

Department of Conservation Fast-track application advice to EPA for completeness check

1.0 Request Overview

Project Name	Waihi North Project
Project Applicant	Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited
Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) Unique Ref. No	FTAA-2504-1046
EPA Request Number	REQ001247S2Y2
Conservation Approvals Sought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation Act approvals for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pest Control, monitoring and other activities in the northern concession area; and ○ Rehabilitation planting and pest control in the Willows concession area • Wildlife approval for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring of leiopelmatid frogs; and ○ Handle, salvage and relocate leiopelmatid frogs and lizards • Freshwater Fisheries Regulations approvals for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two watercourse diversions • Crown Minerals approvals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Works within MP60541 and 41808 which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Variation to the existing access arrangement 62342 ▪ New access arrangement to replace 48614-AA for Wharekirauponga
EPA Request Summary	To inform the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) completeness assessment of the application, could you please let us know, in your view, whether the documentation provided by the EPA regarding the above approvals as provided by the applicant meet the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act/ FTAA) and is provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required in accordance with section 44 of the Act.
Date due to EPA	22 April 2025

2.0 Background

A substantive application for the project was previously lodged with the EPA on 7 March 2025. The Department of Conservation (DOC) provided advice to the EPA to inform its decision on whether the application complied with the requirements of section 46(2) of the Act. On 28 March 2025 the EPA determined the application did not comply with the requirements of section 46(2) of the Act as the information to satisfy the requirements of clause 2(1)(h) of Schedule 8 in respect of the archaeological authority was not provided in sufficient detail. The application was returned to the applicant.

On 10 April 2025, Oceania Gold Limited (OGL) submitted a new substantive application to the EPA.

3.0 Fast-track application completeness check summary

DOC has received a request from the EPA to review information provided in the new substantive application for the Waihi North Project, lodged on 10 April 2025, and advise whether in DOC's view it:

- a) meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and
- b) is provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

DOC's approach to giving advice on the new application has been based on correspondence provided by the EPA dated 11 April 2025 outlining the changes made to the substantive application. As outlined in the request from the EPA, DOC is advised that the changes made to the application relate to the assessment of historic heritage and archaeological effects (Attachment B, 49 of the application) and the substantive application report (Attachments A.04-A.12 of the application).

Specifically, the item of relevance to the DOC approvals sought is limited to: *"confirmation that no non-mining activities are being applied for on land identified as ineligible land in Schedule 4 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024"*.

The rest of the application has not been altered since the last time DOC reviewed the application. Therefore, advice previously provided remains relevant in most areas of assessment. Given this is a new application, that advice is provided again, with any changes, to reflect current understanding of the application and information contained in the application documents, specifically highlighted in **blue text**.

Below are key messages and observations, followed by DOC's commentary for each approval and the supporting tables. Observations have been provided on the

limitations of the assessments and/or provide context to the EPA as decision maker under section 46.

Key Messages

DOC's assessment found insufficient detail in several areas that would be required to inform the Panel's consideration of the application. However, it is our opinion this information could be requested from the Applicant.

Feedback in the commentary column in the tables below is summarised as "Present but not in sufficient detail" following DOC's assessment as it does not satisfy all elements of the relevant schedules of the Act.

DOC recommends this document is shared with the Applicant, the Panel Convener and the Panel to assist them in understanding information gaps and other approvals that may be required.

Observations

Navigation challenges

- The structure of the application by activity type and area, rather than approval sought has made identifying the required information in the application documents difficult. Where appropriate, previous reference documents provided by the Applicant have been used to identify the information. Refer to the observation made in relation to Concession Area 7 in the tables below.

Pest Control Activities

- Pest control is proposed to occur across both concession areas and access arrangement areas.
- Concessions and or access arrangements are not the authorising pathway under the legislation for approving pest control. Under section 38 of the Conservation Act these activities would be an offence without a hunting permit granted under that section, and therefore a permit issued by DOC would be required (hunting permits are not part of the fast-track regime). DOC notes a further operational plan is proposed for the aerial 1080 activities (B40 pg 31).
- OGL have applied for authorisation of the same activity, under different approvals and different locations. However, DOC would typically issue one authorisation per activity.

Consultation

Oceana Gold Limited (OGL) has undertaken substantial prior engagement with the local DOC office and technical experts prior to the Act coming into force, to support a previous RMA application. In addition, OGL engaged with the DOC fast-track team post enactment using DOC's established pre-lodgement processes providing a briefing to DOC and MBIE staff on 25 February 2025. This process was not

completed as OGL filed the previous substantive application with EPA on 7 March 2025.

DOC has received a *notice of request for a grant of right of access* from OGL, notifying DOC of OGL's intention to lodge an access arrangement.

Ineligible activities

Section 5 defines ineligible activities. Section 5(1)(h) provides:

*(1) In this Act, **ineligible activity** means any of the following:*

(h) an activity (other than an activity that would require an access arrangement under the [Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)) that—

(i) would occur on land that is listed in [Schedule 4](#); and

(ii) has not been subject to a determination under [section 24](#);

Schedule 4 of the Act specifies “Land on which non-mining activities are ineligible”.

The following two areas are listed in Schedule 4 and included in the proposed Northern Concession area:

- Clause 9 of Schedule 4 refers to “the area described in the Otahu Dedicated Area Notice 1976 (Gazette 1976, p 654).”
- Clause 10 of Schedule 4 refers to “the area described in the Parakawai Geological Area Notice 1980 (Gazette 1980, p 2408).”

As outlined in the cover letter provided with the lodged application on 10 April 2025 and detailed in Appendix A of the letter, no non-mining activities are being applied for on land identified as ineligible land in Schedule 4 of the Act.

Throughout the application documents various references have been included to confirm no non-mining activities are being applied for on land identified in Schedule 4 of the Act, for example Section 3.18.2 (Ecological Values) of the Environmental Setting section of the substantive application report:

“As noted, approval to these low impact activities is not being sought within the Otahu Dedicated Area and Parakawai Geological Area as part of this application. OGNZL will seek to obtain any necessary approvals for activities in these locations outside of the Fast-track process, and should it be determined that activities in these locations are unobtainable through mechanisms outside of the Fast-track process, OGNZL will look to undertake the activities in alternative locations and associated approvals. OGNZL will consult further with the Department of Conservation with regard to determining an appropriate location and management approach for these activities.”

