
MINUTE 1 OF THE PANEL CONVENER

Request for Section 51 report for the Macraes Phase Four (MP4) application
FTAA-2608-1288

1 October 2026

[1] Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) on 9 September 2026. The application relates to, in stages, expanding the existing open pit and underground gold mining operations to enable output of approximately 130,000 ounces per annum in the East Otago area.

[2] The application seeks approvals including:

- (a) a wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h)
- (b) an archaeological authority under section 42(4)(i)
- (c) a complex freshwater fisheries approval under section 42(4)(j).

[3] Pursuant to section 51 of the Act, the panel convener directs the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) to obtain the following reports:

From the Director-General of the Department of Conservation (DOC):

- (a) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 7 for the wildlife approval (s42(4)(h));
- (b) a report under clause 4 of Schedule 9 for the complex freshwater fisheries approvals (s42(4)(j)); and,

From Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga and the Māori Heritage Council (HNZPT and MHC):

- (a) a report under clause 3 of Schedule 8 for the archaeological authority (s42(4)(i)).

Advice Requested

[4] The panel convener also directs the EPA to obtain advice from DOC, HNZPT and MHC on the following:

- (a) Any information gaps in the application that, in the opinion of the agencies, must be addressed in order for the panel to determine the application.
- (b) How the weighting of matters set out in the relevant schedules should be approached, having regard to applicable statutory provisions and relevant senior court decisions (s51(1)).
- (c) If the agencies do not agree with, or wish to amplify on, the expert and planning assessments lodged in support of the application, it must file a report in accordance with the relevant schedule (s51(2)(c) or s51(2)(d)).
- (d) The agencies may confirm and append advice previously given in response to directions under section 51 on another project and does not need to provide an assessment if it concurs with the applicant's assessments.
- (e) The agencies are to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plans attached to the application, recommending tracked changes (if any).

Timing

[5] Reports and advice must be provided to the EPA **within 10 working days after the panel invites comments on the application**, in accordance with section 51(4) of the Act.

[6] Any advice or report received will be provided by the EPA to persons listed in s 51(5).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane'. The letter 'J' is large and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left. The word 'ane' follows in a cursive script.

Jane Borthwick

Panel convener for the purposes of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024