

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**” or “**the company**”) owns and operates various mines and mining infrastructure in Waihi, in the Waikato Region. This application by OGNZL, which is made under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**the Act**” or “**fast-track**”) seeks to authorise the integrated development of the Wharekirauponga ore deposit together with associated infrastructure and mining activities, located beneath the Coromandel Forest Park, approximately 10 km north of Waihi (refer to Figure 1-1), as described in detail in this application. This proposal is referred to as the Waihi North Project (“**the project**” or “**WNP**”).

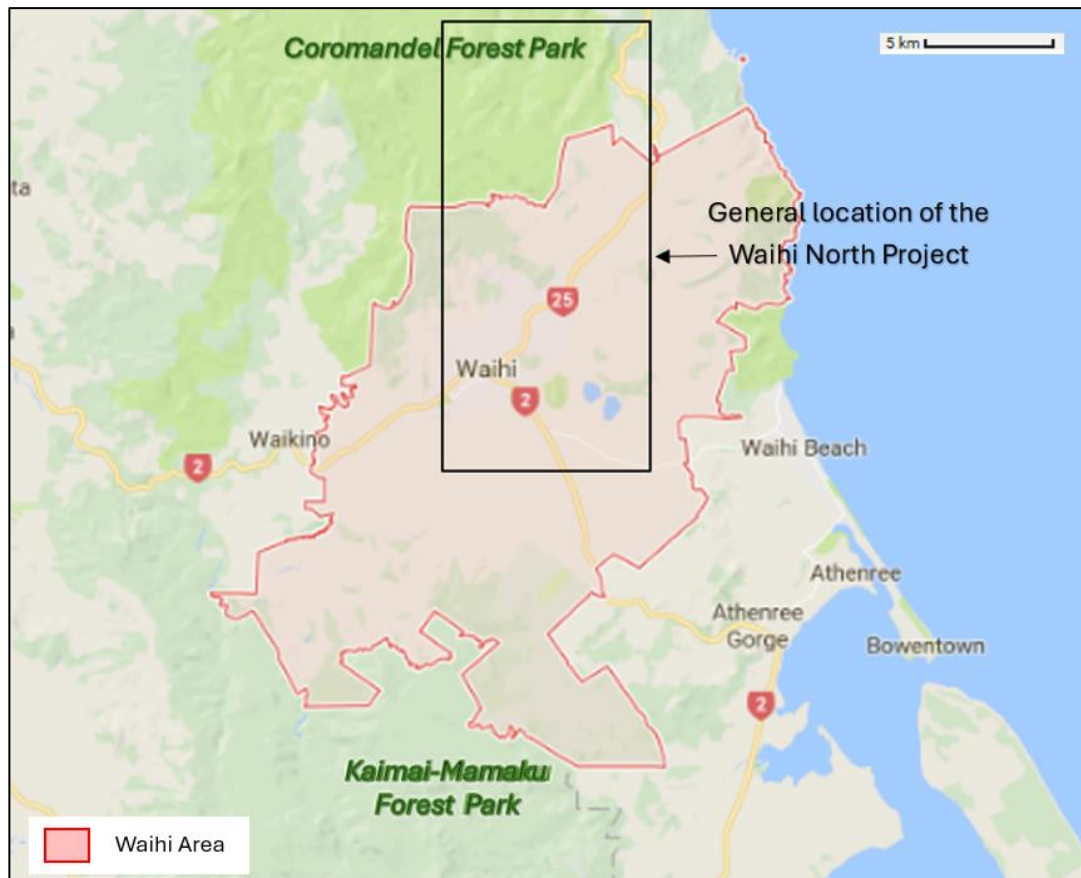


Figure 1-1: General Location of the Waihi North Project

The WNP is situated within the Hauraki and Thames-Coromandel districts and the wider Waikato region.

Having been confirmed as a listed project in Schedule 2 of the Act, OGNZL is applying for all necessary approvals for the construction, operation, maintenance, and ultimately the closure of the WNP. The required approvals include:

- > Resource consents that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”);
- > Multiple concessions that would otherwise be applied for under the Conservation Act 1987 (“**Conservation Act**”);
- > Authorities that would otherwise be applied for under the Wildlife Act 1953 (“**Wildlife Act**”);
- > Authorities that would otherwise be applied for under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (“**HNZPT Act**”);
- > Approvals that would otherwise be applied for under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 (“**Fisheries Regulations**”); and
- > An access arrangement that would otherwise be applied for under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (“**Crown Minerals Act**”); and
- > A variation to an existing access arrangement currently held by OGNZL.

1.2 WAIHI NORTH PROJECT OVERVIEW

A report in **Part E** of these application documents provides a detailed description of OGNZL’s existing activities at Waihi, and how they are currently authorised. In summary, OGNZL’s existing and consented mines and mining activities at Waihi include:

- > An open pit mine (“**the Martha Mine**”) located adjacent to the Waihi Township;
- > A series of underground mines beneath, and to the east and southeast of, the Martha Mine;
- > A number of ancillary facilities associated with the above mines, including the Waihi Surface Facilities Area (“**Waihi SFA**”) located east of Waihi Township beyond Union Hill, which contains an ore Processing Plant (“**Processing Plant**”), Water Treatment Plant (“**WTP**”), stockpiles and various other ancillary facilities;
- > The Central, Northern and Eastern Stockpiles and two Tailings Storage Facilities (“**TSF**”) (TSF1A and TSF2) which are located further to the east across the Ohinemuri River; and
- > A conveyor which connects the Martha Mine with the surface features listed above (“**the conveyor**”).

The company also maintains an active mineral exploration programme in the region.

In 2023 the company's Waihi operations contributed \$170 million to the local, regional, and national economy (equating to nearly 12 % of the Hauraki District economy), and in mid-2024, the company's Waihi operations directly employed 399 full time equivalent ("**FTE**") jobs.

When OGNZL acquired the Waihi mining operations in 2015, the company made a commitment to the New Zealand Government to invest in extending the life of mining in Waihi, with ore deposits within the existing consented Waihi mining operations¹ forecasted to be exhausted by the end of 2030. OGNZL has honoured this commitment with the commencement of Project Martha (an extension to the Martha Mine and Martha Underground Mine ("**MUG**"), and by continuing its active exploration programme.

In 2019, OGNZL announced that the exploration programme had discovered an ore deposit at Wharekirauponga and following this OGNZL commenced the planning of the WNP to enable its development. Development of the WNP will extend the life of OGNZL's Waihi mining operations to beyond 2040 and has the potential to extract over 1.7 million ounces of gold and 2.2 million ounces of silver, over an 18-year period. The WNP will integrate with OGNZL's existing and consented mines and mining infrastructure in and around Waihi and provide ongoing employment opportunities for the local mining workforce.

In June 2022, OGNZL lodged resource consent applications with Hauraki District Council ("**HDC**") and Waikato Regional Council ("**WRC**") for an earlier version of the WNP. These applications subsequently made substantial progress through the consenting process with the respective Council's requesting further information on a range of matters, which were duly responded to by OGNZL and its technical experts. This included targeted workshopping (relating to matters such as groundwater and ecological effects) with Council processing staff and their technical experts. This current application supersedes the previously lodged applications, with some additional activities having been incorporated into this proposal and a broader range of authorisations and permissions sought, consistent with the Act. In preparing this current application OGNZL has taken the opportunity to address matters raised by the respective Council's within their earlier requests for further information.

