

Applicant Responses to Relevant Comments from Owners and Occupiers

Comments from Mike and Carol Hayden

Comment Number	Comment	Applicant Technical Input	Where Addressed in the Application Documents	Response
1	The main water supply for stock and plantings comes from springs in the bush area. If these dry up due to landform changes, it would severely impact the farming operation. OceanaGold should develop a contingency plan, agreed upon by current and future generations, to address the situation if the springs dry up.	Hydrology, Hydrogeology	H.06 - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine Water Management Plan	Any potential effects on groundwater are confined to the Wharekirauponga Catchment, with effects anticipated to be low and refined to small sections of streams. Nonetheless, a management plan is proposed in relation to groundwater (application document H.06). Refer to the statement provided by Mr Christopher Simpson, appended as Appendix G .
2	The main water tank, fed by springs and located on a slope, may become unstable due to tremors, risking the water supply. OceanaGold should monitor and stabilise the tank if signs of slope movement appear and support the installation and protection of an additional tank planned for the hilltop to increase and secure water supply.	Vibration	B.53 - Blasting and vibration assessment	Based on the blasting and vibration assessment, the Applicant has proposed consent conditions that balance the requirements of protecting the amenity of the residents of Waihi and preventing damage to buildings or disturbance of the natural environment in other areas, whilst also allowing for a scale of drilling and blasting appropriate for mining. The company acknowledges concerns about potential property damage and has committed, through consent conditions, to assist affected owners and cover repair costs if damage is confirmed to result from its activities.
3	Construction-related tremors may disrupt the establishment of a natural pond/wetland near the proposed route, risking its success. OceanaGold should install a pond liner in the area before blasting begins under the property to prevent future leaking and protect the pond's development	Vibration	B.53 - Blasting and vibration assessment	Based on the blasting and vibration assessment, the Applicant has proposed consent conditions that balance the requirements of protecting the amenity of the residents of Waihi and preventing damage to buildings or disturbance of the natural environment in other areas, whilst also allowing for a scale of drilling and blasting appropriate for mining. While the Applicant acknowledges the request to install a pond liner beneath the property before blasting to prevent leaks and protect the pond, it is considered that this is unnecessary due to the low predicted vibration levels. The Applicant has also committed, through consent conditions, to assist affected owners and cover repair costs if damage is confirmed from its activities. This mechanism would be available to the Hayden's in the very unlikely event that pond damage occurs from vibration related to tunnel development.
4	Tunnelling activities could negatively impact the Walmsley Stream, particularly near its headwaters, which are the source of the town's water supply. OceanaGold should take all necessary measures to ensure that tunnelling does not affect the Walmsley Stream or its headwaters.	Hydrology, Hydrogeology	H.06 - Wharekirauponga Underground Mine Water Management Plan B.30 - Assessment of Groundwater Effects– Tunnel Elements	The Wharekirauponga Access Tunnel passes underneath the lower reaches of the Walmsley Stream near its confluence with the Ohinemuri River. Modelling undertaken by WWLA (as detailed in Application Document B.30) indicates that dewatering of the tunnel will only cause localised depressurisation of the aquifer immediately surrounding the tunnel, and the potential for effects on surface water bodies along the tunnel alignment is negligible.
5	The vibration and noise from tunnel construction may disturb the animals on the property. If such disturbances occur, OceanaGold staff should meet with the Hayden's to discuss and find ways to address and resolve the issue.	Animals	-	Refer to the statement provided by Mr Andrew McLean, appended as Appendix U . The Applicant has a free community engagement line that is available seven days a week, with staff ready to meet and discuss any concerns the Hayden's, or any other Waihi residents, may have at a time convenient for them. Members of the local community are encouraged to contact the Applicant should they perceive there to be issues arise that need to be addressed and resolved.
6	Tremors from tunnel activity may damage the historic foundations and brick chimney of the original miner's cottage on the property. This concern should be formally noted and addressed within the Amenity Effects Programme to ensure appropriate monitoring and protection.	Vibration	B.53 - Blasting and vibration assessment	Based on the blasting and vibration assessment, the Applicant has proposed consent conditions that balance the requirements of protecting the amenity of the residents of Waihi and preventing damage to buildings or disturbance of the natural environment in other areas, whilst also allowing for a scale of drilling and blasting appropriate for mining. The Applicant acknowledges concerns about potential property damage and has committed, through consent conditions, to assist affected owners and cover repair costs if damage is confirmed to result from its activities. The Amenity Effects Programme aims to offset a perceived loss of amenity and establishes an arrangement between OceanaGold, and residents identified as experiencing some effect on amenity due to vibration, despite the mining operations being conducted within consent compliance limits. It is not relevant to the potential for vibration to cause property damage.
7	OceanaGold should install a vibration monitor in the near proximity of the Hayden's property to monitor vibration levels.	Vibration	B.53 - Blasting and vibration assessment	A Vibration Management Plan will be developed for the project, as required by the proposed conditions of consent. This plan will set out procedures for designing, managing, monitoring, and reporting all blasts.

