

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT

TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY (WAIHI AREA)

Evidence of **Christopher James
Wedding** Regarding Technical
Assessment of Terrestrial Ecology
(Waihi Area) Effects and Proposed
Conditions

5 February 2025

INTRODUCTION

My name is Christopher James Wedding.

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to Terrestrial Ecology. I led field surveys, wrote and reviewed assessments, management plans and modelled biodiversity offsets described within the reports Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (Waihi Area), and Ecology and Landscape Management Plan – Waihi Area, which are provided within *Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments* of the application.

This evidence has been prepared to accompany the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**”) for approvals required for the WNP under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”). It has been prepared on the understanding that the process for determining applications under the FTAA does not require a hearing to be held, and accordingly the purpose of this evidence is to confirm that, relative to my area of expertise the Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (Waihi Area), and terrestrial ecology component of the Ecology and Landscape Management Plan – Waihi Area, provides an appropriate description of the relevant environment, the proposed activities comprising the effects of the WNP on that environment, and the way those effects are proposed to be managed.

My findings are set out in full in the Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (Waihi Area) included within *Part H – Supporting Technical Assessments* of the application.

While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing this evidence. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, this evidence is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

I am currently employed as Ecology Manager at Bioresearches, a specialist Ecology brand of Babbage Consultants Limited (“**Babbage**”) and have held that position since 2018.

My previous work experience includes the design and implementation of regional species survey or monitoring programmes for the Department of Conservation and Auckland Council, for native reptiles^{1,2} and long-tailed bats (*Chalinolobus tuberculatus*)^{3,4,5,6,7}.

I have led the ecological effects and management design (biodiversity offset, compensation and species management) for various large infrastructure projects, Plan Changes and Notices of Requirement, including:

- (a) Expansions of quarries at Brookby Quarry Stages 2 (2015) and 3 (2024), Drury Quarry (Northern expansion, 2018; Western Façade (2023); and proposed Sutton Pit (2024); Kings Quarry Stages 1 (2021) and proposed 2 (2025). All of these Projects required development of biodiversity offset and / or compensation modelling.
- (b) Papakura to Bombay State Highway 1 improvements (2019-2024), including Stages 1A, 1B, 1B1 and Notice of Requirement for Stage 2 route protection, on behalf of NZ Transport Agency (2024);
- (c) Waimanawa Hills and Waimanawa Valley Private Plan Change 93, on behalf of Stepping Towards Far Limited and KA-Waimanawa Limited Partnership (2024);
- (d) Martha Pit Plan Change 6, on behalf of OGNZL (2024)

In providing this evidence in relation to terrestrial ecology (Waihi Area), I have considered the following matters as relevant to that topic:

- (a) The project description provided by OGNZL as set out in Section 2 of the Substantive Application prepared by Mitchell Daysh Limited;

¹ Wedding, C., van Winkel, D. 2011. Standardised gecko monitoring programme for Tawharanui, Shakespear and Whakanewha Regional Parks. For Auckland Regional Council. 38pp.

² Wedding, C. 2008. Baseline reptile survey for Rangitoto and Motutapu Islands. For Department of Conservation. 21pp.

³ Bioresearches 2012. Assessment of potential long-tailed bat habitat in the Auckland Region. Prepared for Auckland Council. 25 pp.

⁴ Bioresearches 2013. Long-tailed bat populations in the Auckland Region 2013. Prepared for Auckland Council. 38 pp.

⁵ Bioresearches 2014. Long-tailed bat surveys in the Auckland Region 2014. Prepared for Auckland Council. 33 pp.

⁶ Bioresearches 2016. Long-tailed bat surveys in the Hunua Ranges 2016. Prepared for Auckland Council. 22 pp.

⁷ Bioresearches 2016 Long-tailed bat surveys in the Auckland Region: South-West Franklin and Awhitu 2016. Prepared for Auckland Council. 18 pp.

- (b) The description of the existing environment, the effects of the WNP on that environment and their significance, and the proposals to manage those effects all as set out in the assessment of environmental effects accompanying the application;
- (c) The technical assessments of Ben Lawrence (Forest Noise and Bird Count results, 2024); Heilig & Partners Pty. Ltd. (Blasting and Vibration Assessment, 2024); Marshall Day Acoustics, 2024]; and Dylan van Winkel (Native Frog Effects Assessment, 2025).

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

I confirm that in my opinion the Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (Waihi Area), and terrestrial ecology aspects of the Ecology and Landscape Management Plan – Waihi Area, contain an accurate and appropriate description of the environment, the actual and potential effects of the WNP, and the recommended actions to manage those effects within my area of expertise.

I confirm that in my opinion the contents of the Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment (Waihi Area), and terrestrial ecology aspects of the Ecology and Landscape Management Plan – Waihi Area may be relied on in making a decision on the approvals sought for the WNP, and confirm that provided effects within my area of expertise are managed as proposed in the application those effects will not be unacceptable and will be managed to a standard that I consider meets good practice.

I confirm that I have reviewed the conditions that OGNZL proposes for the various approvals being sought as they relate to my area of expertise. I confirm that in my opinion those proposed conditions are appropriate.

Christopher James Wedding

Dated this 5th day of February, 2025