

**UNDER** the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**Act**)

**IN THE MATTER** an application for approvals for the Waihi North  
Project (**WNP**) – a listed project described in  
Schedule 2 of the Act

**BY** **OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED**  
**Applicant**

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE BY IAN ROBERT JENKINS ON BEHALF OF  
OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED**

**Geochemical Assessment**

**Dated 1 September 2025**

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**Counsel acting:**  
Stephen Christensen  
Project Barrister  
P 027 448 2325  
stephen@projectbarrister.nz

## **Introduction**

1. My full name is Ian Robert Jenkins. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Geology and a Master of Science (Honours) degree in Geology and Environmental Science from the University of Auckland. For the seven years from 2000 to 2006 I was a lecturer for a post-graduate course in groundwater chemistry and contaminant hydrogeology at the University of Auckland.
2. My Masters thesis was on the assessment and management of mine wastes from mine sites in the Coromandel region.
3. I am currently employed as a Technical Director at AECOM New Zealand Limited (AECOM) and have held that position since 2015.
4. My previous work experience includes over 33 years' experience undertaking design, geochemistry and groundwater assessments for mine sites. This experience includes geology, hydrogeology, geochemistry, water quality, mine waste containment and design for mine sites throughout New Zealand.
5. I have provided geochemical advice on the major hard rock gold mines throughout New Zealand over the past three decades. I have also provided specialist geochemical modelling input to a number of mining projects in Australia.
6. I have been asked by OceanaGold (New Zealand) Limited to provide a response to the specific matters contained in written comments on the WNP application from persons invited by the Panel to comment under section 53 of the Act:
  - a. Coromandel Watchdog Submissions Document A, Historic Mine Waste; and,

- b. Coromandel Watchdog Submissions Document B, Dr. Steven Emerman.
7. I have prepared this statement within the limited time available to me. Consequently, it is necessarily at a high level. I am able to provide a more fulsome response to the issues covered in this statement if the Panel requires further assistance from me.

**Code of conduct**

8. I confirm that I have read the code of conduct for expert witnesses contained in section 9 of the Environment Court Practice Note 2023 and have complied with it in preparing this evidence. I confirm that the issues addressed in this evidence are within my area of expertise, and I have not omitted material facts known to me that might alter or detract from my evidence.

**Coromandel Watchdog Submissions Document A, Appendix B.01  
Historic Mine Waste**

9. In paragraphs 11 to 14, the submission makes reference to the legacy of mining in the Coromandel area, two historic mine sites area mentioned and the difference in scale between these mines and the Waihi North Proposal noted.
10. I have worked on both these sites. The first site being Tui Mine on Mt Te Aroha where I was the technical lead for the remediation of the site in the 2000's. The second site being in the Karangahake Mine area from the early 1900's, a site investigated as part of my master's thesis. In my opinion, neither is comparable to the proposed activities that are the subject of the WNP.
11. In the case of the Tui Mine site on Mt Te Aroha the site was a base metal sulphide mine (copper, lead and zinc minerals) that was abandoned with no closure works in the 1970's and left in this unmanaged condition for more

than 3 decades. The Tui Mine’s mineralogy and resulting higher risk from the mine waste and the multiple levels of engineered, operational, regulatory and post closure controls as part of the Waihi North Project mean these sites cannot reasonably be compared.

**Coromandel Watchdog Submission Document B, Dr Steven Emerman**

12. In paragraphs 22 to 25 of Dr Emerman’s statement, he paraphrases sections of the Geochemical Assessment relating to trace elements elevated in the GOP, which include antimony, arsenic and mercury. Dr Emerman then goes on to state that the application does not recognise “the ability of cyanide to extract” these trace elements, going on to conclude that the concentrations in tailings porewater have therefore been underestimated.
13. I consider this statement by Dr Emerman to be incorrect. The assessment of the decant and tailings porewater from the proposed WNP uses monitoring data from the existing tailings storage facilities (TSF1a and TSF2) as outlined in section 7.3 of Geochemical Assessment report.<sup>1</sup> This data for the existing operation reflects the use of cyanide extraction. I therefore consider the trace element concentrations in porewater are adequately assessed from more than seven years of monitoring data for the existing full-scale operation.

**Dated:** 1 September 2025

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Ian Robert Jenkins

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<sup>1</sup> B.14. *Geochemistry of Tailings and Overburden, Treatment and Mitigation.*