An illustrative overview of the existing and consented Waihi mining activities, and those proposed as part of the WNP is provided in Figure 1-2 and Figure 1-3 below.

¹ Including Martha Open Pit Phase 4 and the underground mines beneath and adjacent to the Martha Mine.

The WNP is made up of the following key activities:

- > The undertaking of further mineral resource investigation and exploration progression at Wharekirauponga;
- > The establishment of a surface facilities area to house the surface infrastructure necessary to facilitate the development and operation of mining activities at an underground mine (the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine (“**WUG**”), located on OGNZL owned farmland on Willows Road (“**Willows SFA**”). These facilities include a temporary waste rock stockpile, being the Willows Rock Stack (“**WRS**”);
- > The construction, operation, and maintenance of an access portal (“**Willows Portal**”) and associated tunnel decline (“**Willows Access Tunnel**”);
- > The construction, operation, and maintenance of a dual tunnel (“**WUG Dual Tunnel**”) extending from the termination of the Willows Access Tunnel to the Wharekirauponga orebody;
- > The construction operation, and maintenance of a tunnel (“**the Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel**”) connecting the southern terminus of the WUG Dual Tunnel to the existing Waihi SFA located off Baxter Road;
- > The construction, operation, and maintenance of an access portal (“**the WUG Portal**”) to the Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel at the Waihi SFA adjacent to the Processing Plant;
- > The construction, operation, and maintenance of the WUG at Wharekirauponga;
- > The construction, operation, and maintenance of the Gladstone Open Pit (“**GOP**”), being a new open pit mine located to the southwest of the existing Waihi SFA, which at the completion of open pit mining activities will be utilised as a TSF (“**GOP TSF**”);
- > The establishment and operation of the Northern Rock Stack (“**NRS**”), being a waste rock stockpile located to the east of the Waihi SFA;
- > The establishment and operation of TSF3, being a new TSF located to the east of the existing TSF1A;
- > An upgrade of the existing Processing Plant located within the Waihi SFA to provide for additional ore processing associated with the WNP;
- > An upgrade of the existing WTP located within the Waihi SFA, to double its current treatment capacity to provide for the additional treatment requirements associated with the WNP;
- > The reconsenting of existing treated water discharge consents from the WTP;

- > The establishment of new treated water discharge pipelines;
- > The handling and salvage of native frogs, lizards and avifauna – both on public conservation land, and on privately owned land;
- > On public conservation land:
 - > Mining and exploration activities;
 - > Surface water, groundwater and geotechnical investigations and monitoring (including the installation, maintenance and replacement of equipment, and continued use of existing equipment);
 - > Long term monitoring of native frogs and research associated with the efficacy of predator control strategies and techniques to improve populations of native frogs;
 - > Conservation / planting / habitat enhancement activities (including pest control, monitoring and maintenance);
 - > Low impact monitoring activities;
 - > Continued occupation for a laydown and bridge footings for the existing Mill Bridge, and an existing heavy vehicle crossing of the Ohinemuri River (refer to Section 2.10.6);
 - > Activities ancillary to those listed above;
- > The damming or diverting of watercourses;
- > The salvaging of aquatic species from the footprints of the WRS, the NRS, and TSF3, and their release into nearby streams;
- > The undertaking of works in areas with recognised heritage and / or archaeological values; and
- > The undertaking of mine remediation and closure activities.

The WNP also relies on the construction, operation, and maintenance of a buried services trench (“**Services Trench**”) connecting the Willows SFA to the Waihi SFA. The Services Trench will provide support services including the conveyance of electricity, fibre optic, potable water, treated water, and mine water (including rock stack contact water). Whilst the Services Trench forms a key part of the WNP and is referenced throughout this application, it has already been applied for and is currently being processed by WRC (APP147193) and HDC (LUSE-202.2024.00001981.001). An application for an easement required for the Services Trench has been approved by the Department of Conservation (refer to Section 3.2.4). As such, no approvals are being sought for the Service Trench as part of this application.

OGNZL recognises that the ability to develop the Crown’s valuable minerals resource is a privilege and not a right. In recognition of this, a key part of the WNP will be to establish and implement a \$8.4 million predator control and ecological enhancement project (“**the Waihi North Biodiversity Project**”) within an area of up to 18,870 ha of the southern Coromandel Forest Park. The Waihi North Biodiversity Project is intended to achieve long-term (inter-generational) positive ecological outcomes for the area and is additional to the measures necessary to mitigate, offset or compensate for the environmental effects associated with the project.

The Waihi North Biodiversity Project aligns with New Zealand’s goal of being predator free by 2050 and is consistent with OGNZL’s operational policy of leaving a positive long-term legacy in the areas in which it operates.

It is intended that the specific objectives and details of the Waihi North Biodiversity Project will be developed and implemented in partnership with tangata whenua and other key stakeholders.

For ease of understanding and administration purposes only, the activities which comprise the WNP have been categorised by their geographic location and the project divided into seven discrete areas. The project areas are shown in Figure 1-4 below and comprise:

- > **Area 1:** Comprising the WUG, WUG Dual Tunnel, surface exploration, monitoring, and pest control activities;
- > **Area 2:** Comprising the Willows SFA, the Willows Access Tunnel, and supporting infrastructure;
- > **Area 3:** Comprising the Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel;
- > **Area 4:** Comprising the Services Trench;²
- > **Area 5:** Comprising the GOP, GOP TSF, and Waihi SFA;
- > **Area 6:** Comprising the NRS and borrow pit; and
- > **Area 7:** Comprising TSF3 and borrow pits.

A small selection of activities associated with the WNP will occur outside Areas 1 – 7, comprising:

- > The operation of the existing conveyor in the reverse direction;
- > Terrestrial and riparian restoration and enhancement planting; and
- > The establishment of carparking at Kenny Street, Waihi.

² Whilst the Services Trench forms a key part of the WNP, it has already been applied for and is currently being processed by WRC and HDC. Applications for other necessary approvals have also been submitted (refer to Section 3.2.4). As such, no approvals are being sought for the Service Trench as part of this application.



