



Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga comments on Waihi North substantive application

Application name	Waihi North
EPA reference	FTAA-2504-1046
Applicant/s	Oceania Gold
Comments due by	28 August 2025

Organisation name	Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga		
*First name	Angelica		
*Last name	Pablo		
Postal address	PO Box 2629 Wellington 6140		
*Home phone/Mobile phone		*Work Phone	471 4893
*Email	fasttrack@heritage.org.nz		
Submission prepared by	NORTHERN REGIONAL PLANNER		
Contact details	Sbracey@heritage.org.nz		

General comment on application and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the substantive approval application for Waihi North. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) has assessed the application, with input from specialist regional heritage staff, including those with Māori heritage, planning and archaeological expertise.

Overall, based on the information provided, we have no objection to the approval of the Non-complying Resource Consent Application. We recommend the following:

- That the resource consent application be approved in accordance with the documentation lodged with the Substantive Application, particularly B.49 & B49.a-B49.b and the updated proposed resource conditions dated 28th July 2025.

Our recommendations regarding the approval for an archaeological authority are addressed in the archaeological report we have provided separately to the Panel.



Cultural heritage values

OceanaGold has utilised the CVA/CIA reports provided to guide their processes with the project in regard to implementing iwi cultural advice. OceanaGold is also involved in ongoing discussions with iwi and have stated that they wish to create opportunities for cultural engagement and considers an Iwi forum to be an appropriate means to facilitate this. Some Iwi have written their support for the proposal with the exception of Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki whose concerns over Oceana Gold's lack of openness and transparency regarding the project and its potential impacts. Karakia, Kaitiakitanga, Cultural monitoring, cultural awareness, and protection of taonga have been emphasised by Iwi throughout the Waihi North Project and OceanaGold have stated that they are committed to engagement to ensure that traditional practices are accommodated, and adverse environmental effects are avoided.

The project is in the rohe of the following tangata whenua –

Iwi/Hapū	Name of Kaitiaki	Response
Ngaati Whanaunga		Ngaati Whanaunga provided a CVA (November 2022) which has been kept confidential with OceanaGold and therefore I was not able to review it.
Ngai Tai ki Tamaki		Ngai Tai ki Tamaki have deferred to local iwi.
Ngati Hako		Ngāti Hako have not yet finalised their CVA for the Wharekirauponga Underground Mine and OceanaGold are yet to receive a draft assessment.
Ngāti Hei		Ngāti Hei have confirmed with OceanaGold that they wish to undertake a CVA. OceanaGold has offered support and resourcing to assist with the completion of the assessment.
Ngāti Maru		Ngāti Maru defer to Ngāti Pu and Ngāti Tamatera but have made it clear that this does not constitute a proxy approval from Ngāti Maru for this project. They are concerned for the potential adverse effects on the Ohinemuri river which flows into the Waihou river and then on to Tikapa Moana with which they have a strong connection
Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki		Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki informed OceanaGold in December 2022 that they wished to terminate the Memorandum of Understanding with OceanaGold and would no longer engage with them or provide CIA. Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki representatives were concerned with Oceana Gold's lack of openness and transparency regarding the project and its potential impacts.
Ngāti Pu		Ngāti Pu are committed to providing a CIA in 2025 and have agreed to formalise their relationship with OceanaGold through the signing of a terms of reference, which has been drafted with feedback received from Ngāti Pu in January 2025.
Ngāti Rahiri Tumutumu		Ngāti Rahiri Tumutumu have confirmed with OceanaGold that they wish to undertake a CVA which has not yet progressed. They have deferred to "other iwi with a closer connection to the rohe".
Ngāti Tamatera		Ngāti Tamatera provided a CIA (June 2023) which has been kept confidential with OceanaGold and therefore I was not able to review it.



Ngāti Tara Tokanui/Ngāti Koi		Ngāti Tara Tokanui/Ngāti Koi submitted a CIA (September 2022) which has been kept confidential with OceanaGold and therefore I was not able to review it.
---------------------------------	--	---

The project area does not contain any sites entered on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangi Kōrero or sites contained on the Schedule of Historic Heritage Inventory of the Hauraki District Plan. It needs to be noted that the proposed activity is in close proximity to the Martha Mine and associated historic heritage features.

Archaeology

We acknowledge that the substantive application includes an approval for an archaeological authority. We refer the Panel to the report we have been directed to provide under s 51(2)(d) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 for our comments on archaeology and any recommendations.

Recommendations on applicant's proposed conditions

We have reviewed the proposed conditions contained in the application and our recommendations on them are outlined below.

Proposed condition number	Discussion	Change requested (additions underlined, deletions strikethrough)
HDC Condition 89	HNZPT supports this general heritage condition requiring records and retention of items, where practicable, of any pre-1900 works encountered as part of the mining activities.	Retain the condition as worded.
TDC Condition 47	HNZPT supports this Accidental Discovery Protocol condition in relation to any discovery of archaeological features.	Retain the condition as worded
WRC/HDC Condition C29	HNZPT supports this Accidental Discovery Protocol condition in relation to any discovery of archaeological features.	Retain the condition as worded