

8 CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

8.1 OVERVIEW

In accordance with section 29,³⁰ section 43(2), Schedule 5 (clause 6(1)(e)), Schedule 7 (clause 2(1)(n)) and Schedule 8 (clause 2(1)(i)) of the FTAA, this section provides details of the consultation and engagement undertaken by OGNZL with relevant local authorities, administering agencies, iwi and other stakeholders.

Section 4.6 of **Part A.04** of this report broadly outlines OGNZL's approach to consultation and engagement for the MP4 FTAA application. As further discussed in Section 9.2 of **Part A.09** of this report, the issues raised in the MP4 (RMA) s42A reports and 2025 CIA provide a common point of reference on which OGNZL's consultation on MP4 was further developed. OGNZL formally initiated consultation with key stakeholders and the community on various elements of the Project in December 2025, which has enabled at least eight months of consultation with key stakeholders and the wider community specifically and formally focused on MP4 matters.

In addition, the past eight months of consultation follow and build on previous consultation processes relating to the concept of MP4 dating back to 2022 in connection with other applications for activities in the Macraes area, including earlier iterations of MP4 (RMA). Relevant engagements include:

- > Meetings and site visits conducted with DOC over the period of March 2023 to March 2024. Information shared and received related to the proposed MEEA, pit extensions, monitoring, and a Wildlife Act authority application.
- > Meetings and site visits conducted with Kā Rūnaka over the period of June 2022 to February 2025 with respect to the earlier MP4 (RMA) iteration of the Project. From February 2025 this engagement was undertaken against the background of a Process Agreement entered into between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka dated 30 January 2025. These consultations resulted in the preparation of the 2025 CIA by Aukaha dated 1 May 2025 in connection with MP4 (RMA) and the development of a framework for ongoing engagement with Kā Rūnaka on consenting projects. The findings and recommendations of the 2025 CIA have continued to inform engagement and project development for MP4 under the FTAA.

At the same time, OGNZL is clear in its understanding that the 2025 CIA does not represent mana whenua's views on the Project. Following receipt of final technical

³⁰ As per the transitional provisions in Schedule 1, it is the old section 29 that applies to this application.



documents in late August 2026, mana whenua are in the process of reviewing the CIA to reflect the new iteration of the MP4 project and the change of consenting pathway from the RMA to the FTAA.

This will be extended to incorporate a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment reflecting the legislative provisions of the FTAA. Per the letter attached in **Part G.01** of this substantive application, mana whenua have indicated that they expect to be able to provide a final version of the Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment to the EPA prior to the Panel Convener Conference.

- > Meetings and site visits conducted with the local authorities (WDC, ORC, and DCC) over the period of March 2023 to November 2024. Over this time multiple pre-application meetings were held and OGNZL provided the Council staff and their technical experts with draft copies of reports.
- > Meetings held with Fish and Game New Zealand in June and September 2023 to discuss proposed activities and information sharing arrangements.
- > Ongoing and active engagement with adjoining landowners, lessees, and the local community (including Macraes Community Incorporated). Around the time of specific projects OGNZL has also hosted public drop-in sessions, for example one held for the Macraes Community in March 2024, led by its key expert consultants. Following the decision to withdraw the MP4 (RMA) application and prepare an application for MP4 under the FTAA, the MP4 Project Team also led a similar session for community members in March 2026.
- > In April 2026, OGNZL opened the Palmerston Information Centre, with business hours of 9am – 3pm, Monday to Friday, to provide transparent information to the public about MP4, as well as general information regarding the Macraes Operation.

For the Project, OGNZL’s intention was to initiate consultation early, while technical assessments were still being scoped and prepared, to allow adequate time for stakeholder concerns to be addressed, where possible, in the application. OGNZL has also focused on building on the feedback received from other application processes at the Macraes Operation.

Engagement has progressed in a structured and iterative manner, beginning with formal notification to key authorities and stakeholders in December 2025, followed by progressive engagement through meetings, correspondence, and site visits. As previously noted, the adopted approach focused on early disclosure of Project information, enabling technical understanding to develop over time, and allowing feedback to inform the refinement of Project design and supporting assessments.