Therefore, no non-mining activities are being applied for on Schedule 4 ineligible land.”

Commentary on Approvals

Information required for a concession

DOC has determined that the information required to consider the relevant concession applications is insufficient to satisfy all elements of Schedule 6 of the FTAA because:

- Descriptions of some of the proposed activities are at a high level only, therefore DOC is unable to determine the actual and potential effects, e.g. impacts of the proposed installation of the telemetry system, or if helicopter use is proposed as part of maintenance activities and how this will be approved.
- The GPS locations of some of the proposed concession activities is vague, broad areas have been identified for the installation of monitoring equipment and the location of some of these activities is noted as ‘TBC’ (to be confirmed).
- Some relevant conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plan considerations have not been identified and considered by the Applicant as part of the application. These are provided in Appendix 1 to this completeness check for ease of reference.

Information required for a wildlife approval

DOC has determined that the information required to consider the relevant wildlife application is **insufficient** to satisfy all elements of Schedule 7 of the FTAA because:

- While there is sufficient information on the location and methodology proposed for the salvage translocation of leiopelmatid frogs (frogs), detail is missing on the protocols and techniques to be used (e.g. the safe capture, handling and transportation and release to ensure the welfare of the frogs throughout the process).

To Note:

- The Applicant has not applied for approval for the incidental killing of wildlife. It is an offence to kill wildlife without lawful authority. The evidence to date is that translocations of leiopelmatid frog translocations have had low success rates. Although the Applicant states that improvements will be made, the possible death of frogs should be taken into consideration.

Information required for a Complex Freshwater Fisheries Approval

DOC has determined the information required to consider the relevant freshwater fisheries application is **insufficient** to satisfy all elements of Schedule 9 of the FTAA because:

- Details of the diversion structures is provided but do not meet all aspects of Schedule 9, the proposed channel dimensions, rock sizing, etc. is not included.

Information required for an Access Arrangement

- DOC has determined that the information required to consider the relevant access arrangement applications is in sufficient detail to satisfy the mining activity aspects of Schedule 11 of the FTAA. This was determined on the basis the authorising pathway for the non-mining activities sought under this application is not via an access arrangement.

Other Approvals Required

- DOC notes that not all approvals can be provided under the FTAA to authorise the pest control aspects of this application:
 - As noted above the pest control activities outlined in the pest management plan cannot be authorised by a concession alone. Under section 38 of the Conservation Act these activities would be an offence without a hunting permit granted under that section. This will need to be applied for separately as it cannot be considered under the FTAA.
 - Use of 1080/poisons has been proposed as part of the pest control mitigation. Approval under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, and potentially other approvals, cannot be considered under the FTAA.
 - The application refers to helicopter flights and/or drones, but this has not been included in the description for activities for the northern concession.
 - Approvals for activities to be undertaken as part of the Biodiversity Project have not yet been determined and/or applied for.
- While not part of the FTAA, DOC is required to consider the Kauri Dieback National Pest Management Plan in regard to all activities on Public Conservation Land where kauri are present, which includes all areas under consideration in the project application. Rule 5 of that plan requires an occupier of land to have a earthworks risk management plan to manage the risk of kauri dieback. DOC will review the provided documentation and provide comments when invited to comment on the application under section 53 of the FTAA.

Section 29 requirements

Section 29(1)(a) requires that, before lodging an application for a listed project, the authorised person for the project must consult the persons and groups referred to in section 11. DOC is included in this per section 11(1) as it is a relevant administering agency.

Date	Nature of consultation
	On 25/2/25 Oceana Gold provided a briefing for DOC and MBIE staff on its Fast-track application and noted an intention to lodge on 4 March 2025.
	There has been substantial engagement between DOC and OGL prior to this briefing including –
25/2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reviewing the AEE and supporting documents prepared in June 2022 as part of the RMA application• Reviewing technical reports again in October 2024• Engagement between a range of technical experts• Regular operational meetings• Ongoing administration of the existing Access Arrangement at Wharekirauponga

Section 29(1)(b) requires that, before lodging an application for a listed project, the authorised person for the project must also comply with section 59(1) and (2) of the Crown Minerals Act.

Date	Notice of intent
28/2/25	DOC confirms it received a letter from OGL titled – “OCEANAGOLD – WAIHI NORTH PROJECT – NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR GRANT OF RIGHT OF ACCESS UNDER SECTION 59 CROWN MINERALS ACT 1991” on 28 February 2025 notifying DOC of OGL’s intention to lodge an access arrangement.

Section 43 Requirements - Applications for concessions

Clause 3 of Schedule 6 outlines the information required in an application for a concession. The applicant has applied for concessions for a range of activities across two different areas: the Northern Concession Area and the Willows concession area. The activities are as listed below.

To be able to assess the activities proposed against the information requirements of Schedule 6 (3), the activities have been separated as below:

Concession Activity 1 – All pest control and monitoring within the Coromandel Forest Park associated with the WNP (Northern Concession Area);

Concession Activity 2 – The installation and maintenance of a telemetry system to transmit environmental data (Northern Concession Area);

Concession Activity 3 – The installation and maintenance of 3 river flow monitoring stations, and the continued use of the existing surface water monitoring site (originally permitted under concession 70763-OTH and subsequently 87585-OTH) (Northern Concession Area);

Concession Activity 4 – The installation and maintenance of 3 near stream piezometers (Northern Concession Area);

Concession Activity 5 – The continued use of a flow tracker for flow gauging (authorised under concession 87585-OTH); (Northern Concession Area);

Concession Activity 6- Low impact monitoring activities (Northern Concession Area); and

Concession Activity 7 – Rehabilitation planting with continued access for planting maintenance including pest control (Willows concession area).

