

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

MACRAES PHASE FOUR (MP4)

Ecology

Evidence of Mike Thorsen Regarding
Technical Assessment of Ecological
Effects and Proposed Conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Mike Thorsen
2. My role in relation to Macraes Phase 4 (“**MP4**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to the Vegetation and Wetland Values Assessment (“**the Report**”) which is provided within *Part B – Technical Reports* of the application.
3. This evidence has been prepared to accompany the Report and the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**”) for approvals required for MP4 under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”).
4. Section 4.1(h) of the FTAA Panel Conveners’ Practice and Procedure note (July 2025) says all technical experts authoring reports should include a statement regarding compliance with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. This evidence has been prepared to fulfil this requirement, and if a hearing is not held, this evidence confirms that, relative to my area of expertise the Report provides an appropriate description of the relevant environment, the proposed activities comprising the effects of the MP4 on that environment, and the way those effects are proposed to be managed.
5. My findings are set out in full in the Vegetation and Wetland Values Assessment included within *Part B – Technical Reports* of the application.
6. 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 the Report. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, the Report 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

7. I have a PhD in Ecology from The University of Otago.
8. I am currently a Director and Principal Ecologist with Whirika Consulting Ltd, (previously Ahikā Consulting Ltd) and I have held that position since 2019.
9. My previous work experience includes working professionally in the biodiversity management field since 1990 for a number of organisations including the Department of Conservation (17 years), Mauritian Wildlife Foundation, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, St Helena National Trust, Landcare Research, Birdlife International, and as a freelance ecologist on a wide variety of flora and fauna restoration and

protection projects throughout New Zealand, in Hawaii, Mauritius, Seychelles, Marquesas, St Helena and Kiribati.

10. I have been providing support on biodiversity issues to OceanaGold at Macraes Mine since 2013. I am familiar with the area of the Macraes Mine and the general surrounds, having worked on vegetation and reptile studies in nearby areas for the Department of Conservation since 2005. My work with OceanaGold includes assisting the company to identify biodiversity values in its areas of operation; to advise on options to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset and compensate for adverse effects on biodiversity arising from its mining operations; to assist with the implementation and monitoring the effectiveness of the company's biodiversity management activities; and to assist the company and other stakeholders to develop enduring and socially acceptable biodiversity enhancements in the wider Macraes Ecological District.
11. I am familiar with many of the Macraes Ecological District's terrestrial ecological values, especially near Macraes Flat, having undertaken various detailed surveys in parts of the district since 2004. While I am generally familiar with the whole Macraes Ecological District there are large parts of it that I have not surveyed in detail
12. In providing this evidence, I have considered the following matters as relevant to that topic:
 - (a) The project description provided by OGNZL as set out in Section 6 of the Substantive Application prepared by Mitchell Daysh Limited;
 - (b) The description of the existing environment as set out in Section 4 of the Substantive Application, the effects of MP4 on that environment and their significance, and the proposals to manage those effects as all set out in the assessment of effects in Section 9 of the Substantive Application; and;
 - (c) The technical assessments of:
 - a. Invertebrate Values Assessment, Mr. Dylan van Winkel
 - b. Lizard Values Assessment, Mr. Dylan van Winkel
 - c. Avifauna Values Assessment, Dr. Michael Anderson
 - d. Bat Values Assessment, Ms. Alisha Hart
 - e. Vegetation and Flora Management Plan, Ms. Bella Burgess
 - f. Terrestrial Residual Effects Restoration Plan, Ms. Charlotte Garrett

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

13. I confirm that in my opinion the Report contains an accurate and appropriate description of the environment within my area of expertise.
14. I confirm that in my opinion the contents of the Report may be relied on in making a decision on the approvals sought for MP4.



Mike Thorsen

Dated this 3rd day of September 2026