Figure 1-2: OGNZL's Existing and Consented Mining Activities at Waihi

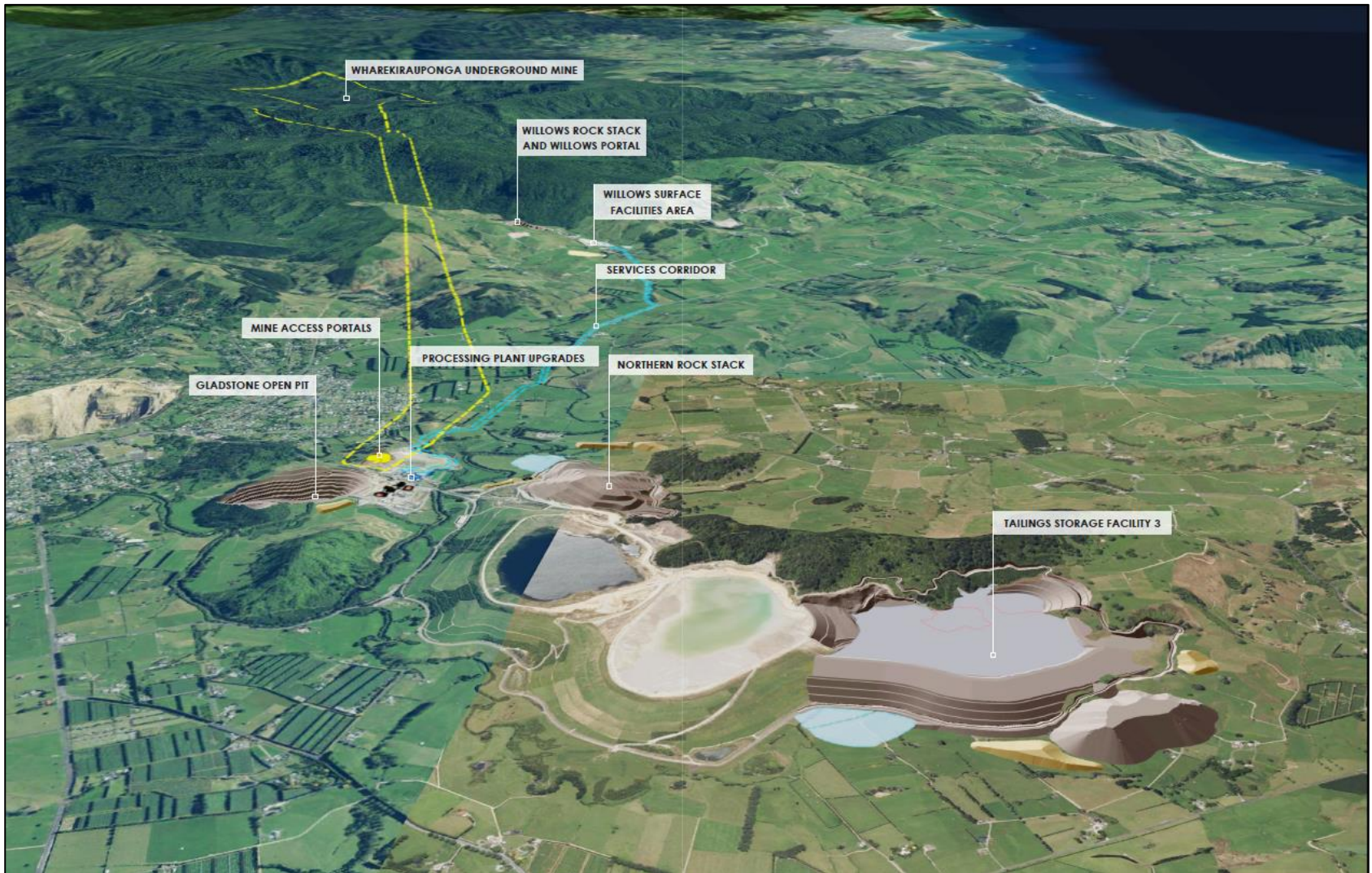


Figure 1-3: Overview of the Key Components of the Waihi North Project

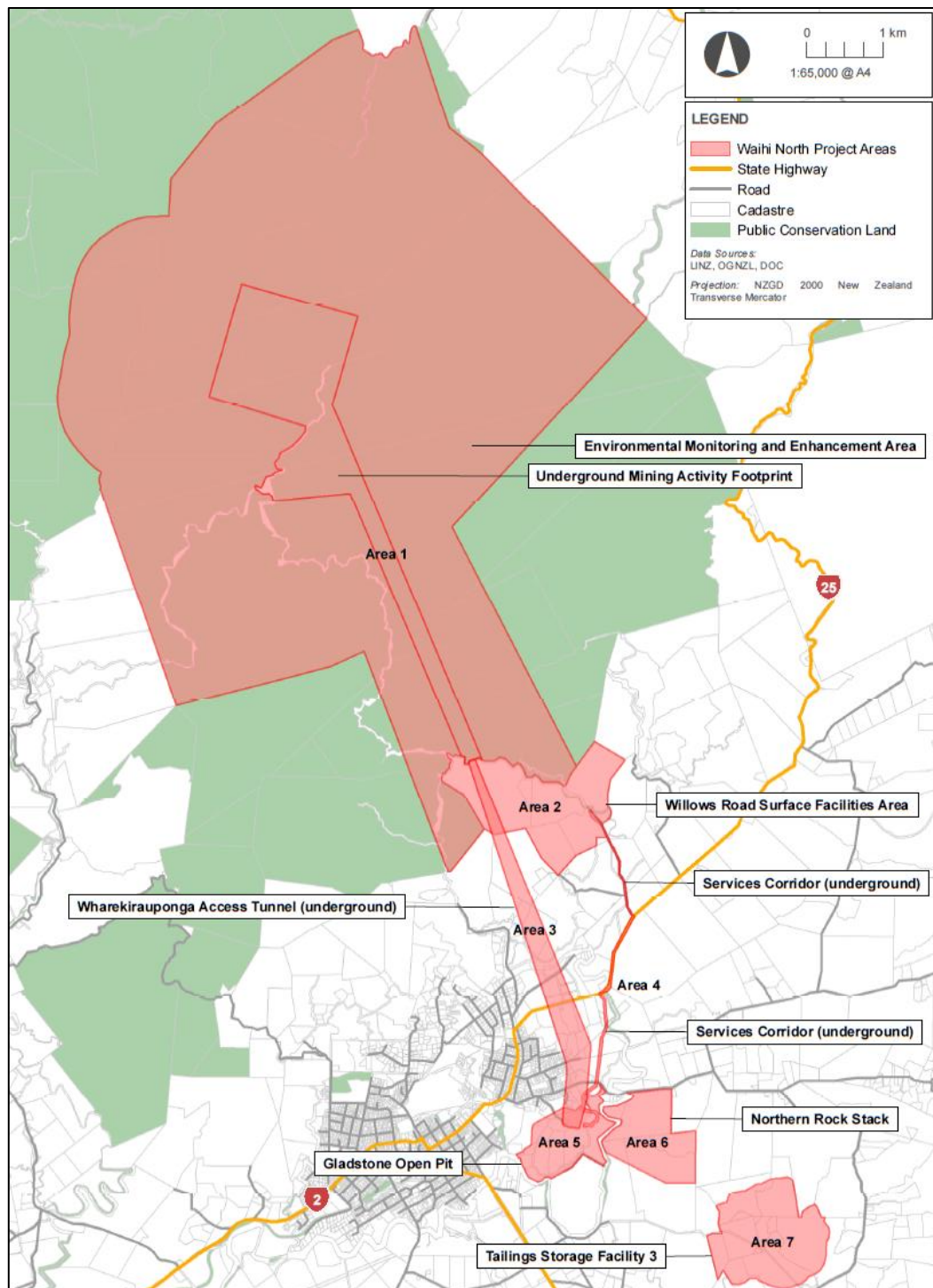


Figure 1-4: Waihi North Project Areas 1-7



1.3 THE PURPOSE OF THE FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT

The purpose of the Act is:

to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

The WNP demonstrably achieves the purpose of the Act by delivering significant benefits to the Hauraki District, the Waikato Region and New Zealand more broadly. In that regard, the WNP will increase the scale and duration of the economic benefits that OGNZL's Waihi operations already provide to the regional and national economy, by:

