

D.01 – Thames Coromandel District Council Conditions

Attachment 1 – Waihi North Project Site Selection Protocol

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ATTACHMENT 1 – WAIHI NORTH PROJECT SITE SELECTION PROTOCOL

SITE SELECTION PROTOCOL FOR THE LOCATION OF DRILL SITES, PUMPING TEST / VENTILATION SHAFT SITES, PORTABLE DRILL RIG SITES, AND WATER PUMP SITES

OVERVIEW

This document outlines the protocol which will be used by OceanaGold New Zealand Limited (“**the Consent Holder**”) to select the location of up to eight exploration drill sites, twelve investigative drill sites, up to four pumping test / ventilation shaft sites, up to fifty portable drill rig sites, and water pump sites at the proposed Wharekirauponga Underground Mine (“**WUG**”), located within the Coromandel Forest Park as part of the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”).

The site selection protocol only applies to sites that are eligible for consideration in accordance with the conditions attaching to the Waihi North Project Wharekirauponga Access Arrangement and the Waihi North Project Northern Area Concession.

This protocol follows a cascading management approach whereby:

- > A short list of suitable drill sites will be selected based on the Consent Holder’s technical requirements;
- > A short list of suitable ventilation shaft sites will be selected based on the Consent Holder’s technical requirements.
- > A short list of suitable portable drill rig sites will be selected based on the Consent Holder’s technical requirements; and
- > A short list of suitable water pump sites will be selected based on the Consent Holder’s technical requirements.

Shortlisted sites will then be subject to a multicriteria assessment (“**MCA**”), which will evaluate each potential site against ecological, freshwater, landscape, heritage and recreational criteria. The final eight investigative drilling sites, four ventilation shaft sites, fifty portable drill rig sites, and water pump sites will be selected based on the outcomes of the MCA. This protocol will ensure that selected sites meet the Consent Holder’s technical requirements, whilst minimising adverse effects on the environment.

SHORT-LIST SITE IDENTIFICATION

The Consent Holder shall create a short list of options for drill sites, ventilation sites, portable drill sites, and water pump sites which meet engineering and geotechnical requirements.

The Consent Holder shall assess each of the shortlisted sites against the MCA (set out below) to

inform the final site selection.

Note: all sites must meet engineering and geotechnical requirements in order to fulfil their intended function. For ventilation sites in particular, it is recognised that engineering and geotechnical requirements may result in a low number of potential options.

MULTICRITERIA ASSESSMENT

Once the Consent Holder has established a shortlist of drill sites, ventilation shaft sites, portable drill sites, and/or water pump sites, it shall convene a team of appropriately qualified and experienced experts to undertake the MCA evaluation for each site.

The MCA will guide the Consent Holder's selection of up to eight exploration drill sites, twelve investigative drill sites, up to four ventilation shaft sites, up to fifty portable drill sites, and up to six water pump sites (two associated with exploration and four associated with tunnel alignment) at locations which meet engineering and geotechnical requirements in order to fulfil their intended function and best achieve the outcomes set out below.

The provisions of the Hauraki District Council ("**HDC**") conditions, the Wharekirauponga Access Arrangement ("**WAA**") conditions, the Northern Area Concession ("**NAC**") conditions, and the Thames Coromandel District Council ("**TCDC**") conditions stipulate a number of site exclusion criteria when determining if sites are suitable for use as drill sites, ventilation sites, portable drill sites, and water pump sites. The conditions prescribing these exclusions are provided in full within **Appendix A** to this document.

Note: If at the conclusion of undertaking the multicriteria assessment outlined in this document the appropriately qualified and experienced experts undertaking the assessment deem a site to have, or be of, such value that it should not be utilised for the purpose of drill sites, ventilation sites, portable drill sites, and / or water pump sites, the appropriately qualified and experienced experts hold the authority to deem that the site is not to be utilised. However, the experts are limited to excluding a maximum number of sites that will still leave the Consent Holder with sufficient approved sites to enable the number of activities authorised by the approvals to take place.

