044); and

o Access Arrangements, Authorities to Enter and Operate, Annual Work Programmes, Kauri Dieback Management Plans, Wildlife Act Authorities, and land use consents from HDC and water permits from WRC. A number of these consents and approvals will require extension or renewal over the course of the project, including the current Access Arrangement authorizing exploration on DOC land which expires in May 2027 and the WRC water permit for exploration activities, which expires in 2025.

Further details of these, as at June 2022, are provided in "Part F – Authorisation of Existing Mining Activities under RMA", available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

• Notices - N/A

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

No, other than the Council, government agency and regulatory consents and approvals detailed elsewhere in this application. In addition, other than OceanaGold's parent company, there are no external parties responsible for approving the investment.

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

Please write your answer here:

Commercial in confidence:

Key milestones were described in Section 9 above, and in summary are:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

In association with the project, OceanaGold has identified an extensive list of key stakeholders and affected persons. They are referenced in a 'Pre-Lodgement Consultation Report' within the WNP RMA application, which is accessible here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/part-g/4/>. They include:

• Private landowners

• WRC

• HDC

• TCDC

• DOC

• NZTA

• LINZ

• Forest and Bird;

• Fish and Game;

• The following iwi groups who have communicated to the Company that they have interests in the proposed project area:

o Ngaati Whanaunga

o Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki

o Ngāti Hako

o Ngāti Hei

o Ngāti Maru

o Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki

o Ngāti Puu

- o Ngāti Rāhiri Tumutumu
- o Ngāti Tamaterā
- o Ngāti Tara Tokanui / Ngāti Koi.
- Members of the Waihi community

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:

OceanaGold believes that understanding the relationship between its business and the external context is crucial to effective stakeholder engagement and consultation, and that building trust through the sharing of information and perspectives is critical to decision making around project development.

Key design elements of the project reflect the company's longstanding relationships with the Waihi community and other stakeholders including:

- The decision to place all ore transportation between the underground mine and the processing plant (over 10 linear kilometres of single or dual tunnels) underground, thereby avoiding noise, light, dust and other amenity effects, and loss of environmental values associated with surface disturbance for roads;
- The decision to minimise, to the greatest degree possible, impacts on the surface of the Wharekirauponga conservation area, including helicopter supported exploration and development of ventilation / escapeway structures, together with significant biodiversity measures in the Waihi North Biodiversity Project aimed at achieving a significant net gain for biodiversity, including frog species.

OceanaGold initiated consultation with members of the public and key stakeholders on the various elements of the project in July 2020 when it published its Waihi District Study which outlined possibilities for new mining, processing and storage facilities in and around Waihi. OceanaGold subsequently announced, and began consulting on, its intentions to develop the Waihi Mine. This allowed for more than two years of pre-lodgement consultation with key stakeholders and the general community. Less formal engagement with iwi and regulators began much earlier, around 2017/2018. OceanaGold's intention was to initiate consultation early, whilst technical assessments were still in their infancy, to allow adequate time for stakeholder concerns to be accounted for.

General Consultation:

Broadly consultation has included:

- Ongoing and extensive engagement since 2019 with ten iwi groups (as further described below) to discuss their concerns and aspirations for the Waihi North Project;
- Ongoing iterative engagement with the WRC and HDC (as further set out below) including engagement with staff and technical experts, presentations to Council meetings and site visits;
- A range of engagement with DOC staff and the Waikato Conservation Board including site visits;
- Ongoing engagement with LINZ;
- Ongoing engagement with NZTA; and
- Extensive engagement with the local community via various forums including an 0800 Community Engagement Telephone Line, presentations to multiple local community groups and clubs, meet the expert days, door knocking local residents, various meetings with individuals, various open day events, maintaining a Project Information Office on the main street of Waihi since July 2020, provision of project site tours, provision of regular advertorials on local radio stations, regular project updates in the Hauraki Coromandel Post newspaper, distribution of a Project Overview Booklet, and providing a Project Website and project animations.