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8	Oceana Gold is requested to stockpile non-mineralized quartz for future community fund-raising events, allowing the public to fossick for interesting rocks for collections or landscaping.	Sponsorships and Donations	-	Non-gold-bearing rock extracted during mining and tunnelling is required to be retained to ensure the Applicant can meet its backfilling obligations. It will be stockpiled and progressively returned underground to fill mined voids. However, the Applicant is open to continuing to provide rock on an ad-hoc basis for purposes proposed by the Hayden's. For example, this year, at the request of tangata whenua, OceanaGold supplied rock from its existing underground operations as a landscaping feature for the new St John's Hub in Waihi.
9	It is suggested that part of the transport tunnel remain unfilled upon closure to provide future opportunities for tourism or rescue training.	Closure	-	Further consideration would need to be given to ensuring the long-term stability, safety, and management of the tunnels before any commitment could be made to leave them open as a tourist attraction. At this stage, the proposal is to securely seal the portals and backfill the entrances with rock, followed by recontouring the area and placing topsoil.
10	The substantive fast track application states that the Waihi North Project will deliver benefits to the community, and the natural environment. However, it lacks a detailed plan or timeline showing how and when these benefits will be realised. OceanaGold should develop a clear timetable outlining the steps and milestones for achieving these goals, and communicate it prior to April 2026.	Social	B.57 - Social Impact Assessment	The Social Impact Assessment for the project highlights the significant social benefits expected, primarily through sustained job creation and ongoing economic activity. It also recommends measures to optimise these benefits by prioritising local procurement and employment wherever possible. As part of this, there is a proposed consent condition for the project, requiring the Applicant to submit a community skills development and training programme that outlines specific activities, detailing how and when opportunities for local skills development and training will be provided during the first three years following the commencement of activities authorised under this consent.
11	Air quality and noise standards should be set and monitored near Gladstone pit and the portals.	Air Quality / Noise	B.56 – Assessment of Noise Effects; and B.21 - Waihi Facilities – Air Discharge Assessment	Operation noise will meet the limits in New Zealand Standard 6802:2008 Acoustics – Environmental Noise (“NZS6802:2008”) and be consistent with the recommendations for daytime noise published by the World Health Organisation. In addition to this, the Applicant is proposing to implement a comprehensive Operational Noise Management Plan for each project area (including GOP) to ensure all operational activities are undertaken in such a way so as to achieve compliance with the recommended noise limits at all adjoining sites. Further, the existing dust management practises (including monitoring) in addition to the measures proposed within the draft Air Quality Management Plan will ensure any air discharges effects will be adequately avoided in line with existing practises which are not significantly affecting ambient air quality and can be appropriately mitigated.
12	Heritage values on Union Hill should be thoroughly assessed before any work begins on Gladstone Pit. There is a small mine drive on the south side of Union Hill that appears to be in its original condition and may hold historical significance.	Heritage	B.49 - Assessment of Heritage and Archaeological Effects	Clough and Associates completed a comprehensive assessment of potential heritage and archaeological impacts from the project, including the Gladstone Open Pit development. While no impacts were identified on the historic Union Hill mining complex, they recommended that the Applicant support heritage preservation in Waihi by funding and promoting ongoing maintenance and remedial work on significant Union Hill sites within OceanaGold's property west of Gladstone Hill. This effort would follow the Union Hill (Waihi) Heritage Landscape Management Plan (Macready and Clough, Jan 2016), enhancing public access, community involvement, and ensuring future development respects the site's heritage significance.

Comments from Vaughan Jensen

Comment Number	Comment	Applicant Technical Input	Where Addressed in the Application Documents	Response
1	Very supportive. Considers the application to be a great asset to the community. Added dates will help the Council. Knowledge of the area by the Company will be helpful in Search & Rescue missions. No contamination of freshwater seen by drill sites.	-	-	-