APPLICATION OF THE MULTICRITERIA ASSESSMENT AT EACH SITE

For clarity, the sub-sections below set out the steps which are to be followed when applying the MCA at drill sites, ventilation shaft sites, portable drill sites, and water pump sites in accordance with the provisions of the HDC, WAA, NAC, and TCDC conditions. These steps include reporting and certification requirements.

A table is also provided as **Appendix B** to this document which summarises key site, survey, exclusion and clearance and herpetofauna salvage details for each site type.

Drill Sites

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(ii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(a)(ii) of the WAA conditions, in concurrence with the undertaking of ecological surveying (required by Condition 115(a)(i) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(a)(i) of the WAA conditions, respectively), the requirements of this MCA shall be applied to sites which are being considered for suitability as drill site locations.

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(iii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(a)(iii) of the WAA conditions, the results of the MCA's multicriteria analysis shall be reported in a Siting Report.

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(iv) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(a)(iv) of the WAA conditions, the Siting Report shall be submitted to the HDC, the Waikato Regional Council, and the Department of Conservation ("**DOC**") for certification that the MCA has been appropriately applied.

These requirements are to be met at least 20 working days prior to clearing vegetation or undertaking drilling or construction activities at any of the drill sites.

Ventilation Shaft Sites

In accordance with Condition 115(b)(i) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(b)(i) of the WAA conditions, the requirements of this MCA shall be applied to those sites which have been identified (under Condition 114 of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.12 of the WAA conditions, respectively) as suitable sites for ventilation shaft sites.

In accordance with Condition 115(b)(ii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(b)(ii) of the WAA conditions, the results of the MCA's multicriteria analysis shall be reported in a Siting Report.

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(iii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(b)(iii), the Siting Report shall be submitted to the HDC, the Waikato Regional Council, and DOC for certification that the MCA has been appropriately applied.

These requirements are to be met at least 20 working days prior to clearing vegetation or undertaking drilling or construction activities at any of the ventilation shaft sites.

Portable Drill Rig Sites

In accordance with Condition 115(c)(ii) of the HDC conditions, Condition 2.13(c)(ii) of the WAA, Condition 3(b) of the NAC conditions, and Condition 13(b) of the TCDC conditions, in concurrence with the undertaking of ecological surveying (required by Condition 115(c)(i) of the HDC conditions, Condition 2.13(c)(i) of the WAA conditions, Condition 3(a) of the NAC conditions, and Condition 13(a) of the TCDC conditions, respectively), the requirements of this SPP shall be applied to sites which are being considered for suitability as portable drill rig sites.

In accordance with Condition 115(b)(ii) of the HDC conditions, Condition 2.13(c)(iii) of the WAA conditions, Condition 3(c)(i) of the NAC conditions, and Condition 13(c) of the TCDC conditions, the results of the MCA's multicriteria analysis shall be reported in a Siting Report.

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(iii) of the HDC conditions, Condition 2.13(c)(iv) of the WAA conditions, Condition 3(c)(iv) of the NAC conditions, and Condition 13(d) of the TCDC conditions, the Siting Report shall be submitted to the HDC, the Waikato Regional Council, DOC, and TCDC for certification that the MCA has been appropriately applied.

These requirements are to be met at least 20 working days prior to clearing vegetation or undertaking drilling

or construction activities at any of the portable drill rig sites.

Water Pump Sites

In accordance with Condition 115(c)(ii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(c)(ii) of the WAA, in concurrence with the undertaking of ecological surveying (required by Condition 115(c)(i) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(c)(i) of the WAA conditions, respectively) the requirements of this MCA shall be applied to sites which are being considered for suitability as water pump sites.

In accordance with Condition 115(b)(ii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(c)(iii) of the WAA conditions, the results of the MCA's multicriteria analysis shall be reported in a Siting Report.

In accordance with Condition 115(a)(iii) of the HDC conditions and Condition 2.13(c)(iv) of the WAA conditions, the Siting Report shall be submitted to HDC, the Waikato Regional Council, and DOC for certification that the MCA has been appropriately applied.

These requirements are to be met at least 20 working days prior to clearing vegetation or undertaking drilling or construction activities at any of the water pump sites.