Relevant section	Page reference in application	Commentary
For the purposes of section 43(3), an application for a concession must include—		
(a) a description of the proposed activity:		
Concession Activity 1	A.11 page 647, B.40, D.07, H.05 H.01 page 27	Information present and sufficient
Concession Activity 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	A.11 page 647, A.05 page 72-79, D.07	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC would anticipate that the panel would need further specific detail around the design, installation and maintenance of the telemetry system, river flow monitors, trackers and piezometers e.g. details such as volume of earthworks/disturbance/frequency of monitoring activities for example, Helicopter flights are mentioned briefly assumed as a ‘monitoring activity’ (which would require a concession).
Concession Activity 7– Rehabilitation planting with continued access for planting maintenance including pest control (Willows concession area)	A.05 Substantive Application Report – Project Description section 2.7.3 Restoration and Enhancement Planting	Information present and sufficient Report A.05 Provides a description of the proposal. Section 2.7.3 provides a description of the restoration and enhancement planting including within and in close proximity to Area 2. Section 2.6.3.3 discusses pest control and monitoring by providing a cross reference to Section 6.6.1.1 (Section 6 Assessment of

	Willows Area Concession Proposed Conditions.	Environmental Effects – Area 1/Coromandel Forest Park) DOC makes the following observation: It is noted the structure of the application by activity type and area rather than approvals sought has resulted in the information being difficult to find in the application documents.
(b) a description, maps, and GPS co-ordinates identifying the places where the proposed activity will be carried out (including the classification of those places, the ownership and management arrangements, and, if applicable, the name, of the places):	A.05 Section 2.6, A.11 Figure 8-2- 8.5.	
Concession Activity 1	A11 pg 650 B.40	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader maps of pest control area including AA (Access Arrangement) area are provided, but location data and maps are not sufficient to determine the specific location of each pest control activity as proposed.
Concession Activity 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (as described above)	C.02 A.11 Page 650- 65 A.05	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader areas are shown, but lacking GPS locations and exact location details for a number of the environmental monitoring/telemetry system equipment as they are TBC.
Concession Activity 7 – Rehabilitation planting with continued access for planting	A.11 page 649 & 651 & D08.	Information present and sufficient

maintenance including pest control (Willows concession area)

(c) information about whether the project could reasonably be undertaken in another location, or in another conservation area or another part of the conservation area, where the potential adverse effects would be significantly less: A.11 page 651

Information present and sufficient.

- DOC has assessed this at the project level and not the individual approvals.

(d) in the case of an application for an approval within paragraph (a) of the definition of concession or paragraph (a) of the definition of Reserves Act approval, information about the extent to which the project is consistent with—

(i) the relevant conservation management strategy and conservation management plan:

Information present and sufficient

- The Applicant has considered the Conservation General Policy, the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2014 and Coromandel Peninsula Conservation Land Management Plan.
- There are a number of relevant provisions that have not been assessed within these documents. The missing provisions are provided in Appendix One.
- In addition, due to a boundary change the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 1996 still has effect for a small section of the Project area. This document was not available on DOC's website. See Appendix One for further details.
- Please note given this was not available, DOC has not taken missing references to this CMS into our consideration in our assessment but recommend this is incorporated in the future.

A.11 Section 8.8

(ii) any conservation management strategies or conservation management plans that have been co-authored, authored, or approved by a Treaty settlement entity:		N/A
(e) in the case of an application for an approval within paragraph (b) of the definition of Reserves Act approval, information about the extent to which the project is consistent with any management plan approved under <u>section 41</u> of the Reserves Act 1977:	N/A	N/A
(f) information about the extent to which the project is in keeping with the purposes for which the land is held, status, ownership and administration:	A.11 page 652	<p>Information present and sufficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities considered under the concession are consistent with the purpose.
(g) a description of—		
(i) the potential effects (positive and negative) of the proposed activity:	A.11 page 652 – 653, A.05 page 74, A.09, B.40 page 32.	<p>Information present but not sufficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (i) Specific assessment of effects for each concession activity varies in detail, noting that some of the concession activities are also not explained in detail and specific locations aren't provided which subsequently limits an assessment of effects. For example, further to the pest control activity the application notes the risk of the use of toxins. However, DOC could not locate an assessment of effects/actions/mitigations to limit effects of the proposed concession activities (e.g effects of the toxins on the environment). Further the
(ii) any actions that the applicant proposes to take to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for any adverse effects of the proposed activity:		
(iii) details of the type of concession for which the applicant is applying:		

		<p>environmental, physical, visual effects of the installation of monitoring equipment and activities was also not identified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (ii) The limitations in the assessment of potential effects (as set out above) limits the completeness of the actions proposed to avoid, mitigate or remedy adverse effects. • (iii) Identified (noting additional concession maybe required e.g. helicopter)
(h) a statement of—		
(i) the proposed duration of the concession; and		Information present and sufficient
(ii) the reasons for the proposed duration:	A.11 page 653	Information present and sufficient
(i) relevant information relating to the applicant, including any information relevant to their ability to carry out the proposed activity (including whether the applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has been convicted of any offence or has any current criminal charges pending before a court):	A.04 pages 11-25, A.11 page 555.	Information present and sufficient
(j) if the applicant applies for a lease, a licence granting an interest in land, or an easement,—		
(i) reasons for the request; and	A.05 Project	Information present and sufficient
(ii) sufficient information to satisfy the panel that, in terms of <u>clause 7</u> , it is appropriate under <u>section 81</u> to grant	Description, page 31, A.11 Fast-Track Approval Act 2024	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DOC does not consider there is sufficient information to satisfy the panel that the details required have been provided to grant a licence

the lease, licence, or easement (as the case may be):	Requirements Section 8.8 page 647.	
(k) full details of any consultation undertaken with relevant iwi and with reserve owners and managers:	A.08 page 342, and F.01 Waihi North Project Consultation Summary.	EPA to determine
(l) information about financial and legal liabilities and obligations associated with the land:	A.11 page 654, J.00 to J.12 e.g records of title	Information present and sufficient
(m) in the case of an application for an approval referred to in paragraph (b) of the definition of Reserves Act approval where the reserve is owned or managed by a local authority, confirmation that the local authority has provided written agreement for the activity to be undertaken on the reserve:	N/A	N/A
(n) confirmation that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of a right of first refusal or right of offer or return to waive that right for the purposes of any lease proposed in the application if—the proposed lease would be for a term (including any renewals) that will, or is likely to, be more than 50 years; and the	A.11 page 655	N/A. The application does not include a lease.

granting of the lease would trigger the right of
first refusal or right of offer or return.

Applications for wildlife approvals

Clause 2 of Schedule 7 outlines the information required in an application for a wildlife approval.