Engagement has been both formal and informal, including written correspondence, hosted site visits, kānohi ki te kānohi (face-to-face) meetings, sharing of draft technical reports, management plans, conditions and provision for feedback. A consistent emphasis has been placed on maintaining transparency, facilitating direct interaction between technical experts, and providing opportunities for stakeholders to review and comment on draft material prior to lodgement.

An element of the engagement process has been the development, and use, of an informational video prepared by visualisation experts Truescape. OGNZL engaged Truescape to prepare a video that succinctly illustrates and explains MP4. The result is available for viewing on the MP4 Website: <https://macraesphasefour.co.nz/>. This Project video and Project Details page has been a crucial tool for concisely communicating what is a large and complex proposal. The video has also been shared with stakeholders during Project tours and site visits, information sessions and at the Palmerston Information Centre.

For completeness, it follows from the above that as at the second commencement date³¹ of the FTAA, OGNZL had already commenced consultation in accordance with the (former) section 29 pre-lodgement requirements. Accordingly, OGNZL was not required to provide further written notification to any person or group referred to in section 29(1)(aa), pursuant to Schedule 1, clause 11(1) and (2) of the FTAA.

In OGNZL's view, there are no additional parties captured by section 29(1)(aa) with whom consultation had not already been undertaken or commenced prior to the second commencement date (Schedule 1, clause 11(3)), and for the purpose of Schedule 1, clause 11(4) all pre-commencement consultation obligations have finished³² and have been met.

8.2 LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ADMINISTERING AGENCIES

8.2.1 Overview

The (former, and for present purposes applicable) section 29 of the FTAA required applicants for substantive applications to consult with the relevant local authorities and administering agencies prior to lodging an application with the Environmental Protection Authority ("**EPA**"). In the case of MP4, the applicable local authorities and administering agencies are:

- > Waitaki District Council ("**WDC**");
- > Dunedin City Council ("**DCC**");

³¹ 31 March 2026 as per section 2(2) of the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025

³² For the purposes of Schedule 1, clause 11(4), **pre-commencement consultation** means consultation that was completed or started under old section 29 before the second commencement date (clause 11(6)).



- > Otago Regional Council (“**ORC**”);
- > Department of Conservation (“**DOC**”); and
- > Ministry for Culture & Heritage and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (“**HNZPT**”).

Engagement with local authorities and administering agencies commenced in December 2025 with formal written notification advising of the MP4 Project being progressed and advising of the intention to lodge an application under the FTAA in July 2026. This initial step established a clear and transparent basis for subsequent engagement and enabled agencies to prepare for involvement in the pre-lodgement phase.

Following notification, engagement progressed in a coordinated and structured manner from January 2026 onwards. This included the provision of the draft Project Description and consultant team details, establishment of communication channels with planning and regulatory staff, and scheduling of initial meetings.

A key milestone was the joint Project introduction meeting held on 3 February 2026 with senior representatives from DCC, ORC, and WDC, held in OGNZL’s Dunedin office. This provided a formal overview of the Project, introduced the Project team, and enabled early multi-agency discussion.

Subsequent engagement has comprised:

- > Regular correspondence and fortnightly meetings with Council officers regarding process, technical inputs, and logistics;
- > Targeted discussions on specific matters (including roading, heritage, water, and ecology);
- > Coordination and delivery of site visits for the Waihemo Ward Councillor, elected leadership, Chief Executives, and technical experts of DCC, ORC, and WDC in March 2026;
- > A multi-agency and stakeholder (Councils, Kā Rūnaka, DOC, Heritage NZ) technical expert site visit in April and May 2026, including discipline-specific engagement across water, ecology, landscape, and heritage; and
- > A dedicated site visit by Kā Rūnaka in June 2026, including discussions on matters related to biodiversity (visit to the proposed MEEA area), water (visit to the site of the proposed realigning of the North Branch of the Waikouaiti River) and a general discussion on proposed mining activities through MP4 (including a visit to the Innes Mills lookout).