Iwi consultation:

OceanaGold has undertaken iwi engagement on the WNP RMA applications. The company has invited tangata whenua groups to have an opportunity to express their unique relationships with the values of the WNP environment, the way WNP may impact on cultural values, and the opportunities WNP provides, and has offered support and resourcing for groups to prepare Cultural Values Assessments and/or Cultural Impact Assessments. This process is ongoing but to date there are no identified protected customary rights in the project area.

To-date, s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii) have communicated to OceanaGold s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Waikato Regional Council:

OceanaGold recognises the importance of designing the Waihi North Project in a way that promotes the protection, preservation, conservation and enhancement of air, water, soil and ecosystems, as well as the natural character of Waihi, Wharekurauponga and the surrounding area. To achieve this, it was paramount that the WRC was consulted on the Waihi North Project development from the outset. OceanaGold has a longstanding and established working relationship with the WRC, and since the announcement of the project, regular informal meetings have been held providing updates on the status of project development and technical assessments. WRC has also appointed technical experts to engage on technical aspects of the project. This has resulted in several site visits and meetings with relevant WRC technical experts on topics including water, biodiversity, air quality and wetlands. Where possible OceanaGold has given WRC the opportunity to review and make comment on the relevant draft technical assessments prepared for the Waihi North Project prior to their lodgement. The review comments from WRC have been considered and where possible responded to prior to the lodging of the resource consent application. WRC has also provided guidance and advice to OceanaGold on their expectation for adequate community and iwi engagement for the project, citing the need for project decision making to be informed by stakeholder engagement.

Hauraki District Council:

OceanaGold has a long-standing and established working relationship with HDC representatives. Various meetings and formal engagement have taken place with HDC staff and elected representatives on the project, including a number of presentations at Council Meetings, updates to the Chief Executive Officer, and several site visits. HDC representatives have acknowledged the significant role mining plays in the economic and social wellbeing of the region but have been clear in the need for the Council to weigh these effects against any potential adverse negative effects associated with the project. In response to this, where possible OceanaGold has given HDC the opportunity to review and make comment on the relevant draft technical assessments prepared for the Waihi North Project prior to their lodgement. The review comments from HDC have been considered and where possible addressed prior to the lodging of the resource consent application. HDC has also provided guidance and advice to OceanaGold on their expectation for adequate community and iwi engagement for the project, citing the need for project decision making to be informed by stakeholder engagement.

Further Comments:

The results of consultation undertaken prior to lodgment of the WNP RMA consent applications in June 2022 are thoroughly outlined in 'Part A – Overarching Assessment of Environmental Effects' and 'Part G - Pre-Lodgement Consultation Report' within the application, which is available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

In addition, a Social Impact Assessment undertaken by consultants WSP involved engagement with various stakeholders and potentially affected parties of the Waihi North Project. This assessment is provided within "Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments", available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

All feedback received from the WNP pre-lodgement consultation processes has been collated, considered and has informed OceanaGold's final approach to the development of the WNP applications that were lodged, in particular effects management. Concerns raised were given regard and where possible accounted for in final project design. Mitigating increased demands for housing, created by an influx of new workers, is one example of a key concern to be addressed through proposed measures such as a local hire-and-train programme, potentially to be conducted in conjunction with iwi, local business groups and local education providers.

OceanaGold is actively engaging with a number of landowners adjacent to the proposed project areas. It is understood that many of the landowners /occupiers will sign "Affected Person's Approval" forms in support of the WNP resource consent application if requested to.

Post-lodgement consultation has been ongoing. OceanaGold anticipates that if WNP is included as a Schedule 2 Part A project, OceanaGold will, in good faith, maintain meaningful dialogue with key stakeholders through all stages of the project unless they do not wish to engage with the company.

Upload file here:

No file 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:

Some aspects of the WNP will necessitate road closure arrangements which OceanaGold will action in collaboration with the local Council. OceanaGold has extensive experience of PWA processes for land exchange for road closure, including agreeing land exchange areas with Councils, surveying, liaison with LINZ, gazettal, and issue of updated land titles. These processes are completed with the objective of maintaining and where possible enhancing public access.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

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

Please write your answer here:

OceanaGold acknowledges that the Ohinemuri River which flows through the proposed project area is subject to Statutory Acknowledgments under two iwi Deeds of Settlement.

