

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT

Air Quality

Evidence of Richard Leslie Chilton
Regarding Technical Review of the
Assessments of Air Quality Effects

INTRODUCTION

My name is Richard Leslie Chilton.

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to air quality effects. I wrote the ‘Technical Review of Air Quality Assessments’, which technically reviewed various air quality assessments undertaken by Beca Limited and 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 various air quality assessments provide 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 following documents that are included within *Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments* of the application:

- (a) T+T 2025. Technical Review of Air Quality Assessments’ and in the ‘Assessment of mine vent air quality impacts to inform an assessment of ecological effects on Archey’s frog. Letter report by Tonkin & Taylor Limited for Oceana Gold (NZ) Limited.

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 qualification of Bachelor of Science (Geography) and Master of Environmental Science, both from the University of Canterbury. My master’s thesis was in relation meteorological influences on urban air pollution. I am certified as an independent Hearings Commissioner under a programme operated for the New Zealand Ministry for the

Environment. I am a member of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ) and a Certified Air Quality Professional (CAQP).

I am an Air Quality Scientist with Tonkin & Taylor Limited (T+T), where I hold the position of Technical Director - Air Quality. I have 25 years' experience in air quality assessment and management. I have undertaken air quality assessments for a wide variety of industrial processes, waste management activities, transport infrastructure, intensive livestock farms, quarries and mining operations in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Fiji.

Prior to joining T+T, I have been employed by, and held the following positions:

- (b) Golder Associates (NZ) Limited (Christchurch, New Zealand: 2006-2018) - Principal Air Quality Scientist.
- (c) Bureau Veritas Limited (London, United Kingdom: 2004-2005) – Air Quality Consultant.
- (d) Auckland Regional Council (Auckland, New Zealand: 1999-2003) – Air Quality Officer.

I have undertaken air quality assessments for a wide range of industries, including:

- (a) Wimmera Mineral Sands (Illuka Resources Limited, Australia, 2024): I am the technical air quality lead in the ongoing preparation of an air quality technical assessment to support an Environmental Effects Statement in relation to the proposed Wimmera Mineral Sands mining operation.
- (b) Fonterra Limited – various projects (Fonterra Limited, 2006-2025). I have overseen the preparation of air discharge assessments and resource consent application for a various Fonterra sites, including the Te Awamutu, Darfield, Pahiatua (dryer 3 expansion), Clondeboye, Studholme (biomass conversion and site expansion), Stirling, Kaikoura, Edendale (dryer 4 expansion), Hautapu, Waitoa, Takaka, Te Awamutu, Kauri, Longburn, Whareroa, and Brightwater sites. The work also involved preparing detailed air quality assessment reports, partaking in community consultation, and presenting expert evidence at permit application hearings.
- (c) Technical review of Fosterville Gold Mine expansion (Greater Bendigo City Council, Australia, 2024): I prepared technical reviews of the air quality assessment and relevant management plans prepared by SLR consulting for the Proponent to assist in informing the Council's submission, participated in expert caucusing and presented expert evidence to Inquiry Hearing Panel.
- (d) Yaldhurst quarry expansions (Road Metals, 2006 – 2024): I prepared air quality assessments for five projects expanding Road Metals Limited's Yaldhurst quarries, assessing the effect of each expansion on surrounding sensitive receptors. On each

occasion I prepared and presented expert evidence to a joint council hearing, including the most recent application in 2024.

- (e) Lyttelton Port Coal Stockyard (Lyttelton Port Company, 2002-2023): I prepared an air quality assessment and dust management plan for the application by Lyttelton Port Company in relation to the re consenting of its Coal Stock Yard (2019-2023) for the export of coking coal. I participated in community consultation and iwi engagement, and provided expert evidence to a hearing panel.
- (f) Ravensdown Napier Works (Ravensdown Limited, 2020 – 2022): I oversaw the preparation of the air quality assessment for the re consenting of air discharges for Ravensdown's largest superphosphate manufacturing plant near Napier. The project included the preparation and presentation of expert evidence.
- (g) Marsden Point Oil Refiner air quality assessment (New Zealand Refining Company, 2019-2020): I prepared an air quality assessment assessing discharges to air from the continued operation of off the oil refinery at Marsden Point.
- (h) Mangatangi Coal Mine (Glen Coal Limited, 2013). I was the technical air quality lead responsible for undertaken an air quality assessment for a proposed new coal mine operation in the Waikato Region of New Zealand. The assessment included a qualitative dust impact assessment, with a more detailed dispersion modelling assessment of discharges to air to inform a human health risk assessment. I participated in community consultation and presented expert evidence at the joint Waikato District and Regional Council hearing considering the application.

In providing this evidence in relation to air quality, 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) Beca 2025a. Waihi North Project - Air Discharge Assessment - Waihi Facilities. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 21 February 2025. Revision I.
- (d) Beca 2025b. Waihi North Project - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine - Air Discharge Assessment - for Fast-Track Approval Application. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025. Revision B.

- (e) Beca 2025c. Waihi North Project - Processing Plant Air Discharge Assessment. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025.
- (f) Beca 2025d. Waihi North Project - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine - Draft Air Quality Management Plan. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT

I confirm that in my opinion the air quality assessments 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 following reports 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:

- (a) T+T 2025. Technical Review of Air Quality Assessments' and in the 'Assessment of mine vent air quality impacts to inform an assessment of ecological effects on Archey's frog. Letter report by Tonkin & Taylor Limited for Oceana Gold (NZ) Limited.
- (b) Beca 2025a. Waihi North Project - Air Discharge Assessment - Waihi Facilities. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 21 February 2025. Revision I.
- (c) Beca 2025b. Waihi North Project - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine - Air Discharge Assessment - for Fast-Track Approval Application. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025. Revision B.
- (d) Beca 2025c. Waihi North Project - Processing Plant Air Discharge Assessment. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025.
- (e) Beca 2025d. Waihi North Project - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine - Draft Air Quality Management Plan. Report prepared by Beca Limited for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited. 24 February 2025.

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.

Richard Leslie Chilton

Dated this 28th day of February 2025