Engagement has been iterative, with increasing levels of technical detail over time. Councils have been provided with opportunities to review draft technical material, with numerous tranches of draft technical reports and draft management plans issued throughout May – August 2026 for feedback. This approach has supported early identification of key issues and enabled ongoing refinement of Project design and assessments prior to lodgement.

Overall, local authorities and administering agencies have been involved in the MP4 fast-track approvals process at various points pre-lodgement of the substantive application and will continue to be consulted in the process as the application advances. OGNZL will continue to operate an “open door” engagement approach. Formal opportunities to engage with the process will include:

- > The EPA’s completeness assessment (section 46 (1) of the FTAA) and subsequent functions in the processing of the substantive application (section 90 of the FTAA);
- > Reports for the Panel as specified in the FTAA (section 51) or that the Panel considers necessary (section 67 of the FTAA);
- > Comments on the substantive application (section 53 (2) of the FTAA); and
- > Comments on conditions (section 70 of the FTAA).

8.2.2 Otago Regional Council

Engagement with ORC has been a key component of the consultation programme, reflecting its role in relation to regional environmental management and technical assessment. Following initial notification and provision of Project material in January 2026, ORC confirmed its availability for early engagement and hosted the joint introductory meeting in February 2026.

ORC engagement has included:

- > Ongoing coordination with planning and technical staff;
- > Involvement in discussions regarding fast-track application processes and requirements;
- > Participation in both leadership and technical expert site visits between February and May 2026;
- > Facilitation of technical engagement across key disciplines, including water, ecology, and environmental management;
- > Targeted follow-up engagement arising from the April 2026 technical site visit; and



- > Fortnightly meetings with ORC from May 2026 until lodgement to provide a platform for discussions with OGNZL on relevant technical matters.

Further, ORC staff have engaged on specific technical matters, including ecology-related inputs and requests for further information and presentations (e.g. external presentation opportunities arising from Project engagement). A dedicated planning overview meeting was also held in May 2026, enabling more detailed discussion of planning frameworks and expectations.

ORC has been actively involved in the review of draft technical material, with draft reports and management plans provided throughout May – August 2026 and follow-up engagement is ongoing. Feedback to date has informed refinement of the technical assessments, particularly in relation to water management approaches and ecological outcomes. On 20 July 2026, OGNZL provided draft proposed Schedule 1 and 2 conditions to ORC for consideration.

Water specific expert to expert sessions involving OGNZL and ORC consultants were held in Queenstown in May 2026 and in Christchurch in June 2026.

OGNZL provided formal written notice to ORC on 18 August 2026 of OGNZL's intention to apply for all approvals necessary to authorise MP4 under the FTAA (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.03** of this substantive application). This letter included a request for written notice from ORC that there are no existing consents to which 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the RMA would apply if MP4 were to be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA (as per section 30(3) of the FTAA).

Written notice was provided by ORC on 27 August 2026, confirming that there are no existing consents to which 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the RMA would apply (provided in **Part G.03** of this substantive application). Further written notice of the completion of OGNZL's pre-commencement consultation was provided to ORC on 7 September 2026 (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.02** of this substantive application).

8.2.3 Waitaki District Council

OGNZL recognises the importance of working with the local community to create opportunities, build resilience and leave a positive, long-lasting legacy well beyond the mining lifecycle. To achieve this, it was paramount that the WDC (as the consent authority, a relevant landowner and a roading authority) was involved with the next phase of Macraes from the outset. OGNZL has a long-standing and established working relationship with WDC representatives and has endeavoured to keep these communication channels open throughout the pre-lodgement consultation period. WDC acknowledges through its planning



documents the significant role the Macraes Operation plays in the economic and social wellbeing of the district while also recognising the need for appropriate management of any potential adverse impacts associated with the Project.

MP4 interacts with several formed and unformed WDC roads, some of which lie on district boundaries and are therefore also under the authority of the DCC. OGNZL has discussed how to best address these interactions with WDC and DCC. As a result of those discussions, OGNZL has proposed to carry forward agreed road stopping and vesting obligations at the Coronation Mining Area. Outside of the Coronation Mining Area, OGNZL will continue to work with WDC to determine future alignments for any road required to be stopped in conjunction with MP4. In particular, OGNZL has engaged with WDC's roading team to discuss the Macraes Road Stage 1 and 2 road realignments. Feedback received on this matter is further discussed in Section 8.6.9.

