

16. CONCLUSION

OGNZL is applying for all necessary approvals under the FTAA for MP4 comprising an extension of some of the existing open pits and underground gold mining operations at the Macraes Operation. MP4 will enable the recovery of more than 1 million ounces of gold and will extend the productive life of New Zealand's largest gold mine until at least 2039. Through a series of brownfield open pit cutbacks and an underground mine extension, MP4 will provide multiple and secure sources of production, additional revenues, and will enable the mine to be more productive and more resilient while maintaining employment and maximising of the recovery of the Crown's resource.

16.1 MEETING THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The purpose of the FTAA is:

to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

The information provided throughout this substantive application demonstrates that MP4 will deliver significant regional and national benefits while supporting the continued operation and expansion of an existing gold mining operation. MP4 will:

- > Bring approximately \$1.3 billion of additional capital investment over the life of the Project (approximately \$1.6 billion including inflation);
- > Generate between \$4.5 billion and \$7.3 billion in gold exports over the life of the Project, representing an average of approximately \$320 million to \$520 million in exports per annum;
- > Directly employ approximately 760 people and support approximately 2,600 jobs across New Zealand when supplier, contractor and induced employment effects are taken into account;
- > Be associated with approximately \$3.1 billion of expenditure in New Zealand through wages, suppliers and capital investment; and
- > Return between \$0.5 billion and \$1.4 billion to the Crown through royalties, company income tax and PAYE.

Collectively, the economic, employment and export benefits associated with MP4 demonstrate that MP4 is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA, and benefits will extend further than the Otago Region as a whole.



The Project also supports the continued development of a mineral resource recognised on New Zealand's Critical Minerals List and maximises recovery of a nationally significant mineral resource while utilising an established mining operation and existing infrastructure.

16.2 MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

The actual and potential effects of MP4 have been comprehensively evaluated through this substantive application and the supporting specialist technical assessments contained in **Part B**. These effects are summarised in **Part A.09** of this report, with the proposed mitigation, management and monitoring measures detailed in **Part A.10**.

MP4 has been refined through detailed technical investigations and design development to avoid and minimise adverse effects where practicable. This includes modifications to project design, comprehensive water management and treatment measures, ecological mitigation and compensation programmes, management plans for construction and operation activities, progressive rehabilitation, and long-term closure planning.

The technical assessments conclude that many aspects of MP4 will result in positive effects, including substantial economic and employment benefits, the continuation of social and community benefits associated with the Macraes Operation, and significant ecological enhancement initiatives. MP4 includes a comprehensive biodiversity compensation package incorporating large-scale habitat restoration, predator control, wetland restoration and ecological enhancement measures that are anticipated to provide net positive biodiversity outcomes at a landscape scale. These measures include the MEEA, ecological linkages, wetland restoration initiatives, indigenous vegetation restoration, and long-term ecological stewardship commitments extending well beyond the MP4 footprint.

A significant focus of the assessment has been on water management. Extensive groundwater, hydrogeological, geochemical and surface water investigations have been undertaken to support a site-wide water management framework. The Project proposes more stringent future water quality objectives than those currently applying at the Macraes Operation, supported by source control measures, seepage capture systems, active and passive treatment options, flow augmentation, comprehensive monitoring programmes and adaptive management. A key feature of MP4 is the proposed transition to a new and improved water quality compliance regime, including water quality criteria that generally align with ANZG guideline values for 95% species protection. This represents a significant improvement in the current consented framework and is intended to deliver improved freshwater outcomes over the long term. It is concluded that, with the proposed mitigation framework and consent conditions, adverse effects on water can be appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated.



While some residual effects remain, particularly in relation to indigenous vegetation, lizard habitat, wetlands and aspects of landscape and visual change, those effects have been carefully assessed and are proposed to be addressed through the application of the effects management hierarchy, monitoring requirements, management plans, and significant compensation and restoration measures. The ecological and freshwater assessments conclude that the proposed compensation package is sufficient to address residual adverse effects and is expected to achieve positive long-term ecological outcomes.

The Project has also benefited from lessons learned through the earlier MP4 (RMA) process, with environmental issues identified through that process helping to inform project design refinements, technical investigations and the development of management and mitigation measures.

Overall, the environmental effects of MP4 are well understood and have been the subject of extensive technical scrutiny. The proposed management, mitigation, rehabilitation and monitoring measures, together with the conditions sought through this application, provide a robust framework to appropriately manage the actual and potential adverse effects of the Project throughout the construction, operation, closure and post-closure phases.

16.3 ALIGNMENT WITH THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

As outlined throughout this application, MP4 is a listed project under the FTAA and is demonstrably consistent with the purpose of the FTAA, being to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. MP4 will extend the life of an existing mining operation, support substantial employment and economic activity, generate significant export earnings, and provide ongoing benefits to local communities, the Otago region and New Zealand. These benefits are of a scale that MP4 clearly satisfies the purpose of the FTAA.

As described above, extensive technical investigations have informed the project design and have resulted in a comprehensive framework of environmental management measures, including water treatment and monitoring systems, ecological restoration and compensation programmes, rehabilitation and closure planning, erosion and sediment controls, hazardous substance management measures, and adaptive management regimes. These measures are proposed to be secured through detailed consent conditions and management plans.

The statutory assessment recognises that there are some provisions within the planning framework with which MP4 cannot fully align, particularly where the Project will result in unavoidable residual effects on indigenous biodiversity, wetlands, freshwater systems and landscape values. These areas of potential conflict have been openly identified and



assessed through the application of the effects management hierarchy and the detailed technical investigations supporting the application.

16.4 CONSULTATION

OGNZL has undertaken extensive consultation and engagement with local authorities, administering agencies, mana whenua, technical specialists, community representatives, neighbouring landowners and other stakeholders throughout the development of MP4. Feedback received through the consultation process has been carefully considered and, where appropriate, incorporated into the Project and supporting assessments. OGNZL looks forward to continuing engagement through the post-lodgement phase and throughout the implementation of MP4.

16.5 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

OGNZL is pleased to present the MP4 Project for consideration under the FTAA. The Project will support the continued operation of the Macraes Mine while delivering substantial investment, export, employment and economic benefits for Otago and New Zealand. The application demonstrates that MP4 is a listed project that is consistent with the purpose of the FTAA, does not involve any ineligible activities, and is supported by a comprehensive suite of technical assessments, management plans and proposed conditions that appropriately address the matters relevant to the approvals sought.

MP4 represents a nationally significant brownfields development that balances substantial economic, employment and export benefits with a comprehensive programme of environmental management, restoration and long-term stewardship. OGNZL considers that MP4 not only manages adverse effects appropriately, but also delivers enduring positive outcomes for freshwater environments, biodiversity, local communities and the wider Otago region

OGNZL looks forward to participating in the post-lodgement phase of the FTAA process and securing the authorisations required to undertake MP4 in accordance with a comprehensive suite of workable and appropriate consent conditions.

