

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)  
LIMITED

## **WAIHI NORTH PROJECT**

### **Groundwater**

Evidence of John Fortuna Regarding  
Technical Assessment of Groundwater  
Effects and Proposed Conditions

## INTRODUCTION

My name is John Fortuna

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to the Hydrogeologic Conceptual and Numerical Models for the proposed underground mine. I wrote or oversaw the production of the “Hydrogeological Conceptual Site Model” and “Numerical Groundwater Model” reports, which are 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 Hydrogeologic Conceptual Site Model and Numerical Groundwater Model reports 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 reports 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 am a geologist and hydrogeologist, holding a Bachelor of Science degree from the California State University and a Master of Science degree from the University of Michigan.

I am currently employed as a Principal Hydrogeologist with FloSolutions and have held that position since 2021.

My previous work experience is primarily as a hydrogeologist for major engineering consultancies, while based in the USA (13 years), Australia (5 years), Canada (1.5 years),

Peru (3.5 years), and Ecuador (3.5 years). I have worked on major mining projects globally and have specific expertise in dewatering and impact assessments for proposed and operating underground mines. I have been working for OGNZL on the Waihi North project since 2018, when I was employed by Golder Associates Australia (now WSP).

In providing this evidence in relation to groundwater, 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 GHD, GWS, Intera, and AECOM
- (d) Time spent onsite making direct field observations, including review of drill core from exploration boreholes.

## **CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS**

I confirm that in my opinion the Hydrogeological Conceptual Site Model and Numerical Groundwater Model reports contain 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 Hydrogeological Conceptual Site Model and Numerical Groundwater Model 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.

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.

**John Fortuna**

Dated 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025