As noted, ongoing and extensive engagement has been taking place with iwi groups since 2019 to discuss their concerns and aspirations for the Waihi North Project, including in relation to the Statutory Acknowledgements referenced above.

OceanaGold understands that there are no current, pending, or proposed Treaty of Waitangi settlement sites identified within the physical footprint of the proposed project.

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?

No

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:

No file uploaded

Section 5: Adverse effects

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

Please describe:

In preparing the WNP RMA applications OceanaGold has commissioned independent experts to provide 46 specialist technical reports on the actual and potential effects on the environment of allowing the activities. The technical assessments prepared by these experts have been provided with the applications as "Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments", with their assessments summarised in the suite of Assessments of Environmental Effects provided with the application as "Part A – Overarching Assessment of Environmental Effects" and "Part B – Site-Specific Assessments of Environmental Effects", as available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

If WNP becomes a Schedule 2 Part A listed project in the Fast Track Approvals Bill OceanaGold will arrange for updated assessments and an Assessment of Environmental Effects to be completed for the new application process.

• These effects include:

- Cultural
- Economic
- Social
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Landscape & Visual
- Transport
- Amenity
- Air Quality
- Closure and Aftercare

A summary of the effects from the project is below, with further detail (for the project as lodged in June 2022) available in the 'Overarching Assessment of Environmental Effects', accessible here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/part-a/88/>

OceanaGold considers the effects are all able to be managed through the application of the effects management hierarchy, to produce environmental,

social and cultural outcomes that are appropriate, having regard to the scale and location of the WNP activities. The project manages the majority of its potential adverse effects through avoidance and mitigation and it also appropriately addresses the residual unavoidable adverse effects of mining and related activities, including offsetting and compensation for residual effects on terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and habitat values, such that residual effects are minor. With the inclusion of the Waihi North Biodiversity Project, it also incorporates measures proposed for the sole purpose of providing benefits to the environment in recognition of the conservation purpose of the land beneath which the company proposes to mine.

Some of the potential or actual effects and proposed management measures identified in the technical assessments and of relevance to the project now submitted to the Fast-Track Approval process, are outlined below.

Cultural Effects:

OceanaGold has undertaken iwi engagement on the WNP RMA applications. The company has invited tangata whenua groups to have an opportunity to express their unique relationships with the values of the WNP environment, the way WNP may impact on cultural values, and the opportunities WNP provides, and has offered support and resourcing for groups to prepare Cultural Values Assessments and/or Cultural Impact Assessments. This process is ongoing but to date there are no identified protected customary rights in the project area.

To-date, s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii) have communicated to OceanaGold s 9(2)(b)(ii)

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

Streams and wetlands (Wharekirauponga):

Engineering studies and technical modelling identify a limited range of sub-catchments, where the design and operation of the underground mine will need to adaptively manage risks (which are low according to recent models) with potential minor to moderate (before mitigation) impacts on natural values of streams and spring-fed wetlands. The classification of larger streams and tributaries as “natural state” in the Regional Plan makes this a key area of focus for OceanaGold.

Biodiversity:

A key element of the Waihi North Project has been managing its effect on biodiversity values. In short, OceanaGold has sought to design the project such that overall, it will have a net benefit to biodiversity values in the region.

Central to achieving that outcome has been the inclusion of:

- Designing the Wharekirauponga mine to substantially remain at depth underground, thereby avoiding direct impacts on indigenous biodiversity within the Coromandel Conservation Park.
- Measures to ensure all non-trivial adverse effects (including potential effects) on terrestrial and aquatic ecology are managed following a strict avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset hierarchy, such that a no net loss, and preferably net gain outcome is achieved. These management measures have been carefully designed to align with the directive requirements of the various planning documents described in the section below.
- The Waihi North Biodiversity Project as part of the Waihi North Project: an \$8.4 million predator control and ecological enhancement project, focused within an 18,870 ha area of the southern Coromandel Forest Park will aim to achieve long-term (inter-generational) positive ecological outcomes for the area. Importantly, the Waihi North Biodiversity Project is not mitigation, offsetting or compensation for adverse effects of the Waihi North Project. Rather, it is a positive beneficial project OceanaGold proposes in addition to measures designed to address the mining-related impacts of the Waihi North Project.

