
MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER
Request for Section 51 report for Waihi North [FTAA-2504-1046]
Concessions under the Conservation Act 1987
(22 May 2025)

[1] Pursuant to section 51 of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (“the Act”), this Minute directs the EPA to obtain advice and a report from the Director-General of Conservation.

[2] Note: Associate Convener Jennifer Caldwell is assigned to this matter; however, as she is currently on leave, I will manage the project until her return in June.

[3] I have read the following documents:

- (a) A.07, Section 4: Approvals required at [4.4]
- (b) A.08, Section 5: Consultation and engagement at [5.2.5]
- (c) A.11, Section 8: Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 Requirements at [8.8]
- (d) D.07: Northern Area Concession Proposed Conditions
- (e) D.11: Willows Area Concession Proposed Conditions

[4] Pursuant to s 42(4)(e), the applicant, OceanaGold (New Zealand) Ltd, seeks the following concessions:

Northern Concession Area

- (a) Concession (licence) for activities occurring on public conservation land, but outside the Access Arrangement / Mining Permit area, as follows:
 - (i) All pest control and monitoring within the Coromandel Forest Request for s 51 report for Waihi North [FTAA-2504-1046]

Park (excluding any areas listed in Schedule 4 of the Act) associated with the WNPA variation to an existing access arrangement (62342) that would otherwise be applied for under section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act (section 42 (4)(l) of the Act) to encompass Waihi North Project components.

- (ii) The installation and maintenance of a telemetry system to transmit environmental data, including the continued use of the existing telemetry system authorised under concession 101993-OTH;
- (iii) 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)⁵²;
- (iv) The installation and maintenance of 3 near stream piezometers;
- (v) The continued use of a flow tracker for flow gauging (authorised under concession 87585-OTH); and
- (vi) Low impact monitoring activities.¹

Willows Concession Area

- (b) Concession (licence) for activities occurring on public conservation land but outside the Access Arrangement / Mining Permit area as follows:
 - (i) Rehabilitation planting with continued access for planting maintenance including pest control.²

[5] Pursuant to section 51(1) of the Act, the Director-General of Conservation is to file a report advising how the weighting of matters set out in Schedule 6, clause 4 of the Act should be approached, with regard to relevant senior court

¹ A.07. Section 4: Approvals required at [4.4].

² A.07 Section 4: Approvals required at [4.4].

decisions.

[6] Pursuant to section 51(2)(c) of the Act, if the Director-General of Conservation does not agree with, or wishes to expand upon, the expert and planning assessment lodged in support of the access arrangement, they must file a report in accordance with Schedule 6, clause 4.

[7] For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General:

- (a) may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project; and
- (b) does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if they concur with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.

[8] The Director-General of Conservation is to respond to the draft conditions, including any relevant management plan attached to the application, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

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

[10] Finally, it would assist the panel convener if the Director-General is able to indicate their views on the application at the convener's conference, tentatively scheduled for **11 June 2025**.

Jane Borthwick

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