Engagement with WDC has included both strategic and technical discussions, with a particular focus on infrastructure and access-related matters. Initial contact in January 2026 included provision of Project information and engagement planning. WDC officers participated in the joint introductory meeting held in February 2026 and subsequent multi-agency engagement processes. A key area of engagement has been the interface between the MP4 Project and council-controlled infrastructure teams and has included:

- > Early and ongoing discussions regarding roading options and constraints;
- > Targeted engagement with WDC staff on the concept of accommodating public access infrastructure, including easement arrangements associated with dam infrastructure;
- > A site-based meeting with WDC asset management staff in May 2026 to review proposed approaches to Macraes Road and associated infrastructure;
- > Opportunities for fortnightly meetings with WDC from May 2026 until lodgement to provide a platform for discussions with OGNZL on relevant technical matters; and
- > Meeting at WDC office in Oamaru in July 2026 and subsequent online discussions in August 2026 regarding water quality modelling outcomes and the future of the Stoneburn Water Scheme.

Ongoing discussions between WDC and OGNZL have progressed from high-level concepts to more detailed technical consideration, including the need for engineer-to-engineer engagement on specific design elements. WDC has also participated in key Project familiarisation activities, including the March 2026 leadership site visit and the April 2026 technical expert site visit, and has been involved in ongoing discussions regarding process, coordination, and technical review.



Additionally, WDC has been actively involved in the review of draft technical material, with draft reports and management plans provided throughout May – August 2026 and follow-up engagement ongoing. Feedback to date on matters such as transport, archaeology and heritage, geotechnical, landscape and visual effects, and contaminated land, has informed refinement of the technical assessments and the final scope of the Project. This feedback, and how it has informed the assessments and final scope of the Project, is summarised in Section 8.6. On 20 July 2026, OGNZL provided draft proposed Schedule 1 and 2 conditions to WDC for consideration.

OGNZL provided written notice to WDC on 7 September 2026 of its intention to apply for all approvals necessary to authorise MP4 under the FTAA (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.02** of this substantive application).

8.2.4 Dunedin City Council

Engagement with DCC has focused on establishing regulatory pathways, coordination of participation in engagement activities, and involvement in technical review processes.

Following the December 2025 notification, DCC was provided with Project information and invited to participate in initial discussions. DCC officers attended the February 2026 Project introduction meeting and have been involved in ongoing multi-agency engagement.

Subsequent engagement has included:

- > Correspondence regarding cost recovery processes and administrative requirements;
- > Coordination of participation by planning staff and legal representatives in meetings and site visits;
- > Involvement in the March 2026 leadership site visit;
- > Participation in the April 2026 technical expert site visit; and
- > Fortnightly meetings with DCC from May 2026 until lodgement to provide a platform for discussions with OGNZL on relevant technical matters.

Engagement has enabled DCC to develop familiarity with the Project and to identify areas of interest for further technical review, including environmental and planning considerations. DCC has been included in the circulation of draft technical reports and management plans issued throughout May – August 2026 and is participating in the ongoing feedback process. Feedback to date on matters such as transport and roading, archaeology and heritage, landscape and visual effects, lighting, and cultural values, has informed refinement of the technical assessments and the final scope of the Project. This feedback, and how it has informed the assessments and final scope of the Project, is summarised in Section 8.6



below. On 20 July 2026, OGNZL provided draft proposed Schedule 1 and 2 conditions to DCC for consideration.

OGNZL provided written notice to DCC on 7 September 2026 of its intention to apply for all approvals necessary to authorise MP4 under the FTAA (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.02** of this substantive application).

8.2.5 Department of Conservation

Engagement with DOC commenced with formal notification in December 2025, and has since included:

- > Submission of pre-consultation material in February 2026, including the Project Description and fast-track documentation;
- > A Project introduction meeting in March 2026 with the DOC Fast Track team;
- > Subsequent fortnightly Project catch-up meetings with DOC representatives, DOC FTAA coordinator, DOC technical experts, and OGNZL's technical experts to further align on key issues / matters; and
- > Participation in the April 2026 multi-agency technical expert site visit.