Activities applied for include:

- monitoring of protected frogs on PCL, and
- salvage of protected frogs and lizards on and off PCL.

Relevant section	Page reference in application	Commentary
For the purposes of <u>section 43(3)(h)</u> , an application for a wildlife approval must—		
(a) specify the purpose of the proposed activity:	A.11 section 8.9.1	Information present and sufficient
(b) identify the actions the applicant wishes to carry out involving protected wildlife and where they will be carried out (whether on or off public conservation land):	A.11 section 8.9.1	Information present and sufficient
(c) include an assessment of the activity and its impacts against the purpose of the <u>Wildlife Act 1953</u> :	A.11 Section 8.9.1, B.36, B.37 H.01, H.02	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant has considered the purpose of the Wildlife Act, being wildlife protection, as demonstrated by the actions to reduce impacts, salvage frogs and lizards, and increase / enhance habitat.
(d) list protected wildlife species known or predicted to be in the area and, where possible, the numbers of wildlife present and numbers likely to be impacted:	A.09 section 6.3.4, B.36 section 4, B.37 section 5 H.01, H.02	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop assessments and surveys have been undertaken. • However, the estimates of frogs and lizards likely to be salvaged and/or killed remain unclear.

(e) outline impacts on threatened, data deficient, and at-risk wildlife species (as defined in the New Zealand Threat Classification System):	A.09 section 6.6, B.36, B.37 H.01, H.02	Information present and sufficient
(f) state how the methods proposed to be used to conduct the actions specified under paragraph (b) will ensure that best practice standards are met:	H.02 section 8 (Lizard Management Plan), H.01 section 4 B.36, B.37	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noting that best practice does not exist for frogs to the same extent it does for lizards.
(g) describe the methods to be used to safely, efficiently, and humanely catch, hold, or kill the animals and identify relevant animal ethics processes:	H.02 section 8 (Lizard Management Plan), H.01 section 4 B.36, B.37	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The frog salvage translocation and release process is described in H.01 but is missing detail such as safe capture, handling, package and transportation of frogs. • H.01 refers to six 0.04 ha salvage ‘release pens’. There is no further detail on these ‘release pens’ e.g. (material, height, construction). DOC notes that this is a new and therefore untested activity
(h) state the location or locations in which the activity will be carried out, including a map (and GPS co-ordinates if available):	A.05 section 2.6 A11 section 08 H.01, H02 B.36, B.37	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the application is to handle, salvage and relocate leiopelmatid frogs and lizards on conservation land and other land. However, frogs were not detected in the Waihi Area project areas that are not on conservation land, and the information provided in terms of frog salvage only relates

		to the area on conservation land (WUG, document H.01).
(i) state whether authorisation is sought to temporarily hold or relocate wildlife:	H.02 section 8 (Lizard Management Plan), H.01 section 4 B.36, B.37	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorisation is sought to relocate wildlife.
(j) list all actual and potential wildlife effects (adverse or positive) of the proposed activity, including effects on the target species, other indigenous species, and the ecosystems at the site:	A.09 section 6.6.1, B.36 sections 5 and 6, B.37 section 6, B.38, B.39	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections identified focus on lizards and frogs, but effects on other indigenous species (bats, birds, invertebrates) are also covered.
(k) where adverse effects are identified, state what methods will be used to avoid and minimise those effects, and any offsetting or compensation proposed to address unmitigated adverse effects (including steps taken before the project begins, such as surveying, salvaging, and relocating protected wildlife):	A.05 section 2.6.3, A10, B.58 H.02 section 8 (Lizard Management Plan), H.01 section 4 H.02 section 4.	Information present but not sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • see response to (g) above
(l) state whether the applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has been convicted of any offence under the Wildlife Act 1953:	A.11 section 8.9.1	Information present and sufficient.
(m) state whether the applicant or any company director, trustee, partner, or anyone else involved with the application has any current criminal charges under	A.11 section 8.9 page 673.	Information present and sufficient A statement is required to confirm whether there are any criminal charges pending under the Wildlife Act. The applicant has addressed the information requirement and provided the following statement

the Wildlife Act 1953 pending before a court:

which is not clear whether there are any current criminal charges pending under the Wildlife Act or not : “The applicant (including the company director, trustees, partners, or anyone else involved with the application) has any current criminal charges pending under the Wildlife Act.”

DOC makes the following observation:

It appears this is a typographical error.

(n) provide proof and details of all consultation, including with hapū or iwi, on the application specific to wildlife impacts:

Information present and sufficient

Section 5.3 of the Consultation and Engagement Report (A.08) discusses the consultation undertaken with tangata whenua associated with the project. Section 5.7.4 outlines concerns raised during the consultation from various stakeholders in relation to biodiversity, including reference to Archey’s Frog.

A.08 section 5, 5.7.4 –
A.09 section 6.2,
F.01 – F.06

Whilst not specifically stated in relation to the wildlife approval, the information provided in relation to consultation undertaken with hapū or iwi on the project and the issues raised by stakeholders in relation to biodiversity can be inferred and on that basis is considered present and sufficient.

It is noted that the relevant iwi authorities and Treaty Settlement Entities will be invited to comment on the application.

(o) provide any additional written expert views, advice, or opinions the applicant has obtained concerning their proposal.

Various reports provided in Part B - Technical Reports

Information present and sufficient

Applications for complex freshwater fisheries approval

Clause 3 of Schedule 9 outlines the information required in an application for access arrangements

Dispensation from applying a fish passage. The following table applies to both diversions being applied for, namely –

- The Northern Uphill Diversion Drain; being a diversion of watercourse TB1 around the Northern Rock Stack; and
- The Southern Uphill Diversion Drain; being a diversion of the Ruahorehore Stream around Tailings Storage Facility 3.

