

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

WAIHI NORTH PROJECT

Wetland Ecological Effects

Evidence of Kate Feickert Regarding
Technical Assessment of Wetland
Ecological Effects and Proposed
Conditions

24 January 2025

INTRODUCTION

My name is Kate Feickert.

My role in relation to the Waihi North Project (“**WNP**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to wetland ecological effects. I wrote the Proposed Wharekairauponga Underground Mine Wetland Ecological Effects Assessment which is 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 Wetland Ecological Effects Assessment 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 Wetland Ecological Effects Assessment 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 hold a Bachelor of Science majoring in Environmental Science, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Science (Distinction). I am a member of the Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand and am an active with the Auckland Botanical Society, of which Biosearches is a member. I am also a member of the New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, and the National Wetland Trust of New Zealand. I have seven years of experience in ecological assessments, monitoring, and surveys for terrestrial, wetland and freshwater environments.

I am currently employed as a Senior Ecologist at Biosearches (Babbage Consultants Limited) and have held that position since 2023.

My previous work experience includes seven of working as an ecologist, within both consultancies and local government, across a broad range of terrestrial and freshwater ecology projects, with a particular focus on wetland ecology. My experience has also encompassed assessment of effects, botanical surveys, wetland assessments, and surveys of fauna, primarily lizards. I have also undertaken scientific review projects, long term monitoring and research projects.

In providing this evidence in relation to wetland ecology, 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;
- (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 Williamson Water and Land Limited, particularly the Wetland Hydrological Assessment, which was relied upon to determine the magnitude of effect of any potential dewatering upon the wetlands.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

I confirm that in my opinion the Wetland Ecological Effects Assessment contains 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 Wetland Ecological Effects Assessment 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.

Kate Feickert

Dated this 24 day of January, 2025