

# Hon Shane Jones

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Minister for Oceans and Fisheries  
Minister for Regional Development  
Minister for Resources  
Associate Minister of Finance  
Associate Minister for Energy



21 August 2025

Hon Chris Bishop  
Minister for Infrastructure  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Chris

## **Waihi North Fast-track Application (FTAA-2504-1046)**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (Oceana Gold) for their Waihi North project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

This letter provides comments in my capacity as Minister for Resources.

The Government is committed to doubling New Zealand's minerals exports by 2035 to \$3 billion per annum, as part of *A Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040*. I also note that gold is on New Zealand's *Critical Minerals List*, because large operations like Waihi are vital to our mining sector, produce valuable co-products like silver, and their presence enables exploration and potential development of other critical minerals.

Oceana Gold assert in their application that the Waihi North project will generate an additional \$5.2 billion of gold and silver exports over 18 years and generate \$131m of royalties, \$726m of corporate taxes and \$172m of PAYE taxes paid by direct employment. This would make the project a significant contributor to the national economy and to the goal of \$3 billion in mineral exports by 2035 and build on New Zealand's gold exports of \$680 million in 2023.

The project will contribute to regional development beyond 2030 and will have nationwide impacts over the life of the project. The project would expand and extend the life of the mine from 2030 to 2040, enabling 859 highly paid and stable jobs, including direct and indirect roles, and a regional spend of \$1,086 million in the Hauraki District.

Oceana Gold have a history of responsible mining practices, demonstrating high environmental, social, and governance performance, and whose continued presence is a benefit to New Zealand. This view is based upon Oceana Gold's commitment to net zero emissions by 2050, contributions to local communities, such as Oceana Gold Waihi's funding to local schools, and rehabilitation of mine sites, among the other activities in the application.

In summary, I consider approval of the Waihi North project aligns with Government priorities for natural resources, and, if granted, the project will be of great regional and national benefit.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'S. Jones'.

Hon Shane Jones  
**Minister for Resources**