

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT

Groundwater

Evidence of Chris Simpson Regarding
Technical Assessment of Effects on
Groundwater and Proposed Conditions

INTRODUCTION

My name is Chris Simpson

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to groundwater effects. I wrote the groundwater effects assessment for the Wharekirauponga mine site and the tunnelled sections 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 Wharekirauponga Mine and Tunnel Elements groundwater effects assessment reports 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 Wharekirauponga Mine and Tunnel Elements groundwater effects assessment 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 hydrogeologist and hold a Master of Science degree from the University of Auckland.

I am currently employed as a Principal Hydrogeologist and have held that position since 2023.

My previous work experience includes being a mine geologist, lecturer in hydrogeology and consultant. I have a total of 30 years professional experience with 25 years practice as a groundwater scientist. I have spent much of my career working on various projects related to

groundwater effects in the Coromandel Peninsula and have been acting as an advisor to OGLNZ in relation to hydrogeological aspects of the Waihi Mines for the past 12 years.

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 FloSolutions, Intera, GHD and AECOM.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

I confirm that in my opinion the Wharekirauponga Mine and Tunnel Elements groundwater effects assessments 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 Wharekirauponga Mine and Tunnel Elements groundwater 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.

Chris Simpson

Dated this 4th day of February 2025