It is noted with respect to surface expressions in the Coromandel Forest Park that OceanaGold has been operating a successful drilling programme at approved sites since 2017. It is subject to a broad suite of stringent environmental controls prescribed by DOC which the company has complied with, but the administration of those controls within the framework of the RMA, CMA, Conservation Act and Wildlife Act has significantly and unnecessarily delayed and constrained activities including some which themselves would provide beneficial general knowledge (like frog surveys and baseline environmental monitoring). These controls were set before the ecological knowledge obtained from OceanaGold’s more recent work was available and are considered ready for review in the context of the WNP project.

Freshwater:

Water management is currently undertaken in an integrated and effective manner at OceanaGold’s existing Waihi facilities, and the same concept will be extended to include the new Waihi North Project elements. In assessing that the current water management approach remains suitable for extension to incorporate water associated with the new Waihi North Project elements, two important matters have been considered:

- Confirming the existing water quality limits that apply to the discharge from the Water Treatment Plant and the Ohinemuri River receiving environment after mixing remain appropriate to ensure the discharge’s effects on instream values are acceptable; and
- Confirming that the Water Treatment Plant will be able to manage all affected mine water from the Waihi North Project and existing mine activities in a

manner which will meet those discharge requirements.

Landscape and Visual Effects:

Landscape and visual effects associated with the project overall are not considered to be significant. Primarily this is due to the underground nature of the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and the sympathetic siting of surface elements in response to sensitive views. For most people living in and around Waihi, the project will remain visually well contained, resulting in no substantial change or adverse landscape or visual effects in the context of existing mining activity. Landscape mitigation will ensure the project remains well integrated within its local landscape setting. The mitigation will facilitate positive landscape, natural character and ecological outcomes in the long-term including greater connectivity between inherent values within the Coromandel Forest Park across the wider surrounding rural landscape.

The Transport Network:

The Waihi North Project contains a number of geographically discrete but interlinked components, and because of that, effects on the transport network were a key consideration when it was being designed. A key output of this was OceanaGold's decision to include the Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel as a part of the project. It provides a means of transporting material between the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and Waihi without having to use the road network. The effects of development traffic on the local roads and their points of access to the arterial state highway network have been examined and recommendations have been made to mitigate any potential adverse effects. With the implementation of those measures the potential adverse transportation-related effects of vehicular access and traffic movement associated with the project, during construction and over the longer term, will be avoided or mitigated to an acceptable level.

Amenity Values:

OceanaGold and its predecessors have been operating in and around Waihi for over 30 years and the company understands the importance of managing the effects of activities on the amenity values of people in the local community. For this reason, proposed project conditions have been informed by appropriate expert assessment and based on the application of recognised standards for achieving good practice in order to protect a reasonable degree of amenity. They include controls on dust and other airborne emissions, and limits on the noise, vibration and overpressure received by neighbours which align with best practice guideline documents. In many cases these limits align or are more stringent than those which apply to OceanaGold's existing activities in this area and which have been proven effective in protecting amenity.

Air Quality:

The proposed activities are very similar in nature to those associated with OceanaGold's existing mining operations and similar measures for avoiding, remedying, or mitigating air quality effects will be implemented.

Social Impacts:

The project's potential social impacts were analysed using an internationally accepted social impact assessment methodology. The Waihi North Project will have positive social impacts insofar as it will contribute to job security and sustained livelihoods; social uplift from reduced local unemployment; and social uplift from increased business activity and indirect employment opportunities. After considering the various measures proposed to avoid, remedy, mitigate, or offset the effects of the Waihi North Project the only negative social effects of significance were: increased demand for housing; a change in sense of place for the Willows Road area; and reduced quality of the environment as a result of increased traffic movements in the Willows Road area. Various measures are contained in the proposed conditions to mitigate these effects.