Relevant section	Page reference in application	Commentary
For the purpose of section 43(3)(j), an application for a complex freshwater fisheries activity approval must include the following information:		
(a) in relation to the structure and any fish facility:		
(i) a description of the type of structure or fish facility:	A.07 section 4.7, A.11 page 669, A.05 page 160, B.43 Part 2 Appendices 11, 14 (provided on 14/3/25), D.06.	Information present but not sufficient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 14 provides high level design principles and objectives. Detailed design, e.g. channel dimensions, rock sizing, etc. has not yet been developed.
(ii) the dimensions of the structure or fish facility:		
(iii) the design of the structure or fish facility:		
(iv) the placement of the structure or fish facility:		
(v) the water flows:		
(vi) the operating regime:		
(b) the freshwater species and values present (with particular focus on threatened, data-deficient, and at-risk species as defined in the New Zealand Threat Classification System):	A.06 page 194, B.43 Part 2 section 3.	Information present and sufficient

(c) the water quality and quantity in the surrounding habitat (at the proposed structure location, upstream and downstream):	A.06 page 194, and B.43 Part 2 section 3.	<p>Information present and sufficient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For the purposes of assessing Freshwater Fisheries Regulations approvals for a diversion structure.
(d) how the passage of fish will be provided for or impeded.	A.11 Fast-Track Approvals Act Requirements section 8.11 page 670, B.43 Freshwater Ecological Assessment Part 2 Appendix 14.	Information present and sufficient.

Applications for access arrangements

Clause 3 of Schedule 11 outlines the information required in an application for access arrangements.

The applicant has applied for the following –

- Crown Minerals approvals for activities within MP 41808 and MP 60541 applied to be authorised as:
 - Variation to the existing access arrangement 62342
 - New Access Arrangement to replace 48614-AA for Wharekirauponga

The full list of activities being applied for under the new access arrangement is described in A.07 Approvals Required pages 336-337 and includes exploratory drilling activities, installation and maintenance of ventilation shafts and many of the activities outlined for the concession applications.

The following table focusses on the core exploratory mining activities.

The application also requests approval of pest control and environmental monitoring activities as part of the access arrangement approval e.g. telemetry systems and water flow monitors. Some of these activities are also being applied for as part of the Northern Concession Area. Schedule 11 is less suitable for consideration of completeness of these activities and DOC would recommend these are considered under a concession application instead (subject to our notes above regarding pest control).

In general, the considerations used for concessions would apply to these aspects.

The table below refers to both applications except where identified.

Relevant section	Page reference in application	Commentary
For the purposes of <u>section 43(3)(l)</u> , an application for an access arrangement must include the following:		
(a) a copy of the relevant permit under the <u>Crown Minerals Act 1991</u> (if a permit has been granted under that Act):	E.03 Existing Mining Permits MP41808 and MP60541.	Information provided and no assessment required.
(b) a clear map or plan of the application area with GPS co-ordinates:	A.11 Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 Requirements	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More detail could be found for the monitoring activities within

	section 8.12 pages 672, 676, 677, 678	the access arrangements than those for the concessions.
(c) a document identifying the areas of conservation land located within the application area, its classification, and an assessment against its purpose:	A.11 section 8.12, pages 652, 653, 678, and 679. Part D08	Information not present for the variation of the AA (Access Arrangement). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC could not locate the areas identifying conservation land that are referred to on page 678 and part D including a 'marked up' version of the existing AA.
(d) a description of the proposal, including—		
(i) the application area, including location and features (for example, water courses, roads, and amenities):	A.05 2.5 to 2.13.	Information present and sufficient.
(ii) a summary of proposed activities (including type of prospecting, exploration, or mining methods, duration, and scale of activity):	A.05 section 2.6 page 31, and A.11 8.12 page 670.	Information present and sufficient.
(iii) a statement of the objectives of any Act under which the land is administered:	A.11 section 8.12 pages 681-682.	Information present and sufficient.
(iv) any policy statement, management strategy, or management plan of the Crown that applies in relation to the land:	A.11 sections 8.8.2, 8.8.3, and 8.8.4 pages 655 - 663	Information present and sufficient.
(v) details of any resource consents and concessions held or applied for, or intended applications in relation to the application area:	A.05 page 31, A.06 page 194.	Information present and sufficient.
(vi) in the case of an application for an approval described in section 42(4)(l), a statement of the direct net	A.04 page 10, and A.09 section 6.3 page 376.	Information present and sufficient. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does not explicitly state this is in relation to the access

economic and other benefits of the proposed activities in relation to which the access arrangement is sought:		arrangement but can be inferred.
(vii) in the case of an application for an approval described in section 42(4)(m), the interests of the owner of the mineral, or of any person to whom the owner of the mineral has granted any rights in relation to the mineral, in obtaining access to that mineral:	N/A	N/A
(e) an assessment of the environment, including—		
(i) a description of the existing natural environment in and around the application area (including flora, fauna, aquatic life, and landscape):	A.06 pages 266 – 292.	Information present and sufficient.
(ii) a description of any historic, cultural, and archaeological sites within the application area (position and significance):	A.06 pages 296 – 303.	Information present and sufficient.
(iii) a description of the social environment in and around the application area (including scenic qualities, recreation facilities, and their use):	A.06 pages 303-307.	Information present and sufficient.
(iv) an assessment of the effects that proposed activities will have on the environment described in subparagraph (i), both while the activities are taking place and after their completion:	A.09 page 371.	Information present but insufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to find information on drill sites in terms of vegetation and fauna values. • For those activities that are the same as the concession – see concession assessment.
(v) an outline of consultation undertaken, including full details of consultation with relevant iwi:	A.08 page 342, and F.01	Information present and sufficient.
(vi) a description of the proposed safeguards and mitigation measures to be put in place (for example, proposed rehabilitation, water management,	A.09, A.10	Information present and sufficient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Points raised in other approvals would apply.

management of flora and fauna and cultural or historic sites, and the way in which risks will be managed):		
(vii) information about financial and legal liabilities and obligations associated with the land:	A.11 Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 Requirements.	Information present and sufficient.
(f) in the case of an application where the land in question is a reserve managed by a local authority, confirmation that the local authority has provided written agreement for the activity to be undertaken on the reserve.	N/A	N/A

Completeness check against section 43

While this section is primarily for the EPA DOC will provide any additional commentary that may be useful to the EPA.

