

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)  
LIMITED

## **WAIHI NORTH PROJECT**

Willows Boxcut

Evidence of Daniel Strang Regarding  
Technical Assessment of Willows  
Boxcut Effects and Proposed  
Conditions

## INTRODUCTION

My name is Daniel Strang

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to the geotechnical assessment and design of the Box Cut at Willows Farm for the WNP. I oversaw the Waihi North Project – Preliminary Box Cut Design 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 Waihi North Project – Preliminary Box Cut Design 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 Waihi North Project – Preliminary Box Cut Design 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

Bachelor of Science (Geology) 2009

Master of Science, First Class Honours (Engineering Geology) 2010.

I am currently employed as an Engineering Geologist at Pells Sullivan Meynink and have held that position since 2011 until which time I was promoted to a Principal Engineering Geologist in 2021.

In providing this evidence in relation to geotechnical assessment of the planned boxcut, 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 technical assessments of OceanaGold including use of their factual data and preliminary box cut designs, Engineering Geology Limited (EGL) including use of their factual data, select shear strength parameters, Tailings Storage and Rock Disposal reports (2022, EGL reference 8983 & 9018) and Geotechnical Factual Report (2025, EGL reference 9169), WSP reports including Willows Rock Stack and Surface Facilities Geotechnical Assessment (2022, reference G-01483.84-017-R-Rev0), Updated Stability Assessment for Willows Rock Stack including CPT data (2023, reference G-01483.84\_0EEGT-023-LR-Rev0\_FINAL) and Geotechnical Assessment Underground Mine and Tunnels (2022, reference G-14642.71-006-R-Rev0\_FINAL).

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

I confirm that in my opinion the Waihi North Project – Preliminary Box Cut Design 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 Waihi North Project – Preliminary Box Cut Design 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.



**Daniel Strang**

Dated this 3 day of March 2025