Rehabilitation and Closure:

A comprehensive and integrated rehabilitation and closure concept is proposed for the Waihi North Project which ties in with the existing rehabilitation and closure obligations which apply to OceanaGold's existing mining activities. The details of the proposed rehabilitation and closure plan have been informed by the various technical assessments commissioned to provide advice on the Waihi North Project. It requires OceanaGold to rehabilitate and close all mine areas such that in the long term:

- The Mine Site, and any structures on it, will remain in a stable, self-sustaining, rehabilitated state;
- The soils on the site are such that it is highly unlikely that there will be a risk to human health considering the post closure use of that land; and
- Any water discharging from the Mine Site, and any groundwater under the Mine Site, will be of a quality such that it will not adversely affect aquatic life, or other users of the water resource.

Exploration Drill Pads:

To minimise effects on the environment and facilitate rehabilitation upon completion of drilling OceanaGold often elects to construct platforms above ground on which to place drill rigs, pumps and supporting camps. Building consents are obtained for platform structures. OceanaGold's contractor driller has been a valued partner for all drilling within the Coromandel Forest Park and is experienced with the existing DOC Access Arrangement conditions for exploration activities, with an excellent track record of maintaining compliance. The drilling standards will be the same as or similar to current drilling activities at Wharekirauponga. Helicopter support flights will be utilised to drop and pick up equipment and personnel, with flight paths arranged with consideration for amenity and recreation and no flights or drilling on public holidays or on weekends except in an emergency. Vibration impacts from existing drilling activities have been monitored and identified as barely perceptible, with levels quickly dissipating as you move away from the drill rig. Drilling lubricants used would be the same as those assessed and approved under the existing DOC Access Arrangement with the same precautions made regarding containment of any fuels, drilling muds, cutting and water use. As drill holes are completed they are capped/grouted and rehabilitated.

Pump Tests:

A method for assessing the degree of groundwater connectivity to the near surface is to undertake a dewatering trial, commonly referred to as a pump test, which involves taking water from a purpose constructed bore within the main resource vein. Undertaking such testing allows the direct observation of changes in groundwater levels (or pressures) in the host rock while the vein is being dewatered. Direct observation of dewatering effects is the most reliable means of assessing connectivity within a groundwater system, and is preferred over groundwater modelling where possible.

All surface activities are operated under OceanaGold's Kauri Dieback Management Plan approved under the DOC AA. Staff working in the area are trained in identifying the symptoms of kauri dieback and what to do in the event it is identified, so provide increased opportunity to identify it earlier than otherwise might be the case. The data and knowledge gained from ecological surveys, drilling and pump testing is typically shared with regulators which adds to general knowledge of the area.

Upload file:

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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:

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity (NPS-IB):

The NPS-IB came into force from 4 August 2023. It aims to help maintain indigenous biodiversity across New Zealand. This is primarily to be achieved by requiring councils to identify areas of significant indigenous biodiversity, or Significant Natural Areas (SNAs), and manage any adverse effects on them from new development and surrounding activities via appropriate provisions to be made in district and regional plans. Beyond SNA's the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity is achieved by applying the effects management hierarchy to any significant adverse effects and otherwise managing adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity to give effect to the objective and policies of the NPS-IB.

The DOC land and road reserve where the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and twin tunnel will be located and a part of the footprint of the new tailings storage facility are identified as SNA. The policy direction of clause 3.10(3) of the NPS-IB has been applied to the project and OceanaGold will adopt a precautionary approach to the management of the effects of the project on these areas and will apply the effects management hierarchy to identify and appropriately mitigate impacts that are not practically avoidable given the functional and locational needs of the project.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management (NPS-FM):

The NPS-FM came into force on 3 September 2020 and provides direction on how freshwater (including groundwater) should be managed under the RMA. OceanaGold seeks to undertake the WNP to manage any potential or actual adverse effects in a manner which prioritises the health and well-being of waterbodies. The WNP proposal is currently considered to be consistent with the objectives and policies of the NPS-FM. OceanaGold is engaging with tangata whenua and cultural values assessments or full CIAs are being prepared, which are expected to include an assessment of impacts on te mana o te wai. Through this process OceanaGold will gain further insight into what tangata whenua understand to be the values of the freshwater bodies affected by WNP and their current state of health, and how cultural well-being can be provided for, now and in the future.