Relevant section	Page reference in application	Commentary
43(1) A substantive application		
(a) Must be lodged in the form and manner approved by the EPA; and		Will be confirmed by the EPA
(b) Must—		
(i) explain how the project to which the application relates is consistent with the purpose of this Act; or		Will be confirmed by the EPA
(ii) for a project referred under section 21(1)(a)—		
(A) explain how both the stage to which the application relates and the whole project are consistent with the purpose of this Act		Will be confirmed by the EPA

(B) contain information relating to the likelihood that any later stages of the project will be completed;	Will be confirmed by the EPA	
(c) must demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities	A.00 Cover and Application Letter to the EPA dated 8 April 2025	
	Section 2.14 – A.05 Substantive Application Report – Project Description	The application states no non-mining activities are being applied for on land identified as ineligible land in Schedule 4 of the Act.
	Section 3.18.2 – A06 Substantive Application Report – Environmental Setting	
	Section 8.6- A.11 Substantive	

	Application Report – Fast- track Approvals Act 2024 Requirements	
(d) must, if the application is lodged by more than 1 authorised person, state the proposed approval to be held by each person; and		Will be confirmed by the EPA
(e) must comply with—		
(i) any information requirements specified by the Minister under <u>section 27(3)(b)(ii)</u> ; and		Will be confirmed by the EPA
(ii) the requirements listed in subsection (3) that apply to the approvals sought; and		
(f) must, if the authorised person has applied under <u>section 39</u> for a determination under <u>section 23</u> or <u>24</u> , include a copy of the notice under <u>section 39(4)</u> ; and		N/A
(g) must, if the application seeks an approval for an activity that is the subject of a determination under <u>section 23</u> , set out the steps taken to secure the agreement referred to in <u>section 5(1)(a)</u> ; and		N/A
(h) must state whether the application relates to a priority project and, if so, include confirmation that, to the best of the applicant’s knowledge, there are no competing applications; and		Will be confirmed by the EPA
(i) must be made by the deadline specified in the notice under <u>section 28(3)(d)</u> ; and		Will be confirmed by the EPA

(j) must not lodge a substantive application unless any fee, charge, or levy payable under regulations in respect of the application is paid.	Will be confirmed by the EPA
<p>43(2) If a substantive application is for a listed project, it must also contain the information required by <u>section 13(4)</u> (other than <u>section 13(4)(b)</u>, <u>(f)(ii)</u> and <u>(iii)</u>, and <u>(g)</u>), which applies—</p> <p>(a) as if the reference in <u>section 13(4)(k)</u> to <u>section 11</u> were a reference to <u>section 29</u>; and</p> <p>(b) as if the reference in <u>clause 2</u> of Schedule 11 to <u>section 12(2)</u> were a reference to <u>section 29</u>; and</p> <p>(c) with any other necessary modifications.</p>	
(a) a description of the project and the activities it involves:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(b) information to demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities (other than activities that may be the subject of a determination under section 23 or 24):	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(c) a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(e) the anticipated commencement and completion dates for construction activities (where relevant):	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(f) a statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages and, if so, an outline of the nature and timing of the stages	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(h) a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(i) a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(j) a list of the persons and groups the applicant considers are likely to be affected by the project, including—	Will be confirmed by the EPA

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) relevant local authorities: (ii) iwi authorities and groups that represent hapū that are parties to relevant Mana Whakahono ā Rohe or joint management agreements: (iii) other relevant iwi authorities: (iv) relevant Treaty settlement entities: (v) relevant protected customary rights groups and customary marine title groups: (vi) ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou, if the project area is within or adjacent to, or the project would directly affect, ngā rohe moana o ngā hapū o Ngāti Porou: (vii) relevant applicant groups under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011: (viii) persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 1981: 	
<p>(k) a summary of—</p>	
<p>(i) the consultation undertaken for the purposes of section 11 and any other consultation undertaken on the project with the persons and groups referred to in paragraph (j); and</p>	
<p>(ii) how the consultation has informed the project:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>
<p>(l) a list of any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area, and a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>
<p>(m) a description of any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>
<p>(n) a statement of any relevant principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>

(o) information identifying the parcels of Māori land, marae, and identified wāhi tapu within the project area:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(p) a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 23 and, if so, an assessment of the effects of the activity on the relevant land and on the rights and interests of Māori in that land:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(2) and, if so, a description of—	
(i) the scale and adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure; and	N/A
(ii) how, if at all, that scale or those adverse effects are anticipated or known to change as a result of the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of the infrastructure:	N/A
(q) a statement of whether the applicant is seeking a determination under section 24(4) and, if so,—	N/A
(i) a description of every alternative site considered by the applicant (or, if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines (the activity); and	N/A
(ii) for each alternative site considered,—	
(A) a statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity; and	
(B) a description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity; and	N/A
(C) a description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or	

<p>compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity; and</p> <p>(D) a description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the site; and</p> <p>(E) an assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the site, taking into account the matters referred to in subparagraphs (A) to (D) and any other relevant matters:</p>	
<p>(r) a description of the applicant’s legal interest (if any), or if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, the legal interest of any of those persons (if any), in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects the applicant’s ability to undertake the work:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>
<p>(s) an outline of the types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) that the applicant considers are needed to authorise the project, including any that the applicant considers may be needed by someone other than the applicant:</p>	<p>DOC notes the following will be required to authorise the pest control activities -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSNO Approval for use of poisons • Hunting Permit under section 38 of the Conservation Act • Authority to kill wildlife.
<p>(t) whether any activities that are involved in the project, or are substantially the same as those involved in the project, have been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act and,—</p> <p>(i) if an application has been made, details of the application:</p> <p>(ii) if a decision has been made, the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it:</p>	
<p>(u) a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:</p>	<p>Will be confirmed by the EPA</p>

(v) if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, a statement of each proposed approval to be held by each of those persons:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
(w) a summary of compliance or enforcement actions (if any), and the outcome of those actions, taken against the applicant (or if the referral application is lodged by more than 1 person, any of those persons) under a specified Act:	Will be confirmed by the EPA
43(3) The requirements referred to in subsection (1)(e)(ii) are those set out in,—	
(a) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(a)</u> (resource consent), <u>clauses 5 to 8</u> of Schedule 5:	N/A
(b) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(b)</u> (change or cancellation of resource consent condition), <u>clause 10</u> of Schedule 5:	N/A
(c) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(c)</u> (certificate of compliance), <u>clause 11</u> of Schedule 5:	N/A
(d) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(d)</u> (designation), <u>clause 12</u> of Schedule 5:	N/A
(e) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(e)</u> (concession), <u>clause 3</u> of Schedule 6:	See elsewhere in this form
(f) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(f)</u> (land exchange), <u>clause 27</u> of Schedule 6:	N/A
(g) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(g)</u> (conservation covenant), <u>clause 42</u> of Schedule 6:	See elsewhere in this form
(h) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(h)</u> (wildlife approval), <u>clause 2</u> of Schedule 7:	See elsewhere in this form