- > **Generating substantial foreign investment, making it one of the largest funded projects in New Zealand's infrastructure pipeline:** The WNP is expected to generate over \$1 billion dollars of additional capital investment.³ For context:
 - > Foreign direct investment in New Zealand for the year to September 2024 was \$4.1 billion;
 - > The average investment made under the Overseas Investment Office regime in 2024 was \$6.4 million;
 - > There are just 11 funded \$1 billion plus projects in the New Zealand infrastructure pipeline today; and
 - > The importance of the WNP is further enhanced because gold is now recognised as a critical mineral, meaning that the New Zealand Government is committed to exploring strategic pathways and wider system settings to support the development and supply of critical minerals that can be produced in New Zealand.⁴
- > **Delivering a considerable boost to New Zealand's exports:** Over its lifetime, the WNP will result in an additional \$5.2 billion of silver and gold exports.⁵ The average exports per year from the WNP will be equivalent to 64% of wool exports, 14% of wine exports, and larger than live animal exports in the year to June 2024. The WNP will make an important contribution to meeting the Government's goal of doubling the value of New Zealand's mineral exports to \$3 billion by 2035.⁶

³ \$895 million excluding inflation.

⁴ A Critical Minerals List for New Zealand, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment ("MBIE"), January 2025.

⁵ Equating to \$286 million each year.

⁶ A Mineral Strategy for New Zealand, MBIE, January 2025.

- > **Supporting a wide range of highly paid (over \$100,000 per annum) jobs:** The project will support an average of 895 FTE jobs over 18 years of the project. These include:
 - > 389 highly paid jobs at the mine (directly and contractors);
 - > Over 240 jobs among suppliers; and
 - > Nearly 200 jobs supported by the consumption of these workers.
- > **Delivering significant contributions to the regional economy, including:**
 - > \$1,086 million in the Hauraki District (6% of the district's economy);
 - > \$252 million in the rest of the Waikato Region (0.2% of the region's economy); and
 - > \$641 million in the rest of New Zealand.

The economic benefits of the WNP have been assessed and quantified further in an economic assessment by Eaquib (2025), provided in **Part B** of these application documents. These are discussed further in Section 6.3.1 of this report.

In addition to the substantial economic benefits offered by the project, as part of the proposed approach to managing the actual and potential effects of the WNP, ecological improvements would be generated within the Waikato Region as a result of terrestrial and riparian restoration and enhancement planting, ensuring that a net gain in ecological values is achieved. The ecological benefits of the WNP have been assessed and quantified by a range of ecological experts, as provided in the technical assessments provided in **Part B** of these application documents.

Furthermore, and as noted above, in addition to the measures necessary to mitigate, offset or compensate for the environmental effects associated with the WNP's proposed mining activities, OGNZL is proposing to fund and facilitate the long-term (inter-generational) Waihi North Biodiversity Project within the southern Coromandel Forest Park.

The Act is designed to provide a "one-stop-shop" approvals process for significant proposals, primarily to minimise delays and costs associated with the need to obtain sequential approvals under different statutory regimes. Recognising the size and complexity of the WNP and its need for approvals under a range of statutes and from a variety of regulatory authorities, it is an ideal project for processing under the Act.

1.4 OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LIMITED

OGNZL is a wholly owned subsidiary of OceanaGold Corporation ("**OceanaGold**"), a Canadian corporation. OceanaGold is a publicly listed company on the Toronto stock exchange, listed under "OGC", and operates as a multinational gold, silver, and copper

producer. OceanaGold is internationally recognised as a responsible miner and a leader in sustainability that is committed to the highest standards of technical, environmental, and social performance.

OceanaGold has a portfolio of high-quality assets located in the Philippines (Didipio Mine), the United States of America (Haile Mine) and New Zealand (Waihi and Macraes Mines). The gold, silver and copper produced from OceanaGold mines help power the global economy and are essential to the renewable energy and transport sectors, life-saving medical devices, and the technology that connects communities around the world.

1.4.1 Experience and Expertise

OceanaGold has over 30 years' experience of exploring, developing, operating, and closing mines within New Zealand. Its subsidiary OGNZL is resilient and dynamic – trusted to deliver enduring value through innovation, performance, and sustainable growth. In addition to operating gold and silver mines at Waihi, OGNZL:

- > Owns and operates several exploration permits in the Otago and Waikato Regions which are in various stages of evaluation for their mineral development potential;
- > Owns and operates New Zealand's largest gold mine, the Macraes Gold Project (“MGP”) in East Otago. The MGP has been operating since 1989 and consists of both open pit and underground mines. OGNZL progressively rehabilitates land at the MGP following mining – for example, by returning land to productive pasture or tussock grassland. To help manage the residual effects of its operations at the MGP, OGNZL has to date protected 702 ha of land for conservation purposes; and
- > Has a closed open pit mine on public conservation land near Reefton on the West Coast of the South Island, which is under rehabilitation. As part of the rehabilitation, OGNZL has undertaken a more than 130 ha reforestation programme. The reforested areas predominantly include species native to New Zealand, such as beech and mānuka varieties, to provide local wildlife habitat and to enhance biodiversity outcomes. OGNZL is also supporting the Department of Conservation's Te Maruia Waka Huia Programme which focuses on protecting and enhancing biodiversity outcomes in the Maruia Valley, including by predator control.

OceanaGold has significant technical expertise in designing, constructing, managing and closing mine operations to comply with national, regional and local regulations and in accordance with international best practice.

1.4.2 Responsible Operations

OGNZL is committed to responsible mining, managing the impacts of its activities and, more broadly, contributing positively to communities like Waihi in which its people work and live. OGNZL regards its activities as an opportunity to be a good neighbour, build a positive and lasting legacy, and deliver value during and beyond the life of the mines. This is fundamental to OGNZL's approach throughout the full mine life cycle, from early exploration to project development, operations, and the transition to closure.

Responsible mining means OGNZL manages the development of its mines and invests in sustainable, industry-leading and innovative practices at every level of the business, working hard to leave a positive legacy. This is demonstrated in its approach to the key topics of health and safety, environmental management, and social performance.

The health, safety and wellbeing of employees, contractors and local communities is paramount to OGNZL. It is embedded in every facet of the company's activities, and priority is given to continuous improvement and advances in health and safety systems. For example, the health and wellbeing of OGNZL's workforce is monitored and reviewed proactively and OceanaGold has implemented a global system for reporting and tracking both occupational health exposures and the effectiveness of controls at all operations.