An overarching assessment of the project's interaction with the NPS-FW, as lodged in 2022, can be found here, at section 9.4.5.1 of the report: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/part-a/130/> An updated assessment would be prepared for a Fast Track listed project application.

National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land (NPS-HPL):

The NPS-HPL came into effect on 17 October 2022. The land which will be disturbed as part of the WNP is not identified as Land Use Capability Class 1, 2 or 3 and therefore, the NPS-HPL is not relevant.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2004 (NES-AQ):

The NES-AQ outlines the standards to ensure a guaranteed minimal level of health protection for people living in New Zealand. The NES-AQ is comprised of 14 separate, but interlinked standards. Following assessment it has been concluded that the concentrations of PM10, NO2, CO and CO2 associated with any air discharges from the project and existing mining operations are expected to remain within the relevant standards. The proposed activity is not impeded by the NES-AQ.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil) Regulations 2011 (NES-CS):

The NES-CS seeks to ensure that land affected by contaminants in soil is appropriately identified and assessed before it is developed. If necessary, affected land will need to be remediated or the contaminants contained to make it safe for human use. The NES-CS is not an impediment to granting a land use consent for disturbance of a site that been subject to Hazardous Activities and Industries List (HAIL) activities.

Mining industries are included on the HAIL, noting that the continuation of existing uses is not affected by the NES-CS. A number of historic and existing activities undertaken within the WNP area meet the definition of a HAIL activity, and once established and operating almost all of the WNP elements will be considered HAIL activities, therefore the NES-CS is relevant, particularly to the closure plan and change of use back to pastoral land.

Assessments indicate that the NES-CS is not an impediment to granting a land use consent for the WNP.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (NES-HDW):

The NES-HDW sets requirements for the protection of sources of human drinking water from contamination. A human drinking water source is a natural water body that is used to supply a community with drinking water. The NES-HDW applies to applications for activities located upstream of an abstraction point of a registered drinking water supply. The HDC holds water permits from the WRC to abstract water from the Ohinemuri River and Wamsley Stream for community drinking water supplies, within Area 2 of the WNP. While the NES-HDW is a relevant consideration with respect to project activities occurring in Area 2 it is assessed that the granting of consents within Area 2 is not impeded by the NES-HDW.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (NES-FW):

The relevant WNP activities that are regulated by the NES-FW include activities within or adjacent to wetlands, reclamation of rivers, and activities that could affect fish passage. All activities are provided for as discretionary activities. Resource consent is required for such activities, however the proposed activity is not precluded by the NES-FW. OceanaGold intends that all effects will be managed in accordance with the expectations of the NPS-FM (such that there is no impediment to the granting of the consents sought under the NES-FW).

National Environmental Standard for Electricity Transmission Activities (NES-ETA):

The NES-ETA sets requirements for the operation, maintenance, upgrading, relocation or removal of existing transmission lines. An existing transmission line runs through Gladstone Hill, in the vicinity of the proposed Gladstone Open Pit. It will be relocated to the western side of the pit, and relocation will be undertaken in agreement with PowerCo (a network utility operator) and in compliance with District Plan Development Standards and NES-ETA conditions. As such the activity can be undertaken on a permitted basis.

General comment:

Assessments of WNP's consistency with national direction, as lodged in 2022 are provided in the suite of Assessments of Environmental Effects provided with the application as "Part A – Overarching Assessment of Environmental Effects" and "Part B – Site-Specific Assessments of Environmental Effects", available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

Recent instruments introduce a range of new tests and policy outcomes, which are alive to the locational and functional needs of mining, and the anticipated WNP application will include updated assessments against these.

File upload:

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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:

Commercial in confidence:

The fast track process is more appropriate for this project due to:

s 9(2)(b)(ii)

2. The scale and complexity of the project.

3. The number of statutory and regulatory regimes engaged by the project, reflected in the numerous consents, permits and authorisations required.

4. The number of local government and central government agencies involved. In turn, this adds complexity and delay and there is a lack of co-ordination between Crown decision making processes and Council processes under different statutory regimes.

5. The conflicting statutory purposes of the regimes the project engages with, which are a barrier to the project progressing.