(i) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(i)</u> (archaeological authority), <u>clause 2</u> of Schedule 8:	N/A
(j) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(j)</u> (complex freshwater fisheries activity approval), <u>clause 3</u> of Schedule 9:	See elsewhere in this form
(k) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(k)</u> (marine consent), <u>clauses 3</u> and 4 of Schedule 10:	N/A
(l) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(l) or (m)</u> (access arrangement), <u>clause 3</u> of Schedule 11:	See elsewhere in this form
(m) for an approval described in <u>section 42(4)(n)</u> (mining permit), <u>clause 16</u> of Schedule 11.	N/A

Sch 5 cl 9 -For the purposes of section 43(3)(a), a consent application for a project that includes a standard freshwater fisheries activity must include the information set out in clause 3 of Schedule 9.

Waihi North Project, substantive application check

Statutory Planning Assessment

Preliminary notes for applicant:

- DOC undertakes advocacy for conservation values on lands managed by others under section 6(b) of the Conservation Act 1987. This function is reflected in the policies in Chapter 7 of the Conservation General Policy 2005 (CGP) for conservation beyond public conservation lands and waters. Hence, for example, identification below of section 3.6 in the Coromandel Peninsula Conservation Land Management Plan 2002, and sections 5.4 and 5.5 in the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2014 (CMS 2014).
 - Outcome statements in the CMS 2014 have the same statutory effect as objectives and policies. Hence, the need to address section 9.2.1, outcome for the Hauraki-Coromandel Peninsula Place, more fully.
 - The boundary of the CMS 2014 extends as far south as SH 2 and SH 25 and does not include Waihi township. For those parts of the application south of the CMS 2014 boundary the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 1996 (CMS 1996) still has effect. This document is not currently available on DOC's website but can be viewed here: <https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:a2a0bba4-1ee0-410f-a0ac-fef28bf970ac>
 - DOC will make the CMS 1996 available on our website shortly, along with a map showing the boundaries.
-

Statutory planning provisions not addressed in substantive application:

For all sites, where relevant:

Conservation General Policy 2005

4.6 Ecosystem services

- 4.6(a) Activities on public conservation lands and waters should be planned and managed in ways which avoid or otherwise minimise adverse effects on the quality of ecosystem services.

11.1 All activities

- 11.1(d) Concession and other authorisation holders will be responsible for the safe conduct of their operations, including the safety of staff, clients, contractors, and the public, and compliance with relevant safety standards and legal obligations.



Definition of 'Utilities':

Includes but not limited to: structures and infrastructure for telecommunications; energy generation and transmission; sewerage; water supply and flood control; oil and gas; roads and airstrips; hydrological and weather stations.

- 11.3(a) Utilities may be provided for on public conservation lands and waters where they cannot be reasonably located outside public conservation lands and waters, or if specifically provided for as a purpose for which the place is held.
- 11.3(b) When new utilities are installed or existing utilities are maintained or extended, they should be of a scale, design and colour that relates to, and is integrated with, the landscape and seascape.
- 11.3(c) Public access to utilities may be denied where necessary for the protection of public safety or the security or competent operation of the activity concerned.
- 11.3(d) Utilities should, wherever possible, be located in, or added to, an existing structure or facility and use existing access options.
- 11.3(e) Utilities that are redundant should be removed from public conservation lands and waters and the site restored as far as practicable to a natural state to minimise effects on the landscape.

Coromandel Peninsula Conservation Land Management Plan 2002

Section 3.2 Plant and Animal Pests

Objective

Reduce animal and plant pests and hold at levels that allow biodiversity at priority sites to be maintained and enhanced.

Implementation

Extend plant and animal pest control into other nationally and regionally ranked sites as resources permit.

Section 3.3.1.6 Wentworth/Wharekirauponga Visitor Management Zone

Implementation

Maintain the present walk and track systems in the valleys.

Section 3.6 Advocacy

Objective

The conservation of natural and historic resources outside protected areas.

Implementation

Advocate protection of natural and historic resources to ... landowners through a range of statutory and non-statutory mechanisms.

Section 3.9.1 Concessions

Implementations

Include a requirement to monitor affects of the activity and provide monitoring information to the Department in concession documentation.

Where appropriate apply a precautionary approach to concession applications. The precautionary approach is defined in terms of sections 6 and 17U(2) of the Conservation Act 1987.

For the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and Access Tunnel (to CMS 2014 boundary), and Willows Road Surface Facilities Area:

Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2014

Section 5.1 The diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored

Objectives

- 5.1.1.1 The diversity of New Zealand's natural heritage is maintained and restored with priority given to:
- a) conserving a full range of New Zealand's ecosystems to a healthy functioning state, with an emphasis on priority ecosystems in Appendix 4;
 - b) supporting the work of others to maintain and restore ecosystem types selected from Appendix 2;
 - c) conserving Threatened species to ensure persistence, with an emphasis on those species listed in Appendix 6.
- 5.1.1.9 Maintain the natural form of prominent and distinctive geological features, landforms and landscapes, including undeveloped skylines and ridgelines, on public conservation lands and waters in Waikato.
- 5.1.1.15 Control and manage pest plants, animal pests and wild animals (identified in Appendix 5) and seek opportunities to collaborate with tangata whenua, local authorities, other agencies, neighbouring landowners and the community in this regard, to:
- a) improve the quality and functioning of the ecosystems identified in Part Two Places of this CMS and the ecosystems and habitats outside those Places identified in Appendices 2–4; and
 - b) protect populations of threatened and at risk species within Waikato.
- 5.1.1.17 Contain all deer species within their gazetted feral range in collaboration with tangata whenua, communities, neighbouring landowners, hunting groups and other organisations.

Section 5.2 History is protected and brought to life

Objective

- 5.2.1.3 Prioritise and protect the actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 on the basis of their historic, cultural and physical significance, their value to tangata whenua and the wider community, and their conservation need.