OGNZL also has a demonstrated commitment to responsible environmental management across all business activities. This includes the legal and physical protection of designated land it owns that has high conservation value, adopting leading practices in biodiversity management and restoration, and supporting, developing, and implementing inclusive and transparent procedures for integrated land use. OGNZL complies with the environmental laws of New Zealand and goes beyond these by implementing OceanaGold-wide environmental processes that are consistent with internationally accepted standards and conventions. OGNZL follows an Environment Policy which is supported by six Statements of Position⁷ that detail how OceanaGold manages environmental material risk areas of water, closure, biodiversity, cyanide, tailings management and energy and greenhouse gas.

These Statements of Position publicly commit OceanaGold globally, and OGNZL within New Zealand, to specific actions and regular review, and align performance standards to the

⁷ Statement of Position – Water Management *October 2019*; Statement of Position – Closure and Rehabilitation Management *October 2019*; Statement of Position – Biodiversity Management *October 2019*; Statement of Position – Tailings Storage Facility Management *November 2021*; Statement of Position – Cyanide Management *October 2019*; Statement of Position – Climate Change, Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Management *November 2020*.

independent International Council on Mining and Metals, World Gold Council and International Finance Corporation requirements.

1.4.2.1 Climate Change, Energy Use, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

OGNZL's Waihi operations accounted for approximately 3% of OceanaGold's total emissions in 2023, making it the lowest emitter of greenhouse gas across OceanaGold's portfolio.

Statistics New Zealand reports emissions intensity by industry, looking at the emissions generated during the process of economic value creation in New Zealand, equivalent to Scope 1 emissions used for company reporting purposes (being direct greenhouse emissions that occur from sources that are controlled or owned by an organization). This means that emissions accounted for by suppliers (including Scope 2 emissions which are indirect greenhouse gas emissions associated with the purchase of electricity) are not counted in this measure.

The latest detailed industry dataset available from Statistics New Zealand is for 2022. Statistics New Zealand's emissions intensity measure presents intensity as tonnes of CO₂e emissions per \$1 million of Gross Domestic Product ("**GDP**") contribution. Using the same form of measure, OGNZL has calculated the emissions for the existing Waihi operations using Scope 1 emissions of 6,774 tonnes of CO₂e and GDP contribution of \$114 million in 2022. Using this intensity measure, Waihi gold mine emissions are 27% of the national economy average and substantially less than the national mining average.

With the WNP, underground mining at Waihi is expected to sustain current low emissions output relative to open pit mining methods. Construction activities associated with infrastructure upgrades (the GOP, TSF3, borrow areas, waste rock stacks) are expected to temporarily increase emissions intensity at Waihi, before reaching steady-state mining in WUG, where emissions intensity is expected to be less than current rate (MUG) for the Waihi operations.

Measures to reduce energy consumption and emissions continue to be evaluated and implemented across the organisation, including in association with the WNP. In addition to its use of underground mining methods, the WNP includes the following features with favourable impacts on the project's potential emissions effects relative to its economic benefits:

- > Higher grade ore body improving emissions intensity (CO₂-e/oz. AU);
- > The use of underground tunnels avoiding clearance of vegetation for surface roads and reducing distances travelled;

- > The employment of a local workforce avoiding air travel associated with a "fly-in-fly-out" operations;
- > The future-proofing of underground infrastructure (e.g. fibre-optics capability within the WUG, deferred fleet selection ahead of production mining) allowing for uptake of electrification technology as it becomes practically available in the future;
- > The use of existing process plant and infrastructure reducing construction emissions;
- > The continued purchase of certified renewable electricity; and
- > In addition to local measures, the following organisation-wide actions will support achieving our net zero by 2050 goal;
 - > Seeking to increase renewable electricity purchasing to reduce Scope 2 emissions; and
 - > Continuing to monitor and assess the feasibility of key electrification technology for the mining fleet and considering options for emissions reduction in the ancillary fleet.

From an execution perspective, OceanaGold will follow an adaptive approach to driving emissions reduction by providing flexibility within local site plans to respond to emergent opportunities, lessons learned at other sites, and evolving organisational priorities. The approach will also entail reviewing the effectiveness of any abatement actions against planned outcomes to build on success and ensure OceanaGold remains on track to deliver against targets.

1.4.3 Contribution to Local Communities

OGNZL's mines make significant and long-term national, regional and local economic contributions through:

- > Direct and indirect contribution of mining operations and exploration projects, for example creation of jobs and purchase of goods and services from local and national providers;
- > Payment of taxes, licence and approval fees and royalties to government agencies; and
- > Community and social investment programmes.

OGNZL depends upon the support of local communities to secure a stable business for the long-term. To be successful, OGNZL's involvement with communities is based on;

- > Respectful and durable relationships;

- > Consideration of community interests and expectations in the way OGNZL operates and manages impacts;
- > Respecting the important relationships of Māori with land, water and other natural resources, and the importance of these resources to the wider community;
- > Partnerships to enhance positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes;
- > Culturally appropriate and respectful behaviour of employees and contractors; and
- > Continuous improvement of social performance.

OGNZL is committed to engaging with communities and, where possible, incorporating their thoughts and innovations into aspects of project planning and design. As an example, at Waihi OGNZL has previously implemented two programmes resulting from community feedback:

- > OGNZL provides residents with daily advance updates of blasting activities, including details of the location and depth of the planned blast for that day. These details are posted on the company website daily, along with an interactive map which provides blast monitoring results within a few minutes of initiation. Residents can also request a Blast Notification Device (“**BND**”) which alerts the resident of a blast by playing a musical tune; and
- > The Amenity Effect Programme (“**AEP**”), which aims to offset a perceived loss of amenity from blast vibration. The AEP establishes an arrangement between OGNZL and the residents who are identified as experiencing some potential effect on amenity, despite the mining operations being conducted within consent compliance limits. An initial, one-off enrolment payment of \$500 is made to qualifying residents who join the programme, with additional payments made every six months for the life of the mine if the property continues to qualify. The payment is calculated based on measured ground vibration levels as monitored and recorded by OGNZL during the preceding six months. Monitoring results identify properties where the AEP qualifying criteria have been triggered.

Another way OGNZL works to leave a positive legacy is by investing in local communities in alignment with community-identified needs and priorities. Primarily, OGNZL’s social investment programmes contribute to:

- > Education, training, and employment;
- > Community health;
- > Local business support and / or development; and
- > Community infrastructure.

Each of OGNZL's New Zealand operations have specific sponsorship and donation programmes, either monetary or in-kind, to support surrounding communities, developed through a participative process that reflects key local needs. There are also community partnerships forged, for example in Waihi the focus is on three key aspects of community partnerships including:

- > School partnerships;
- > Education outreach; and
- > Tourism in partnership with the Gold Discovery Centre.

OceanaGold is passionate about education and the role it can play in helping build productive, autonomous communities. OGNZL Waihi provides funding to local schools every year which they can use as they see fit. Each year OceanaGold, through the Waihi Gold Mine Education Trust, funds nine scholarships for Waihi College students; five for students who intend to study at a tertiary institution, and a further four for students entering into the trades. Further to this, OceanaGold's Education Officer, with support from the site's People and Culture Team, oversees a range of initiatives aimed at providing upskilling opportunities for the Rangatahi of Waihi College and the broader Waihi community. These initiatives are funded and implemented by the company as part of its ongoing commitment to local development and community engagement. Among these initiatives is an annual career day held at the mine, where students gain firsthand insight into the diverse career opportunities available within the mining industry. Additionally, the company organises underground site visits for Waihi College Gateway students to give participants direct exposure to mining operations and the various roles that support the industry. OceanaGold's annual internship programme also provides hands-on experience and valuable professional exposure, creating pathways for future employment within the industry.

