

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT

Landscape

Evidence of Rhys James Girvan
Regarding Technical Assessment of
Landscape, Natural Character and
Visual Effects and Proposed
Conditions

7 February 2025

INTRODUCTION

My name is Rhys James Girvan.

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to landscape effects. I co-wrote the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment which is provided within *Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments* of the application.

This evidence has been prepared to accompany the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**”) for approvals required for the WNP under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”). It has been prepared on the understanding that the process for determining applications under the FTAA does not require a hearing to be held, and accordingly the purpose of this evidence is to confirm that, relative to my area of expertise the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment provides an appropriate description of the relevant environment, the proposed activities comprising the effects of the WNP on that environment, and the way those effects are proposed to be managed.

My findings are set out in full in the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment included within *Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments* of the application.

While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing this evidence. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, this evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

I hold the qualifications of master’s in landscape architecture from Lincoln University and Bachelor of Arts majoring in psychology from the University of Canterbury. I am a registered member of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (“**NZILA**”).

I have been a landscape planning consultant for Boffa Miskell Limited (“**BML**”) since April 2012 and currently employed as a Senior Principal Landscape Planner in BMLs Christchurch office.

I have practiced as a landscape planner for approximately 20 years. My experience includes the assessment of landscape and visual effects for development projects of many types and scales, including infrastructure use and development encompassing windfarms, utilities, quarries, mines, landfills, and roading projects. I am experienced in preparing district and

region wide landscape assessments which recognise and articulate important landscape values as well as preparing landscape plans and associated rehabilitation strategies to support successful development proposals within a wide range of natural and built contexts. In providing this evidence in relation to landscape, natural character and visual effects, I have considered the following matters as relevant to that topic:

- (a) The project description provided by OGNZL as set out in Section 2 of the Substantive Application prepared by Mitchell Daysh Limited;
- (b) The description of the existing environment, the effects of the WNP on that environment and their significance, and the proposals to manage those effects all as set out in the assessment of environmental effects accompanying the application;
- (c) The technical assessments of ecology, recreation, heritage, hydrology and noise from other OGNZL experts that are relevant to my area of expertise; and
- (d) Input from Tangata Whenua where such information has been made available while acknowledging that mana whenua values, interests and associations are to be addressed separately through Iwi led Cultural Impact Assessments.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

I confirm that in my opinion the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment contains an accurate and appropriate description of the environment, the actual and potential effects of the WNP, and the recommended actions to manage those effects within my area of expertise.

I confirm that in my opinion the contents of the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment may be relied on in making a decision on the approvals sought for the WNP, and confirm that provided effects within my area of expertise are managed as proposed in the application those effects will not be unacceptable and will be managed to a standard that I consider meets good practice.

I confirm that I have reviewed the conditions that OGNZL proposes for the various approvals being sought as they relate to my area of expertise. I confirm that in my opinion those proposed conditions are appropriate.

Rhys James Girvan

Dated this 7 day of February 2025