Fast-track

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

File ref: FTAA-2608-1288

1 October 2026

Director General of Conservation
Department of Conservation
C/- Fast-track team
By email: Fast-track@doc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Request for advice and reports under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (the applicant) has lodged a substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). The Macraes Phase Four (MP4) application (the Application) relates to, in stages, expanding the existing open pit and underground gold mining operations to enable output of approximately 130,000 ounces per annum.

The substantive application seeks an approval for a:

- wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h)
- complex freshwater fisheries activity approval under section 42(4)(j).

The EPA has provided the application documents to the panel convener under section 45A of the Act. Under section of 51(1)(b) of the Act, the panel convener has now directed the EPA to obtain from the Director-General of Conservation the following reports:

- In respect of the wildlife approval under section 42(4)(h) of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with clause 3 of Schedule 7 of the Act
- In respect of the complex freshwater fisheries activity approval under section 42(4)(j) of the Act, a report prepared by the Director-General of Conservation in accordance with clause 4 of Schedule 9 of the Act.

The panel convener has also directed the EPA to obtain advice from the Department of Conservation in respect of the following:

- 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 7, clause 3 of the Act should be approached, having regard to relevant senior court decisions.

- Pursuant to section 51(2)(c) of the Act, if the Director-General of Conservation does not agree with, or wishes to amplify, the expert and planning assessment lodged in support of the wildlife approval, it must file a report in accordance with Schedule 7, clause 3.

- For the avoidance of doubt, the Director-General of Conservation may confirm and append advice previously given in response to a panel convener's directions under s 51(1) on another project and does not need to provide an assessment of the approval pursuant to s 51(2)(c) if it concurs with the expert and planning assessments filed by the applicant.
- The Director-General of Conservation is to respond to the draft conditions, including any management plan attached to the application, recommending track-changed amendments (if any).

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

The panel convener has issued a Minute dated 1 October 2026 which outlines the panel convenor's directions in more detail. The Minute is attached as Appendix 1 to this letter.

The Department of Conservation must provide the reports and advice within 10 working days of comments being invited under section 53 of the Act in accordance with section 51(4)(a) of the Act.

The EPA has decided that the application is complete and in scope under section 46 of the Act and is currently assessing whether there are any competing applications or existing resource consents for the same activity under section 47A of the Act. You will be notified of the decision the EPA makes. Should the application be returned or withdrawn then you will be notified by the EPA and all work on preparing the report under section 51 must cease.

If you have any questions, please contact Emma Fahey, Application Lead, by email at info@fasttrack.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Emma Fahey
Application Lead, Fast-track Applications