A recent and impactful addition to these initiatives is the JumpStart Drivers Licensing programme, launched in 2022. Since its inception, the programme has helped over 100 College students and community members obtain their restricted driver's licenses, enhancing their mobility and job prospects.

The OceanaGold Education Centre caters for approximately 6,000 students each year ranging from kindergarten, home school students, and high school students to postgraduate university students. The Education Centre is also used for adult education. Local residents, special interest groups, and overseas groups on educational tours are also provided for. All material is based on activities and concepts that relate directly to what OGNZL does at Waihi and is provided free of charge.



OGNZL Waihi also partners with the local i-Site and Gold Discovery Centre. They are a key tourism provider in the township and attract visitors from across New Zealand and internationally to attend their mine tours. OGNZL provides them with regular access to site and updated information about the work OGNZL is completing.

OceanaGold's purpose is to mine gold and silver for a better future. OceanaGold's vision is to be a resilient and dynamic miner, trusted to deliver enduring value through innovation, performance and sustainable growth. That vision is brought to life by company values that put the safety and wellbeing of people, communities and environment at the forefront of every decision made by the company. OceanaGold recognises that the company has to earn the right to operate long into the future and that requires the company to always build on its performance and work closely with communities. OceanaGold is proud of the company's global technical and sustainability practices and performance within the industry, and the long and successful contribution it has made in New Zealand. The company is committed to continuing to strive for excellence in everything that it undertakes, and the WNP is very much central to the company's future in Waihi and New Zealand.

1.5 APPROACH TO MINIMISING EFFECTS AND THEIR MANAGEMENT

Whilst the benefits of the WNP are significant and clearly meet the purpose of the Act, as discussed in Section 1.3, environmental effects need to be managed appropriately.

The Wharekirauponga orebody is located beneath the Coromandel Forest Park, and the WNP has been designed so that mining of the orebody would be almost entirely a subsurface activity. OGNZL, along with independent expert ecologists, has designed a set of strict criteria to ensure that land disturbed in the Coromandel Forest Park as a result of the project does not contain 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' native fauna or flora, and does not result in the removal of bat roosting trees or trees which native birds are actively nesting. Activities on the surface within the Coromandel Forest Park are limited to:

- > Up to four ventilation easé (requiring minimal vegetation clearance); and
- > An expansion of OGNZL's targeted exploration drilling programme.

Section 6 of this report provides an assessment of the actual and potential effects of the project, which is based on the various technical assessments commissioned by OGNZL. Many of the technical assessments have recommended the implementation of measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate potential adverse effects on the environment. These recommendations have shaped the development of the robust suite of proposed conditions to attach to the various approvals sought, as provided in **Part D** of these application documents. Notably these proposed conditions are similar to those which are already adhered to by OGNZL under existing mining approvals held.

OGNZL's activities would also be managed by a suite of comprehensive management plans developed with appropriate input from technical experts. These management plans are provided in **Part H** of this application and listed in Table 1-1, with OGNZL seeking for a number of these to be certified as part of the fast-track process, some to be certified by the relevant consent authority at a later date, and others not requiring certification.

Table 1-1: Waihi North Project Management Plans

Management Plans to be approved / certified as part of the fast-track process

Wharekirauponga Underground Mine Ecology and Landscape Management Plan

Waihi Area Ecology and Landscape Management Plan

Coromandel Forest Park Kauri Dieback Management Plan

Thames Coromandel Kauri Dieback Management Plan

Wharekirauponga Pest Animal Management Plan

Wharekirauponga Underground Mine Water Management Plan

Vibration Management Plan

Management Plans to be approved / certified at a later date by Hauraki District Council

Native Frog Monitoring Plan

Construction Noise Management Plan

Operational Noise Management Plan

Construction Traffic Management Plan

Willows Road Upgrade Design

Willows Road Maintenance Programme

Baxter Road Condition Survey

Site Management Plan (Contaminated Land)

Workforce Accommodation Assessment

Waihi Skills Development and Training Action Plan (Developed by Waihi Skills Development Training and Action Group)

Social Impact Management Plan

Drill Sites / Ventilation Sites - Site Selection Report

Kenny Street Carpark Subsidence Hazard Zone Management Plan

Hazardous Substances Management Plan (Areas 1, 2, and 5 only)

Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

Management Plans to be approved / certified at a later date by Waikato Regional Council

Chemical Treatment Plan

Site Specific Erosion and Sediment Control Plans

Water Management Plan

Waste Classification Management Plan

Air Quality Management Plan

Dewatering and Settlement Monitoring and Management Plan

Willows Rock Stack Monitoring and Management Plan

Gladstone Open Pit Tailings Storage Facility Monitoring and Management Plan

Area 5 Rock Storage Monitoring and Management Plan

Northern Rock Stack Monitoring and Management Plan

Tailings Storage Facility 3 Monitoring and Management Plan

Area 7 Collection Ponds (S6 and S7) Design

Stream Enhancement Riparian Planting Plan

Stream Diversion and Development Plan

Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

Management Plans not requiring certification

The Biodiversity Project Plan (Developed by Biodiversity Project Group)



Table 7-1 provided in Section 7.2 of this report provides a summary of the key management and monitoring measures proposed by OGNZL for the WNP.

Whilst thorough assessments have been undertaken of potential environmental effects across the entirety of the project, there are two matters where OGNZL has applied substantial effort in the effects assessments undertaken:

- > Potential effects on groundwater, stream baseflow, other surface water features (i.e. springs and wetlands), water quality, and existing water users in the area (all detailed further in Section 6.4 of this report). The technical assessments undertaken in this field have determined that with the exception of two locations where springs are currently discharging into surface waters (where it is expected the discharges are likely to cease for the duration of the proposed mining works), effects on surface and groundwater are expected to be minimal. However, in the unlikely instance that potential groundwater or surface water effects eventuate, OGNZL proposes to implement mitigation measures that appropriately address the effects (e.g. underground grouting or the supplementation of water in surface water bodies);
- > Potential effects on Archey's and Hochstetter's frog (all detailed further in Section 6.6.1.1 of this report). The technical assessments undertaken in this field have concluded that both Archey's and Hochstetter's frog are prevalent in the surface area above the proposed WUG, with the Archey's frog population in this area ranging between 61,400 – 278,700 individuals (from a wider population of 8-25 million throughout the Coromandel), and the Hochstetter's frog population presenting as approximately 1 frog per 20 m stream / river reach. The technical assessments undertaken in this field have concluded that potential effects on Archey's and Hochstetter's frog associated with water and air discharges from ventilation evasé, the surface expression of blast vibrations, and potential changes to wetted margins of streams will be low, but unable to be quantified. To compensate for these low, but unquantified potential effects, OGNZL proposes to implement wide scale intensive pest control over an area of 632 ha, and to provide funding to undertake investigations into the efficacy of the pest control measures for Archey's and Hochstetter's frogs.