MULTICRITERIA ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES

Terrestrial Fauna

- > The loss of 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' native frogs is avoided;
- > The loss of 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' lizards is avoided;
- > The loss of 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' terrestrial invertebrates is avoided;
- > The removal of trees where bats are actively roosting is avoided; and
- > The removal of trees in which birds¹ are actively nesting is avoided.

Terrestrial Flora

- > The loss of 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' flora is avoided;
- > The loss of mature trees (trees that are greater than 50 cm in diameter at breast height (1.4 m above ground level)) is minimised where practicable; and
- > Preference is given to sites where trees can be trimmed or tied back in such a way as to minimise felling.

Freshwater Values

- > Sites selected are located as far from surface waterbodies (including natural inland

¹ Any reference to birds means birds protected under the Wildlife Act 1953.

wetlands) as is reasonably practicable; and

- > The loss of riparian vegetation within 20 m of a waterway is minimised where practicable.

Landscape and Visual Amenity Values

- > Sites selected can be visually contained, including any consequent plume from ventilation shafts, and assimilated into the environment so that they are reasonably difficult to see.
- > Once work has been completed, selected sites can be successfully rehabilitated to ensure that long term landscape and visual effects are avoided.

Heritage and Cultural Values

- > Disturbance to, or interference with listed or known heritage features and / or sites is avoided.
- > Archaeological features and features of particular significance to iwi are avoided.

The Consent Holder must engage a suitably qualified and experienced archaeologist to assess if there are any known archaeological or other historic heritage features, or a likelihood of unidentified archaeological or other historic heritage features within 500m of the shortlisted investigative drill sites and **ventilation** shaft sites.

Recreation Values

- > Sites selected are located as far away as is practicable from the Te Wharekirauponga Track.

MULTICRITERIA ASSESSMENT TOOL

A red / amber / green (“**RAG**”) MCA tool will be utilised to guide decision-making. The assessment tool has three rankings, based on the level of adverse effect anticipated for each criterion, noting that the grading is relative to the other effects, not absolute:

Lower effects	Moderate effects	Higher effects
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The criteria for assessing each value set is set out in **Table 1**.

Table 1: MCA Assessment Tool.

Criteria	Lower effects	Moderate effects	Higher effects
Terrestrial Fauna			
Habitat value for native frogs	<20 % cover of kiekie and / or fern species	≥20 %, ≤50% cover of kiekie and / or fern species	>50 % cover of kiekie and / or fern species
Habitat value for native lizards	<50 cover of kanuka / manuka scrub with closed canopy and no light gaps	> 50% cover of kanuka / manuka scrub with light gaps	Previous records of native lizards within 20 m of the Site
‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ terrestrial invertebrates	No ‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ terrestrial invertebrates are found on site.	‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ terrestrial invertebrates are found on site, but can be salvaged and moved to suitable habitat at least 50m away from the drilling and / or ventilation shaft site (as assessed by a suitably qualified entomologist).	At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ terrestrial invertebrates are found on site, and cannot be salvaged and moved to suitable habitat at least 50m away from the drilling and / or ventilation shaft site (as assessed by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist).
Bat roosts	No trees with bat roost characteristics identified on site (as assessed by suitably qualified zoologist).	Trees with bat roost characteristics identified on site, but no bats are found to be currently roosting in the tree (as assessed by a suitably qualified ecologist).	Trees with bat roost characteristics identified on site, with signs that bats are currently roosting in the tree (as assessed by a suitably qualified ecologist).
Nesting birds	No active bird nests detected on site (as assessed suitably qualified ecologist).	-	Active bird nests detected on site (as assessed by a suitably qualified ecologist).
Indigenous Terrestrial Flora			
‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ flora NB This does not include kauri and Myrtaceae species (classified as ‘Threatened - Nationally Vulnerable’ or ‘At Risk – Declining’ in response to disease risk.)	No ‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ flora identified is on site (as assessed by suitably qualified botanist).	‘At Risk’ and / or ‘Threatened’ flora identified is on site, but can be readily translocated to a suitable alternative site containing similar light, soil and vegetation community characteristics (as determined by a suitably qualified botanist), or retained on site by bending back without cutting.	‘At Risk’ and/ or ‘Threatened’ flora identified on site, and cannot be readily translocated to a suitable alternative site containing similar light, soil and vegetation community characteristics (as determined by a suitably qualified botanist), or retained on site by bending back without cutting.
Removal of mature trees (applicable at vent sites only as removal of mature trees at portable rig sites is not proposed, and removal of mature trees at drill sites is controlled via conditions) ²	No removal of trees greater than 50 cm in diameter at breast height is required.	Removal of ≤4 trees greater than 50 cm in diameter at breast height is required.	Removal of >4 trees greater than 50 cm in diameter at breast height required.
Freshwater			
Proximity to rivers and streams	Site is more than 100 m from nearest river or stream.	Site is between 50-100 m from nearest river or stream.	Site is less than 50m from nearest river or stream.
Proximity to wetland	Site is more than 100 m from nearest wetland.	Site is between 10 - 100 m from a wetland.	Site is within or within 10 m of a wetland. ³