6. The extensive processing delays in securing consents, permits and authorisations to date (for example, over 19 months (ongoing) to process an application for a DOC concession to install equipment to monitor stream flows).

7. The overlapping and duplicated conditions between the different processes.

8. The staggered and conflicting timeframes of the current range of authorisations, which creates a churn of reapplication/reapplying as various permits

expire. This is costly, inefficient (for the company and decision maker) and increases investor uncertainty.

An effective and co-ordinated way of securing the required permissions and a consolidated set of conditions and requirements is vital for the project. Without securing these matters promptly (which we consider is unlikely under the usual consenting and authorisation processes) the opportunity to develop WNP in conjunction with existing operations at Waihi may be permanently lost.

At Waihi, OceanaGold has a strong track record of managing impacts on environmental values, using management techniques (such as avoidance, mitigation, offsetting and compensation) under the supervision of a range of expert consultants / independent peer reviewers with a long association with the mine. With its plans to develop large-scale, long-term predator and pest control within the Coromandel Forest Park, OceanaGold is well placed to contribute into the future towards halting and reversing the decline in New Zealand's indigenous biodiversity, in particular, as part of continuing to develop and operate at Waihi. This makes the mine uniquely placed to deliver beneficial outcomes for both NZ's economy and the environment through the lens of a fast-track, one-stop-shop process.

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

Please write your answer here:

WNP would offer a nationally and regionally significant, shovel-ready project supported by over 30 years of history of modern mining at Waihi, a wide chronological and technical spread of baseline data and a full set of technical assessments of effects and mitigations / offsets for the purposes of the RMA and the Wildlife Act, supported by stakeholder and iwi feedback, council consultation and assessment, meaning it is well-suited to early and efficient referral and disposition through expert panel and Ministerial decision processes. The project would generate substantial export returns and over 300 new highly paid jobs (among other benefits, including over 18,000 ha of predator protection in the Coromandel Conservation Park that is additional to measures required to address effects.

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

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Commercial in confidence:

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Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Mining is a primary production activity (as defined in the National Planning Standard 2019) and as outlined above the WNP will support continued employment and future employment opportunities for mine workers, utilisation of existing mining infrastructure and investment to facilitate continuity of operations and infrastructure and secure ongoing investment certainty for OceanaGold at Waihi. Referral to Fast-Track Approvals processes would promote investor certainty over the near and long-term, and encourage further investment into exploration and development at Waihi.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

OceanaGold has a long history of responsible gold mining in New Zealand, from 1989 at the Macraes Gold Mine in the South Island, then in Reefton at Globe Progress Mine on public conservation land in Victoria Forest Park (now Reefton Restoration Project) and since 2015 in Waihi. Since the inception of its operations OceanaGold has planned to open up or extend mines in response to increases in the price of gold and has frequently sought consent for those extensions. Upon acquiring the Waihi Mine OceanaGold made a commitment to the Overseas Investment Office, as a condition of consent to the acquisition, to expand the life of mine at Waihi. It was due to close in 2019 but OceanaGold has extended it and WNP is the latest stage in that process. OceanaGold's activities consistently deliver a fair financial return to the Crown for its minerals, which is for the benefit of New Zealand.

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

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

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

A key element of the WNP has been managing the effect on biodiversity values. In short, OceanaGold has sought to design the project such that overall it will have a net benefit to biodiversity values in the region.

The Waihi North Biodiversity Project is an \$8.4M predator control and ecological enhancement project focused within an 18,870 hectare area of the southern Coromandel Forest Park, and it is designed to deliver long-term (inter-generational) positive ecological outcomes for the area. The project seeks to involve tangata whenua and other people (including via employment) and is intended to be consistent with New Zealand's aspiration to be predator free by 2050.

Additionally, the substantial amount of ecological field and survey work that OceanaGold has been doing has increased knowledge about the indigenous Archey's frog, which generally benefits New Zealand. This has also enabled OceanaGold to design a WNP effects management plan, focused around predator control but also including funding into research for predator control techniques to benefit frogs, which will ultimately provide for a significant net benefit to Archey's frogs.