OGNZL is proud to present and seek approval for an innovative project that is firmly aligned to New Zealand's development goals, and which appropriately addresses the unavoidable adverse effects of mining and related activities such that residual effects are minimised, and proposed effects management will provide overall positive benefits to the environment.

1.6 APPROACH TO ENGAGEMENT WITH TANGATA WHENUA, COMMUNITY, STAKEHOLDERS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

OGNZL considers that building trust through the sharing of information and perspectives is critical to good decision making around project development. Accordingly, OGNZL has adopted and promoted an active and open stakeholder engagement approach with mana whenua, the relevant local, regional and central government agencies, other landowners, various interest groups, and the local community and its leaders. In doing this, OGNZL has met and exceeded all consultation requirements set out in Section 11 of the Act.

OGNZL's consultation approach has been informed by the following key principles:

- > Engage through listening and meaningful dialogue whilst respecting local cultures and acting in good faith;
- > Share relevant information that helps affected stakeholders to understand the impacts, risks and opportunities of the project;
- > Ensure that engagement between OGNZL and its stakeholders on matters that impact them is organised and iterative;
- > Participate and partner with stakeholders to identify impacts and develop mitigation or enhancement solutions;
- > Recognise the distinct and special rights, interests and connections to land and waters of iwi;
- > Create a constructive relationship that maximises the potential for achieving agreed outcomes with stakeholders; and
- > Wherever possible obtain and sustain broad based support for the project.

Additionally, OGNZL has offered support and resourcing to tangata whenua to enable them to prepare Cultural Impact Assessments (“**CIA**”) and Cultural Values Assessments (“**CVA**”) for the project. Of the seven entities engaged, three have completed iwi led CIAs. These, and the ongoing engagement and consultation undertaken by OGNZL has assisted in ensuring that Māori cultural values and interests, and the potential impacts of the WNP on these, are appropriately and transparently accounted for in the project design.

Section 5 of this report provides an overview of the consultation that OGNZL has undertaken on the WNP. The ‘Waihi North Project Pre-lodgement Consultation Report’ (“**Consultation Report**”), prepared by OGNZL, is included in **Part F** of these application documents and summarises all consultation that has been undertaken in relation to the project, and the resulting steps and actions that have been made by OGNZL to appropriately account for Māori cultural values and interests.

1.7 APPROACH FOR INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING MINING INFRASTRUCTURE

Where possible, OGNZL proposes to utilise existing mining infrastructure to transport, process, store and dispose of material extracted as part of the WNP. The existing infrastructure that will be utilised is detailed in Section 2.4.

1.8 RELATIONSHIP WITH PROPOSED PLAN CHANGE 6

The Martha Mine is an open pit mine located in central Waihi that commenced operations in 1987. The Martha Mine is authorised by permitted activity rules in the Hauraki District Plan (“HDP”) and resource consents granted by HDC and WRC.

In April 2022, OGNZL lodged applications with HDC for Proposed Plan Change 6 (“PP6”) which seeks to rezone 47 properties⁸ owned by OGNZL, to Martha Mineral Zone in the HDP, in order to provide a consenting pathway for further development of the Martha Mine. The plan change process is separate to and not part of the WNP. A hearing for PP6 commenced in December 2024 and concluded in February 2025. As at the date of this application a decision on PP6 is pending.

Of note, PP6 does not seek to authorise additional mining in Martha Mine and subsequent consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 would be necessary before future works could proceed on the rezoned land.

1.9 APPLICATION STRUCTURE

This application has been prepared to describe the activities proposed, to provide an assessment of the environmental effects associated with the WNP, and to set out other relevant information as required under Section 43 of the Act.

The application comprises ten parts:

- Part A** This substantive application document, which is structured as follows:
- > **Section 1:** This introduction, summarising the project, the applicant, how the application aligns with the purpose of the Act, other relevant background information, and sets out the structure of this document;
 - > **Section 2:** Describes the proposed WNP activities;

⁸ OGNZL owned properties located within the existing Low Density Residential, Residential or Town Centre Zone.

- > **Section 3:** Provides a description of the environmental setting of the project;
- > **Section 4:** Identifies the various approvals required under the regulatory statutes covered by the Act;
- > **Section 5:** Describes the consultation undertaken by OGNZL and the outcomes of this consultation;
- > **Section 6:** Provides an assessment of effects on the environment associated with the proposed activities;
- > **Section 7:** Sets out the measures that OGNZL proposes to take to manage and monitor the environmental effects of the project;
- > **Section 8:** Provides an analysis of the proposed activities in relation to the relevant statutory provisions including relevant policy and planning documents; and
- > **Section 9:** Sets out the key conclusions of this substantive application.

Part B	Contains 58 reports prepared by technical specialists on the WNP and its environmental effects.
Part C	Is a graphic supplement of project maps and technical drawings showing key project components.
Part D	Contains the conditions OGNZL proffers for the inclusion on each of the various WNP approvals being sought.
Part E	Details the existing mining activities at Waihi and how they are authorised.
Part F	Contains a report on the consultation and engagement undertaken by OGNZL in respect of the WNP, and copies of affected party acknowledgements.
Part G	Contains Statements of Evidence from the technical specialists who have authored the Part B reports.
Part H	Contains seven management plans which set out measures necessary to assist with managing the environmental effects of the WNP and for which OGNZL is seeking certification as part of the decision documents to be prepared under Section 87 of the Act. Further management plans are

proposed within the proffered conditions (Part D) which will require certification at a later stage.

- Part I** Contains a list of the rules which are triggered under the relevant RMA planning documents.
- Part J** Contains details of land ownership of proposed works areas and neighbouring properties, and all relevant Records of Title for the proposed works areas.

The various technical reports included in **Part B** of these application documents are listed in Table 1-2-2 below. They are referenced throughout this report as necessary. The primary authors of each of these technical reports have also provided a brief Statement of Evidence to confirm their support for their findings and conclusions, and the management and mitigation measures proposed as part of the WNP. These are provided in **Part G** of these application documents.