² Condition 118A of the Hauraki District Council Conditions and Condition 2.17 of the Wharekirauponga Access Arrangement Conditions.

³ NB: Resource Consent will be required under the NES-Freshwater for any earthworks or land disturbance within, or within a 10 m setback from, a natural inland wetland, or outside a 10 m, but within a 100 m, setback from a natural inland wetland results, or is likely to result, in the complete or partial drainage of all or part of the wetland.

Criteria	Lower effects	Moderate effects	Higher effects
Riparian vegetation	No riparian vegetation removal required.	Minimal riparian vegetation removal is required.	More than minimal riparian vegetation removal is required.
Landscape and Visual Amenity			
Visibility	Site cannot be seen from any formal walking track or viewpoints beyond the Coromandel Forest Park.	Site can partially be seen from any formal walking track or viewpoints beyond the Coromandel Forest Park.	Site can be clearly seen from any formal walking track or viewpoint beyond the Coromandel Forest Park.
Heritage			
Heritage features/Cultural	No heritage or cultural features and / or sites are identified within 500m of the site.	Heritage/cultural features and / or sites are identified within 500m of site, but outside the proposed site footprint.	Heritage/cultural features and / or sites are identified with the proposed site footprint.
Recreation			
Proximity to recreational tracks	Site is at least 750 m from nearest formal walking track.	Site is between 400 -750 m from nearest formal walking track.	Site is within 400 m of nearest formal walking track.
Proximity to <i>Waikato Conservation Management Strategy</i> recreation remote zones	Site is more than 500 m outside of a recreation remote zone.	Site is within 500 m of a recreation remote zone.	Site is within a recreation remote zone.

APPENDIX A: SITE SELECTION EXCLUSION CRITERIA

The provisions of the Hauraki District Council conditions, the Wharekurauponga Access Arrangement conditions, the Northern Area Concession conditions, and the Thames Coromandel District Council conditions stipulate a number of site exclusion criteria when determining if sites are suitable for use as drill sites, ventilation sites, portable drill sites, and water pump sites.

These exclusion criteria are set out in full below.

HDC CONDITIONS

Drill Sites

119A. If a frog nest, or a frog brooding eggs or froglets (i.e. a number of small, tailed frogs) is observed during ecological surveys, or during vegetation clearance, all activities at that site will cease and an alternative site(s) will be selected.

124. If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during any ecological survey(s), or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku inexpectatus*) are found in a survey undertaken under Condition 119, or during any ecological survey(s), then the Consent Holder shall determine if there is an alternative 22 m X 22 m area within the ecological survey area(s) that is suitable for use as a Drill Site (i.e. a 22 m X 22 m area where four or less frogs, lizards, or northern striped gecko have been found, and where the boundaries of that 22 m X 22 m area have applied a 3 m buffer from any frog, lizard, or northern striped gecko that have been found within the ecological survey area(s)). If no such alternative 22 m X 22 m area is available, an alternative site selected.

126. The Consent Holder will impose a minimum buffer of 3 m around any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frog found during the ecological survey(s) and select Drill Site accordingly.

131. If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) or five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then all exploration operations at the Drill Site(s) will immediately cease and alternative site(s) may be selected.

Vent Sites

140. If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during vegetation clearance, then all work on the site clearance must immediately cease and an alternative site should be selected.