These steps have facilitated direct engagement with Project specialists and enabled DOC to provide early input into matters such as ecological mitigation and environmental management approaches, including delivery of the long-term biodiversity outcomes and restoration benefits. OGNZL recognises that DOC has a wide-ranging set of interests in multiple aspects of the application, including the resource consents, wildlife authorities, the management of existing and proposed areas of protected habitat and management of conservation land, including the Golden Point Heritage Reserve and Murphys Flat Historic Reserve.

DOC indicated a particular interest in early involvement in the development of mitigation measures, and this has been incorporated into the ongoing engagement programme. DOC has been actively involved in technical discussions, particularly in relation to ecological management, mitigation, rehabilitation, and closure approaches. Feedback following the April 2026 site visit has informed further engagement, including early involvement of DOC technical specialists in ecological mitigation planning.

Additional engagement has included coordination of site visits for DOC representatives who were unable to attend the April session, and continued correspondence regarding technical inputs and review processes. Feedback to date on technical reports and management plans has been acknowledged and outcomes from this feedback are discussed further in Section



8.6. On 20 July 2026, OGNZL provided draft proposed Schedule 1 and 2 conditions to DOC for consideration.

OGNZL provided written notice to DOC on 7 September 2026 of its intention to apply for all approvals necessary to authorise MP4 under the FTAA (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.02** of this substantive application).

8.2.6 Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

Engagement with HNZPT has been undertaken through both correspondence and a formal pre-application consultation meeting.

Following initial notification, engagement has included:

- > Response to initial notification and confirmation of pre-consultation processes;
- > Early coordination of site visits and technical engagement;
- > A formal pre-application consultation meeting in March 2026; and
- > Provision of draft reports, guidance material, and standard documentation relevant to archaeological assessment.

HNZPT has undertaken formal documentation of engagement as part of its fast-track process and has provided ongoing guidance to inform heritage-related assessments. They have provided guidance material, including standard conditions and information requirements for archaeological assessments.

Further engagement has been undertaken to coordinate site visits and further review of Project information relating to heritage values. HNZPT's primary focus has been on ensuring that archaeological and heritage values are properly identified, investigated, recorded, managed and protected through robust authority processes and management plans. On 20 July 2026, OGNZL provided draft proposed Schedule 1 and 2 conditions to HNZPT for consideration.

OGNZL provided written notice to HNZPT on 7 September 2026 of its intention to apply for all approvals necessary to authorise MP4 under the FTAA (a copy of which is provided in **Part G.02** of this substantive application).

8.2.7 Other Government Agencies

Other government agencies, Ministry for Business, Innovation, and Employment ("**MBIE**") and New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, were formally notified of the proposed application in December 2025. Engagement has primarily comprised discussions with New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals in relation to the application to extend the duration of one



of OGNZL's Mining Permits in parallel the FTAA application, with opportunities for further engagement to be progressed as required. MBIE and New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals are not formally acting in the role of Administering Agencies in relation to the application, as mineral permits do not form part of the approvals that will be sought.

8.3 ENGAGEMENT WITH MANA WHENUA

8.3.1 Overview

OGNZL respects the traditions and cultures of local iwi and hapu and recognises the unique relationship that Māori have with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga.

The iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities with an association to the Project area include:

- > Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu;
- > Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki;
- > Te Rūnanga o Moeraki; and
- > Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou.

Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki are recognised as mana whenua in the Project area, and Te Rūnanga o Moeraki and Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou also hold recognised cultural associations across the wider Waihemo and Taiari catchments and have an interest in the Project area due to the Project's potential effects on the whenua and wai of those areas.

These three groups are collectively described as Kā Rūnaka. In March 2026, it was established that ongoing engagement with the relevant iwi authorities and Treaty settlement entities on MP4 would occur via mana whenua representatives of Kā Rūnaka.