Section 5.3 More people participate in recreation

Objective

- 5.3.1.3 Contribute to a national network of visitor opportunities by promoting Local Treasure (Appendix 11) and Backcountry destinations, as valued by local communities and as more challenging attractions respectively, within the network of opportunities offered in Waikato.

Section 5.4 More people engage with conservation and value its benefits

Objectives

- 5.4.1.3 Work with a range of partners (such as tangata whenua, statutory agencies and local authorities, businesses, schools and the wider community) in enduring relationships to achieve ongoing conservation results.
- 5.4.1.4 Focus building relationships and partnerships in those areas where cooperative relationships are most needed to support priority conservation outcomes, particularly those that: ...
- b) add value and extend management to realise natural, cultural, historical and/or recreational benefits at the Places identified in Part Two of this CMS;
 - c) enhance and create ecological corridors and buffers for the protection of ecosystems, habitats and species; ...
 - f) recognise and protect sites and stories of special historical and cultural interest, including those at the Places identified in Part Two of this CMS.

Section 5.5 Conservation gains from business partnerships

Objectives

- 5.5.1.2 Work with ... businesses (particularly in the Coromandel, Waitomo and Pureora) to create and develop opportunities to promote conservation outcomes, products and services.
- 5.5.1.3 Seek opportunities to work with and build partnerships with businesses that are looking for ways to demonstrate their commitment to and engagement with conservation.
- 5.5.1.6 Build productive business partnerships that deliver measurable conservation gains.
- 5.5.1.7 Increase engagement of the commercial sector in conservation.

Section 9 Hauraki-Coromandel Peninsula Place

9.2 Outcome, policies and milestones for the Hauraki-Coromandel Peninsula Place

9.2.1 Outcome

Commercial activities complement natural, historic and amenity values. ... Other concessions ... have minimal impact on other users and natural values. The commercial use of ecosystem services and resources results in an overall conservation gain for natural, cultural and historic values on public conservation lands.

The priority ecosystem at Otahu is maintained and restored, with forest health improving elsewhere, in partnership with other interested parties. Populations of Threatened and At Risk species (including Archey's frog) are protected with assistance from the community and interested parties. ... Significant geological values are protected at Parakawai, and a native forest landscape prevails.

Important heritage artefacts associated with kauri logging, gold mining and telegraph communication, including the actively managed Royal Standard Tramway, are preserved and integrated with recreation experiences.

Section 16.15.1 Policies—Kauri Dieback Disease

16.15.1.2 Work with ... concessionaires ... working in kauri forests to adopt kauri dieback disease hygiene standards for their people, machinery, equipment and activities.

Section 16.16.1 Policy – Game Animals

16.16.1.1. Work with the Game Animal Council to facilitate the hunting of wild animals (that are also game animals) on public conservation land as defined by the Game Animal Council Act⁷⁴ to achieve the purposes of the Wild Animal Control Act 1977 and the Game Animal Council Act 2013.**Appendix 2 [Ref objective 5.1.1.1]**

Important ecosystems and habitats within Waikato

Forest of warm climates

Appendix 4 [Ref objective 5.1.1.1]

Priority ecosystems on public conservation lands and waters in Waikato identified by the Department of Conservation using its natural heritage prioritising processes in September 2013

Otahu Ecological Area contains: kauri, podocarp, broadleaved forest; tawa, kohekohe, mangleo broadleaved forest; mānuka or kānuka scrub

Appendix 5 (Ref objective 5.1.1.15)

Threats or pests and wild animals present in Waikato

Table A5.1; Animal pests and wild animals

e.g. various mammal species listed

Appendix 6 [Ref objective 5.1.1.1]

Threatened and At Risk species present in Waikato

e.g. Table A6.2 Threatened and At Risk fauna (vertebrates) lists Archey's frog as Nationally Vulnerable

For southern portion of the Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel, and the Gladstone Open Pit, Northern Rock Stack, and Tailings Storage Facility 3:

Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 1996

Chapter 3 Hauraki Sub-region

[the application area does not fall within any of the six areas of particular interest identified in sections 3.5 – 3.10]

Chapter 8 General Objectives for Protection of Natural and Historic Resources

Relevant objectives and implementations

E.g. section 8.2.3 implementations:

- seek protection of remaining native forest, especially areas which can function as corridors or buffer zones;
- advocate regeneration and rehabilitation of remnant or degraded areas of indigenous habitat, e.g., remnant lowland forest;
- assist landowner or community initiatives for protection or restoration of such areas or sites

Chapter 9 Specific Objectives for Areas Administered by the Department

9.1.1 Management Objective

To achieve cost-effective protection of the natural and historic resources on land and marine areas administered by the department; to fulfil statutory obligations as efficiently and effectively as possible; to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi; and to involve the local and regional community in the protection of areas over which they have an interest.

Chapter 10 Uses and Activities on Land Administered by the Department

10.1 Introduction

10.1.1 Management Objective

For land subject to the Conservation Act 1987: to conserve natural and historic resources, foster public recreational enjoyment of those resources and allow their use for tourism; and ensure that any non-recreation, non-tourism uses of areas administered by the department conform with the legislation to which the area is subject.

10.5 Commercial Use

10.5.1 Objective

To ensure that all non-recreational, non-tourism activities on land administered by the department are consistent with conservation of natural and historic resources and conform with the legislation to which the area is subject.

10.6 Procedures for Assessing and Processing Proposed Uses or Activities and their Subsequent Monitoring and Administration

10.6.1 Objective

Concessions or other legal rights to use areas administered by the department may be granted to any body or person for purposes conforming with this Strategy.

10.6.3 Objective

Proposals for any use or activity on land administered by the department will be grouped into one of the categories indicated below and treated accordingly. All proposals will be assessed on their merits in accordance with the legislation. Where there is doubt about the possible effects of a use or activity the applicant must supply any additional information to enable the case to be considered. The application may be refused if there is insufficient information or if reasonable conditions cannot be set to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects.

Category iv Category D uses or activities are those carried out by agents other than the department which will:

- involve a significant effect and/or will involve a concession or other legal rights of use for a period of five years or more.

[subsequent Assessment & Approval Procedures for Category C & D]

Chapter 11 Public Awareness & Statutory Advocacy

111.8.3 Objective

To encourage, and, where possible, assist with the protection of conservation values on private land.