Portable Rig Sites / Water Pump Sites

157. If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during any ecological survey(s), or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during any ecological survey(s), then the Consent Holder shall determine if there is an alternative 8 m X 3 m area within the ecological survey area(s) that is suitable for use as a site (i.e. a 8 m X 3 m area where four or less frogs, lizards, or northern striped gecko have been found, and where the boundaries of that 8 m X 3 m area have applied a 3 m buffer from any frog, lizard, or northern striped gecko that has been found within the ecological survey area(s)). If no such alternative 8 m X 3 m area is available, an alternative site should be selected.

166. Disturbance of *Pterostylis puberula*, *Pretrastylis tasmanica* or king fern *Ptisana salicina* to establish any Portable Rig Site or Water Pump Site must be avoided.

WHAREKIRAUPONGA ACCESS ARRANGEMENT

Exclusion Conditions

- 2.8** (a) Exploration operations at any drill site(s) within 400 m of any open section of the Wharekirauponga track during the high visitor period of 23rd December to 6th February (inclusive) excepting those activities required to maintain the security and safety of the drill site(s);
- (h) Establish any drill site(s), Vent Shaft / Pump Test Site(s), or any Portable Rig Site(s) that are not near-stream piezometer sites, within 25 m of the nearest river or stream; or
- (i) Establish any drill site(s), Vent Shaft / Pump Test Site(s), or Portable Rig Site(s) within 10 m of a natural inland wetland, except for those sites which are established to install wetland monitoring piezometers.
- 2.9** The Permit holder will ensure that a minimum buffer of 30 m is maintained between the location of any Drill Site or Portable Rig Site and any part of the Wharekirauponga Track. For the avoidance of doubt no Drill Sites or Portable Rig Sites will be located within this buffer.
- 2.10** The Permit holder will ensure that a minimum buffer of 250 m is maintained between the location of any Vent Shaft / Pump Test Site and any part of the Wharekirauponga Track. For the avoidance of doubt no Vent Shaft / Pump Test Sites will be located within this buffer.

Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Drill Site Locations

- 2.18A** If a frog nest, or a frog brooding eggs or froglets (i.e. a number of small, tailed frogs) is observed during ecological surveys, or during vegetation clearance, all activities at that site will cease and an alternative site(s) will be selected.
- 2.23** If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during any ecological survey(s), or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during any ecological survey(s), then the Permit holder shall determine if there is an alternative 22 m X 22 m area within the ecological survey area(s) that is suitable for use as a Drill Site (i.e. a 22 m X 22 m area where four or less frogs, lizards, or northern striped gecko have been found, and where the boundaries of that 22 m X 22 m area have applied a 3 m buffer from any frog, lizard, or northern striped gecko that has been found within the ecological survey area(s)). If no such alternative 22 m X 22 m area is available, an alternative site will be selected.

Management of 'At Risk' and/or 'Threatened' Herpetofauna during vegetation clearance Associated with Drill Site Locations.

- 2.30** If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) or five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then all exploration operations at the Drill Site(s) will immediately cease and alternative site(s) will be selected.

Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Vent Shaft / Pump Test Sites

- 2.51** If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during vegetation clearance, then all work on the site clearance must immediately cease and an alternative site will be selected.

Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Portable Rig Sites and Water Pump Sites

- 2.62** If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during any ecological survey(s), or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during any ecological survey(s), then the Permit holder

shall determine if there is an alternative 8 m X 3 m area within the ecological survey area(s) that is suitable for use as a site (i.e. a 8 m X 3 m area where four or less frogs, lizards, or northern striped gecko have been found, and where the boundaries of that 8 m X 3 m area have applied a 3 m buffer from any frog, lizard, or northern striped gecko that has been found within the ecological survey area(s)). If no such alternative 8 m X 3 m area is available, an alternative site will be selected.

Management of 'At Risk' and/or 'Threatened' Herpetofauna during vegetation clearance Associated with Portable Drill Rig Sites and Water Pump Sites

- 2.68** If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) or five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then all exploration operations at the Drill Site(s) will immediately cease and alternative site(s) may be selected.