8.3.2 Engagement

OGNZL acknowledges and thanks Kā Rūnaka for engaging with OGNZL on MP4. OGNZL has undertaken ongoing engagement with Kā Rūnaka regarding MP4 since the earlier MP4 (RMA) iteration of the Project was first introduced through arrangements set out in the Process Agreement entered into between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka in January 2025 ahead of an earlier consent application under the RMA in March 2025.

In May 2025, Aukaha, on behalf of and with input from Kā Rūnaka, prepared the 2025 CIA for the RMA version of MP4.



The 2025 CIA describes the history, cultural values, interests, and associations of Kāi Tahu and the affected Rūnaka with the Project area. The assessment identifies matters of cultural significance, considers the potential effects of the previous RMA version of MP4 on those values, and provides recommendations for the avoidance, remediation, mitigation, and management of cultural effects.

OGNZL has carefully considered the findings and recommendations of the 2025 CIA in the development of MP4. Consultation undertaken with Kā Rūnaka, together with consideration of the 2025 CIA, has informed aspects of the Project, as further described throughout this application, and has assisted OGNZL in understanding cultural values associated with the Project area.

It is important to note, and OGNZL recognises that, the 2025 CIA does not speak for the views of Kā Rūnaka specifically related to cultural values that may be impacted by MP4. The views of Kā Rūnaka would be expected to be provided through the processes of the current application, including the provision of a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment reflecting the legislative provisions of the FTAA to be provided to the EPA prior to the Panel Convener Conference, per the letter attached in **Part G.01** of this substantive application. OGNZL understands that Kā Rūnaka also intend to provide formal comments on the substantive application through the comments process established under section 53 of the FTAA.

In terms of the timeline of engagement specifically concerned with MP4, the current iteration of the Project was first introduced through the existing Macraes Operation iwi forum in December 2025. Since then, engagement has included regular kanōhi ki te kanōhi (face-to-face) meetings and Project updates. Consultation specific to this FTAA substantive application has included site visits, circulation of draft technical reports and consent conditions, and direct engagement with iwi-appointed technical experts across a range of disciplines. This engagement has provided valuable input into the development of the Project and supporting technical assessments.

Key milestones in the engagement process have included:

- > **December 2025:** Introduction of MP4 through the engagement arrangements provided for in the Process Agreement, including discussion of the proposed Project and the approach to consultation.
- > **January 2026:** Distribution of Project information, consultant team details and initiation of discussions regarding technical expert involvement.
- > **26 February 2026:** Kanōhi ki te kanōhi meeting with Kā Rūnaka representatives to formally introduce the Project Director and Project team, discuss the Fast-track approvals process, and agree next steps for ongoing engagement.



- > **February 2026 onwards:** Identification and direct engagement with Kā Rūnaka technical experts across disciplines including water quality, ecology, mining, economics, landscape and closure planning.
- > **20 April 2026:** Multi-agency technical expert site visit, enabling Kā Rūnaka technical representatives to gain site familiarity, engage directly with Project specialists and participate in discipline-specific discussions.
- > **May 2026:** Site-based engagement with Kā Rūnaka mining and environmental technical representatives, including detailed discussions on water management, mine design and post-closure outcomes.
- > **May 2026 onwards:** Ongoing face-to-face meetings, technical discussions, circulation of draft technical assessments and consent conditions, and refinement of Project design in response to Kā Rūnaka feedback.
- > **June 2026:** Site tour for Kā Rūnaka leadership and wider iwi members to further familiarise participants with both the existing Macraes Operation and the MP4 Project.
- > **July and August 2026:** Further kanōhi ki te kanōhi meetings were held.

Engagement to date has been constructive, with clear expectations communicated regarding continued involvement.

Consultation has included review and discussion of draft technical reports, management plans and proposed consent conditions. The matters raised through engagement and sharing of information, including matters in the 2025 CIA and the application, have informed both the technical assessments and the design of MP4. Kā Rūnaka representatives and technical advisors have provided comments on a range of matters including cultural values, freshwater management, ecology and biodiversity, landscape and visual effects, rehabilitation, archaeology and heritage, and post-closure management. OGNZL has considered this feedback during refinement of the Project and associated assessment material.