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

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

An assessment of the WNP, as at June 2022, in relation to the relevant provisions of the relevant Local and Regional Planning documents is provided in the suite of Assessments of Environmental Effects provided with the RMA application as “Part A – Overarching Assessment of Environmental Effects” and “Part B – Site-Specific Assessments of Environmental Effects”, available here: <https://oceanagold.com/interactive-documents/>

Waikato Regional Policy Statement (RPS):

The WNP lodged in June 2022 has been evaluated against the RPS. It was concluded that overall the activities associated with the WNP are proposed to be undertaken and managed in a way that is not contrary to the objectives and policies of the RPS.

Waikato Regional Plan (WRP):

The WNP lodged in June 2022 has been evaluated against the WRP. It was concluded that overall the various ‘regional’ activities associated with the WNP will be managed such that the project is not contrary to and generally consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the WRP.

Hauraki District Plan (HDP):

The WNP lodged in June 2022 has been evaluated against the HDP. It was concluded that overall the various ‘regional’ activities associated with the WNP will be managed such that the project is not contrary to and generally consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the HDP.

Prior to lodgement as a listed project the WNP assessments will be reviewed and if necessary updated to ensure that the effects of the project have been considered in accordance with the relevant sections of the RMA and the relevant provisions of the applicable planning documents, including the regional and district planning instruments, and to confirm that the WNP will promote the sustainable management of natural and physical resources in accordance with Part 2 of the RMA and there are no impediments to granting the consents sought for the project.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

Minerals Permits:

OceanaGold already holds minerals permits under the CMA which authorise mineral extraction, both current and future mining and exploration. The permits currently expire in 2044 (Mining Permit 41808 Favona) and 2060 (Mining Permit 60541 Wharekirauponga). OceanaGold has a proven record of maintaining its minerals permits in good standing and meeting work programme commitments.

Resource consents already obtained that support the project:

An extensive suite of resource consents are held by OceanaGold authorising the existing Waihi gold mining operation including infrastructure at the Waihi Surface Facilities Area such as the processing plant. Consents are also held for existing exploration operations at Wharekirauponga.

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?

Yes

If yes, please explain:

OceanaGold’s projects are designed to a number of regulatory standards, including the NZSOLD standards for large dams, and therefore incorporate seismic and climate-based design considerations.

In the last decade OceanaGold has been required to adapt to changing climatic conditions and weather events at Waihi, for example flooding, and has successfully managed operations through these events.

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:

Reefton Mine:

1. Until 2016 OceanaGold operated a gold mining operation at Reefton known as the Oceana Gold Globe – Progress Mine. The Mine is now the Reefton Restoration Project and handover to landowner DOC is nearing completion.

2. On 1 December 2009 the West Coast Regional Council (WCRC) charged OceanaGold under section 15(1)(b) of the RMA for discharging sediment into Devils Creek from a silt settling pond at the mine on 2 September 2009, in breach of its resource consent. The breach of the condition was as a consequence of the rainfall in the week prior to sampling and that there had been additional rainfall on 25 August 2009 (8 days prior to sampling) which had increased the water height in the silt pond. However, the consent condition provided no exemption based on rainfall events. OceanaGold entered an early guilty plea and participated in a restorative justice process with the WCRC where it was agreed that the Applicant would carry out remediation at Devils Creek. On 15 November 2010 the Applicant was sentenced and fined \$23,000 for breach of the consent and an enforcement order was made by consent.

3. OceanaGold prepared a remedial action plan in consultation with the WCRC, obtained the necessary consent, and trialed stream bed works in Devils Creek. It became apparent to both parties that extending the trial would result in extensive vegetation disturbance, and mobilisation of sediment in the Creek could result in further areas being affected. The parties agreed an amended remedial action plan which is being completed during site closure and prior to closure will be deemed cancelled.

Macraes Mine:

1. On 20 February 2024 the Otago Regional Council issued OceanaGold an abatement notice under section 322(1)(a)(i) of the RMA, in relation to the outdoor storage of tyres in excess of 20m³ at the Macraes Mining operation.

2. By September 2024 OceanaGold will comply with the notice by obtaining resource consent in accordance with the Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors) Regulations 2021.

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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:

Alison Paul

Important notes