Management of 'At Risk' and/or 'Threatened' Flora Associated with Portable Drill Rig Site or Water Pump Site Locations

- 2.72** Disturbance of *Pterostylis puberula*, *Pretrastylis tasmanica* or king fern *Ptisana salicina* to establish any Portable Rig Site or Water Pump Site must be avoided.

NORTHERN AREA CONCESSION

Exclusions Conditions

- 2.** The Concessionaire will not undertake the following activities on the land:
- a. Undertake any helicopter, drilling, and installation activities at any drill site(s) within 400 m of any open section of the Wharekirauponga track during the high visitor period of 23rd December to 6th February (inclusive);
 - e. Establish any drill sites within 10 m of a natural inland wetland, except for those sites which are established to install wetland monitoring piezometers; and
 - f. Undertake any activity that requires ground disturbance within 200 m of recorded archaeology site T12/1262 (Pā site).

Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Portable Drill Rig Sites

- 10.** If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during any ecological survey(s), or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) is found during any ecological survey(s), then the Concessionaire shall determine if there is an alternative 8 m X 3 m area within the ecological survey area(s) that is suitable for use as a drill site (i.e. a 8 m X 3 m area where four or less frogs, lizards, or northern striped gecko have been found, and where the boundaries of that 8 m X 3 m area have applied a 3 m buffer from any frog, lizard, or northern striped gecko that has been found within the ecological survey area(s)). If no such alternative 8 m X 3 m area is available, an alternative site will be selected.

Management of 'At Risk' and/or 'Threatened' Herpetofauna during vegetation clearance Associated with Portable Rig Sites

- 17.** If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku "Coromandel"*) or five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then all exploration operations at the Portable Rig Site(s) will immediately cease and alternative site(s) may be selected.

Management of 'At Risk' and/or 'Threatened' Flora Associated with Portable Rig Sites

- 35.** Disturbance of *Pterostylis puberula*, *Pterostylis tasmanica* or king fern *Ptisana salicina* to establish any Portable Rig Sites must be avoided.

APPENDIX B: SITE TYPE, SURVEY DETAILS, EXCLUSION DETAILS, AND VEGETATION AND HERPETOFAUNA SALVAGE DETAILS

Site Type	Number of Sites	Site Size	Survey Area Size	MCA	Pre-clearance Ecology Surveys	Exclusions	Vegetation Clearance and Herpetofauna Salvage
Drill Site	20	12m x 12m	22m x 22m	Yes	3 days / nights	A site is disqualified/excluded if: - A frog nest, or brooding site is located within the site; - Five or more native frogs or lizards, or one or more northern striped gecko are located within the site; - The site is within 30 m of Wharekirauponga Track; - The site is within 10m of a natural inland wetland; - The site is within 25m of a river or stream.	Daytime vegetation clearance supervised by ecologist Salvaged frogs and lizards translocated to native fauna release area.
Portable Rig Site / Water Pump Site	50	8m x 3m	18m x 13m	Yes	1 day / night	A site disqualified/excluded if: - A frog nest, or brooding site is located within the site; - Five or more native frogs or lizards, or one or more northern striped gecko are located within the site; - The site is within 30 m of Wharekirauponga Track; - The site is within 10m of a natural inland wetland (excepting wetland piezometer sites); - The site is within 25m of a river or stream (excepting near stream piezometer sites); - <i>Pterostylis puberula</i>, <i>Pterostylis tasmanica</i> or king fern <i>Ptisana salicina</i> are located within the site.	Daytime vegetation clearance supervised by ecologist Salvaged frogs and lizards translocated to native fauna release area.
Vent Site	4	30m x 30m	50m x 50m	Yes	1 day	A site disqualified/excluded if: - One or more northern striped gecko (<i>Toropuku</i> “Coromandel”) is found during vegetation clearance.	Two nights of nocturnal search and salvage of herpetofauna prior to vegetation clearance. Salvaged frogs and lizards translocated to native fauna release area. Daytime vegetation clearance supervised by ecologist.

