

Otago Regional Council
180 High Street
Dunedin 9016

17 September 2026

Daya Thomson – Team Lead, Fast-track Applications
Uploaded via Fast Track Portal

Tēnā koe, Daya

Consultation regarding completeness of a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – Macraes Phase Four Project – FTAA-26088-1288

Otago Regional Council (ORC) has received correspondence dated 10 September 2026 from the EPA regarding a completeness and scope assessment prior to referral of a substantive application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited for the Macraes Phase Four (MP4) project to an Expert Panel under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

Completeness Assessment

To inform the EPA's completeness assessment of the application, the EPA asked whether the documentation available in the application portal regarding the RMA approvals as provided by the applicant meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and is provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

A review of the application has been undertaken within the five working days provided. ORC considers that the application documentation available in the EPA application portal meets the requirements of sections 42 and 43 of the Act and has been provided in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required, in accordance with section 44 of the Act.

ORC has not identified any relevant matters listed in clauses 5 to 9 of Schedule 5 (information required in resource consent application) or clause 10 of Schedule 5 (information required in application for change or cancellation of condition) that have not been addressed or have not been provided in sufficient detail. Therefore, with respect to the approvals that would otherwise be sought as resource consents from ORC, the application is considered to be complete.

Further Information

Although not relevant to its completeness assessment, in the course of its initial review ORC has identified that further information will be required in respect of the application to determine the

appropriateness of the conclusions reached by the applicant and its experts, and how the adverse effects of the proposal could be managed by consent conditions. For example, given the complexity of the existing environment upon which the proposed activities would occur, it is entirely expected and reasonable that the application would rely on previous iterations of technical reports to inform the assessments provided in this application. However, although these reports are referenced appropriately throughout the application, and the applicant and its experts have been explicit about where they are relying on these reports, they do not appear to have been provided as part of the application. Additionally, the assessments related to effects on water have been provided as cumulative assessments which take into account the future effects of existing authorised activities in combination with the anticipated effects of this MP4 proposal. While ORC agrees that this is an appropriate manner in which to present the potential effects, as the cumulative effects are those which would actually manifest in the environment, it notes that this does not enable those effects that would already occur in the absence of MP4 to be differentiated from those effects which would be attributable to this MP4 project.

ORC reiterates that it does not consider these to be issues that go to the completeness of this application; rather, in ORC's view, the requirement for further information is a reflection of the complexity of the proposal and the site rather than any fundamental deficiency in the application. ORC expects that the existing constructive engagement process with the applicant will continue, and that this will involve identification of any areas where further information may be required, and the ways in which any issues or differences of opinion may be narrowed or resolved in a timely manner. ORC will proactively share any further information requests, and any responses received, with the EPA in advance of the expected conference with the Panel Convener.

Section 30 Confirmation

The EPA also asked the following specific question in relation to section 30 of the Act:

- Confirm that the written notice under section 30(3)(b)/30(5), dated 27 August 2026, prepared by Otago Regional Council, remains accurate and final at the time of receiving this letter.

I confirm that the letter dated 27 August 2026 regarding Section 30(3)b remains accurate and final.

Yours sincerely,



Shay McDonald
Principal Consents Planner

Approved by



Alexandra King

Manager Consents/Manager Environmental Delivery Data and Systems