Table 1-2: Technical Reports Prepared by Technical Specialists on the Project

Report #	Author	Topic	Title	Reference within the Report
1	Engineering Geology Limited	Tailings Storage and Rock Disposal	Tailings Storage and Rock Disposal Volume 1 – Natural Hazards and Options Assessment	EGL (2025a)
2	GHD	GOP TSF Design	Gladstone Pit TSF Design Report	GHD (2025a)
3	Engineering Geology Limited	GOP TSF Design	Peer Review of Gladstone Pit TSF Design Report	EGL (2025b)
4	Engineering Geology Limited	TSF3 Design	Tailings Storage and Rock Disposal Volume 3 – Proposed Tailings Storage Facility – Storage 3 RL155	EGL (2025c)
5	Engineering Geology Limited	NRS Design	Tailings Storage and Rock Disposal Volume 4 – Northern Rock Stack RL173 Proposed Rock Disposal Facility	EGL (2025d)
6	Engineering Geology Limited	TSF3 Dam Breach	Storage 3 – Tailings Storage Facility – RL155 Dam Breach and Potential Impact Classification	EGL (2025e)
7	Beca	Willows SFA Stormwater Management	Willows Farm Stormwater Management Report	Beca (2025a)
8	OGNZL	Climate Change, Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Management	Climate Change, Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Management	OGNZL (2025a)
9	Engineering Geology Limited	WRS Design	Willows Rock Stack Technical Report	EGL (2025g)
10	PSM	Willows Portal Design	Willows Farm Boxcut Design	PSM (2025b)
11	WSP	WUG Geotechnical	Geotechnical Assessment Underground Mine and Tunnels	WSP (2025a)
12	PSM	GOP Geotechnical	Gladstone Pit Geotechnical Assessment	PSM (2025a)



Report #	Author	Topic	Title	Reference within the Report
13	Engineering Geology Limited	Ground Settlement	Ground Settlement Report	EGL (2025f)
14	AECOM	Tailings Geochemistry	Geochemistry of Tailings and Overburden, Treatment and Mitigation	AECOM (2025)
15	GHD	WUG Geochemistry	Geochemical Assessment Wharekirauponga Underground Mine	GHD (2025b)
16	AECOM	Warm Spring Geochemistry at Closure	Wharekirauponga Post-Closure Geochemistry Modelling – Warm Spring	AECOM (2024)
17	WWLA	Ground Contamination	Preliminary Site Investigation (Ground Contamination)	WWLA (2024)
18	Tonkin + Taylor	Hazardous Substances	Waihi Processing Plant, Water Treatment Plant and Waste Disposal Area	Tonkin + Taylor (2025a)
19	Tonkin + Taylor	Hazardous Substances	Storage and Use of Hazardous Substances at Willows Road Site and the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine	Tonkin + Taylor (2025b)
20	Tonkin + Taylor	Hazardous Substances	Exploratory Works Within the Coromandel Forest Park	Tonkin + Taylor (2025c)
21	Beca	Air Quality	Waihi Facilities – Air Discharge Assessment	Beca (2025b)
22	Beca	Air Quality	Wharekirauponga Underground Mine – Air Discharge Assessment	Beca (2025c)
23	Tonkin + Taylor	Air Quality	Technical Review of Air Quality Assessments	Tonkin + Taylor (2025d)
24	Southern Skies	Erosion and Sediment Control	Erosion and Sediment Control Assessment Report	Southern Skies (2025)
25	GHD	Water Management	Water Management Studies	GHD (2025c)
26	GHD	Hydrogeology	Groundwater Assessment	GHD (2025d)



Report #	Author	Topic	Title	Reference within the Report
27	WWLA	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Assessment of Groundwater Effects – Wharekirauponga Deposit	WWLA (2025a)
28	Intera	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Predictive Uncertainty Quantification	Intera (2024)
29	WWLA	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Downstream Reach Investigations	WWLA (2025b)
30	WWLA	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Tunnel Elements	WWLA (2025c)
31	WWLA	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Shallow and Deep Groundwater Movement	WWLA (2025d)
32	GHD	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Wharekirauponga Hydrology Modelling Report	GHD (2025e)
33	Flo Solutions	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Hydrogeologic Conceptual Site Model	Flo Solutions (2024a)
34	Flo Solutions	Wharekirauponga Hydrogeology	Numerical Groundwater Model	Flo Solutions (2024b)
35	OGNZL	Waihi North Biodiversity Project	Biodiversity Project Overview Document	OGNZL (2025b)
36	Bioresearches	Waihi Terrestrial Ecology	Terrestrial Ecological Impact Assessment (Waihi Area)	Bioresearches (2025a)
37	Boffa Miskell	WUG Terrestrial Ecology	Terrestrial Ecology Values and Effects of the WUG	Boffa Miskell (2025a)
38	RMA Ecology	Wharekirauponga Frogs	OGNZL Wharekirauponga Mine: Assessment of Effects on Native Frogs	RMA Ecology (2025a)
39	Bioresearches	Wharekirauponga Frogs	Proposed Wharekirauponga Underground Mine – Native Frog Effects Assessment	Bioresearches (2025b)
40	Boffa Miskell	Wharekirauponga Pest Control	Pest Animal Management Plan – Wharekirauponga Compensation Package	Boffa Miskell (2025b)
41	Lloyd’s Ecological Consulting	Wharekirauponga Frogs	Estimating the Proportion of the Coromandel’s Archey’s Frog Population in the Area Affected by Vibrations from the Proposed Wharekirauponga Underground Mine	Lloyd (2025a)



Report #	Author	Topic	Title	Reference within the Report
42	Lloyd's Ecological Consulting	Wharekirauponga Frogs	Analyses of the Results of Surveys for Hochstetter's Frogs Undertaken in 2024 to Assess the Impacts of Stream Flow Reductions Associated with the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine	Lloyd (2025b)
43	Boffa Miskell	Freshwater Ecology	Freshwater Ecological Assessment	Boffa Miskell (2025c)
44	Boffa Miskell	Wharekirauponga Freshwater Ecology	Wharekirauponga Stream Natural State – Effects of Potential Flow Changes on Natural State and Aquatic Ecology	Boffa Miskell (2025d)
45	WWLA	Wharekirauponga Wetlands	Wetland Hydrological Assessment - Wetland Identification, Delineation & Hydrological Classification	WWLA (2025e)
46	Bioresearches	Wharekirauponga Wetlands	Wetland Ecology Effects Assessment	Bioresearches (2025c)
47	RMA Ecology	Wharekirauponga Ecology	OGNZL Wharekirauponga Mine: Overall Summary of Ecology Matters	RMA Ecology (2025b)
48	NIWA	Wharekirauponga Ecology	Instream Habitat of the Wharekirauponga Instream Stream and Tributaries	NIWA (2024)
49	Clough & Associates	Archaeology & Heritage	Assessment of Heritage and Archaeological Effects	Clough (2025)
50	Stantec	Transportation	Transportation Assessment Report	Stantec (2025)
51	Shamubeel Eaqub	Economics	Economic Effects	Eaqub (2025)
52	Pedersen Read	Lighting	Assessment of Environmental Effects: Lighting	Pedersen Read (2025)
53	Heilig & Partners	Blasting & Vibration	Blasting and Vibration Assessment	Heilig (2025)
54	Boffa Miskell	Landscape, Natural Character, and Visual Effects	Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment	Boffa Miskell (2025e)



Report #	Author	Topic	Title	Reference within the Report
55	Greenaway & Associates	Recreation & Tourism	Recreation and Tourism Assessment	Greenaway (2025)
56	Marshall Day Acoustics	Noise	Assessment of Noise Effects	Marshall Day (2025)
57	WSP	Social Impact	Social Impact Assessment	WSP (2025b)
58	Lloyd's Ecological Consulting	Wharekirauponga Frogs	A Plan for Monitoring Potential Effects of the Proposed Wharekirauponga Underground Mine Project on Native Frogs ("Native Frog Monitoring Plan")	Lloyd (2025c)

