

## Your Comment on Waihi North

Please include all the contact details listed below with your comments and indicate whether you can receive further communications from us by email to [substantive@fastrack.govt.nz](mailto:substantive@fastrack.govt.nz).

1. Contact Details			
Please ensure that you have authority to comment on the application on behalf of those named on this form.			
Organisation name (if relevant)			
First name	Chris and Anne		
Last name	Batten		
Postal address	<div></div>		
Home phone / Mobile phone			
Email ( <i>a valid email address enables us to communicate efficiently with you</i> )	<div></div> <div></div>		

2. We will email you draft conditions of consent for your comment			
<input type="checkbox"/>	I can receive emails and my email address is correct	<input type="checkbox"/>	I cannot receive emails and my postal address is correct

## **To the Waihi North Expert Consenting Panel**

The part of the Waihi North Project that most concerns us is the Gladstone Open Pit. Our home is only about 400 metres from the edge of the pit. We understand the pit work may not start for about 8 years, but just knowing it is planned so close to us has an immediate impact. We are also around 700–900 metres from the Northern Rock Stack.

We purchased our house in 2016 with the purpose of retiring to Waihi.

Since then we have spent considerable funds renovating our home. We very recently installed solar panels, expecting to live here in comfort for some years. One of the main reasons we chose this property was because it did not have any mine close to or under it. To now face the prospect of a large open pit so near is extremely distressing.

We found the EPA's invitation letter very hard to understand. It was written in formal, legal language with many references to legislation. We struggled to follow it. We ask that future information for the public is written in plain language so that ordinary people like us can clearly understand what is being asked of them and how they can take part.

The Fast Track process also feels very unfair. The timeframe to respond is very short for such a large and complex project, and the paperwork is difficult to follow for people like us who have no knowledge of these processes. We are not experts, and it is very hard to make sense of the information in just a few days.

We also cannot afford to hire lawyers or technical experts to help us, which leaves us at a clear disadvantage compared with the company.

Despite this, we have done our best to set out our concerns.

While we are very concerned about the situation with dust, vibration, noise, and increased traffic, of greatest concern is the devaluation of our home.

We are both elderly and have invested all our funds into this property. If our home loses value, we cannot recover that money. In the future we may need to move into assisted living, and the value of our home is what we would rely on to do that. A loss in value will greatly affect our choices and quality of life.

We believe the mine should be offering top up payments and property buy outs to those affected. The application does not address these impacts.

Before any work is started, Oceana should now be planting trees as a buffer to minimise as much noise and dust as possible.

Before any final decision is made, Oceana should also be required to appoint independent technical experts to assist locals like us to review and comment on the draft conditions when they are released, especially the conditions dealing with noise, vibration and blasting, and dust.

Without this support, and sufficient time, affected residents will not be able to respond in a meaningful way.

We thank you for considering our comments.

Anne Hatton & Chris Batten



**Thank you for your comments**