ATTACHMENT 2 – FROG HYGIENE AND HANDLING PROTOCOLS

Native frog hygiene and handling protocols



Background

Over the past 25 years' amphibian populations have declined throughout the world and disease is considered to play a major role. One disease we have in New Zealand which is thought to be a major threat to frogs is the amphibian chytrid fungus. Given the transmission risk of the fungus and other diseases, strict hygiene and handling protocols are required to ensure the safety of our native frog populations. This document provides information on how to:

- Minimise any possible spread of the amphibian chytrid fungus and other pathogens.
- Avoid artificially increasing contact between frogs.
- Achieve the highest level of hygiene protocol that is effective and practical in the field.
- Safely handle frogs for research purposes.

Principles

- Transmission risk can be managed/reduced through good hygiene practices.
- New or disinfected equipment/footwear should be used at every new site.
- New or disinfected equipment should be used for each frog, where practicable.

What should I do before entering known frog habitat?

Before you enter known frog habitat ensure all your foot wear, gaiters and equipment are clean, e.g. free of dirt/mud and dry. Foot wear, gaiters and equipment will also be disinfected. You can ensure that your clothing and equipment is safe to take into frog areas by following simple hygiene protocols.

Site hygiene

- Remove all dirt/mud from footwear, gaiters and field equipment. Pay particular attention to field gear likely to come in contact with amphibians, soil/ground, freshwater, and/or that is already dirty e.g. boot soles.
- Disinfect all field gear. Mud/dirt etc. will be cleaned off first before disinfecting.
- Wash and dry everything. ***Important*** Chytrid fungus cannot survive drying out so it is very important that cleaned items are dried.
- Store gear in a clean dry area away from soil to avoid recontamination.
- ***Important*** If you have been to an area infected with the amphibian chytrid fungus you will clean and disinfect all your gear. Gear will also be cleaned between each field trip into the same native frog area, regardless of whether you are going in the same way or not.

Tips

- Clean ahead to allow time for drying and consider having multiple sets of high use items if no time is available to clean between field trips.
- Wear different footwear when driving between areas and change into clean footwear at the point of entry into frog habitat.

These hygiene protocols are subject to change in the event of new amphibian diseases emerging in New Zealand. Always check with your local Department of Conservation office for the most up to date hygiene information.

What disinfectant should I use and how much?

Purpose	Disinfectant	Concentration	Time	Rinse
Disinfecting footwear/gaiters	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)	1%	1min	Yes
	Hot Wash	4%	15 mins	Yes
Disinfecting collection equipment, instruments and containers	Trigene/ SteriGene F10	1%	1min	Yes
		1%	1min	Yes
	Virkon (NB: corrosive)	1:100	10 mins	Yes
	Sodium hypochlorite (bleach)	1%	1min	Yes
	Virkon (NB: corrosive)	4%	15 mins	Yes
	Trigene F10	1%	1min	Yes
		1%	1min	Yes
	Ethanol	70%	1min	Air dry
	Complete drying		3+ hrs	No
	Heat	37°C	4 hours	No
	Heat	60°C or greater	15 mins	No
	Sterilising UV light		1min	No

Trigene/SteriGene and Virkon and can be purchased from your local vet clinic.

Frog handling hygiene

- A new plastic bag or new powder-free nitrile gloves will be used for each frog when they are caught or handled. Within a local area (deemed as a continuous population) the same gloves may be used for searching for frogs and need to be changed if they come into contact with a frog. It is important to ensure that new gloves are used when moving between areas. Also if a frog displays signs of ill health or looks compromised in some way please ensure a separate glove is used to handle these individuals.
- Each frog should be housed in a separate plastic bag.
- For researchers working in native frog habitat - please ensure all frog handling/measuring equipment that comes into direct contact with the frog is disinfected prior to use, between frogs and between sites.
- Each frog will be weighed and measured in the plastic bag to reduce unnecessary contact.
- Ensure the frogs are kept cool at all times; avoid keeping frogs in the cupped hand if possible to allow proper thermoregulation.
- Minimise handling times to reduce stress and to avoid the side effects of stress.
- Sick or dead frogs should be collected and held separately from all other frogs until delivered to the appropriate recipient. All equipment should be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Although hind-leg handling is a common technique used while measuring and weighing other species of frogs this technique will never be used with any native frog (*Leiopelma*) species.

If you find a sick or dead frog please take it to or contact your local Department of Conservation office.