OGNZL acknowledges the time constraints on Kā Rūnaka and their assimilation of the Project draft materials ahead of lodging the substantive application, and the desirability of ongoing engagement in bringing mana whenua views to bear on the way the Project would manage its impacts on cultural values.

The engagement between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka forms the basis of the development of a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment by Kā Rūnaka regarding the effects of the Project. Documents which are key to finalising the Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment were made available to Kā Rūnaka in late August 2026. Consequently, the Treaty Settlement Impact

Assessment, which is otherwise well progressed, will be made available to the EPA in due course, but no later than the Panel Convener Conference (per the letter attached in **Part G.01** of this substantive application).

8.3.2.1 Kā Rūnaka Technical Expert Engagement

A significant component of iwi engagement has involved direct engagement with Kā Rūnaka - appointed or affiliated technical experts across key disciplines, including ecology, water quality, mining, landscape, closure and economics.

This has included:

- > Identification and initial contact with technical experts in February 2026;
- > Regular Project catch-up meetings (including fortnightly engagements, where practicable);
- > Discipline-specific discussions (e.g. mining and water management);
- > Provision of Project materials and invitations to participate in technical site visits.
- > The multi-agency technical expert site visit held on 20 April 2026 represented a key engagement milestone. This enabled Kā Rūnaka technical representatives to:
 - > Gain site familiarity;
 - > Engage directly with Project specialists; and
 - > Participate in discipline-specific discussions.

Further engagement has continued following the April site visit, including circulation of draft material, invitations for feedback, and ongoing technical discussions. Targeted engagement with technical experts has also included site-based engagement, such as the May 2026 site visit with the mining technical lead, which included detailed discussion on water management and post-closure outcomes.

The expert-to-expert engagement process has enabled technical matters to be discussed in detail and has provided Kā Rūnaka with opportunities to comment on draft technical reports and proposed management measures before lodgement. OGNZL considers that feedback received through these engagements has improved technical understanding and informed aspects of the final Project design and management framework, discussed further in Section 8.6.



8.3.2.2 Outcomes

Engagement with Kā Rūnaka identified several recurring themes, including water quality, biodiversity enhancement, restoration of degraded environments, opportunities for the exercise of kaitiakitanga, and long-term stewardship of environmental outcomes.

Consultation and engagement with Kā Rūnaka, together with consideration of the 2025 CIA, informed several aspects of MP4.

Key proposed outcomes include:

- > Water Management
 - > Altered WRS construction to reduce contaminant generation at the source;
 - > An array of cut-off drains and the introduction of active water treatment before release of mine impacted water, to reduce contaminant load entering waterways (rather than using dilution as the primary control);
 - > At the same time, a clear commitment to constructing the Camp Creek and Coal Creek dams;
- > Biodiversity Enhancement
 - > A leading role for Kā Rūnaka in the design and oversight of the MEEA and Cranky Jims Link; and
 - > Support for the podocarp forest regeneration within Murphys Link.
- > Freshwater Restoration
 - > Surrender of Back Road WRS consents; and
 - > Re-establishing the headwaters of the Northern Branch of the Waikouaiti River.

Note: OGNZL acknowledges the deep connection of Kāti Huirapa ki Puketeraki to the Waikouaiti River North Branch; and that to address the impact of past disturbance and reclamation, OGNZL should work with mana whenua to identify and implement measures to uplift the mauri of the awa post-closure. In an offered response to these issues, the Project has been engineered to provide for reinstatement of the connection lost through mining between the headwaters and the lower reaches of this awa. At the same time, OGNZL acknowledges that the physical constraints of the site mean that opportunities to incorporate meaningful natural character and habitat enhancement into the engineered channel are limited and that the engineered solution of a channel across what will be a TSF embankment raises its own concerns for mana whenua. This part of the Project is offered on the express basis that final design and incorporation of the channel into



the Project may be subject to change, acknowledging the pre-eminence of mana whenua views in this matter.

- > Rehabilitation and Closure
 - > A consultative role for Kā Rūnaka in setting rehabilitation and bonding requirements
 - > Oversight by Kā Rūnaka in the post-closure custodianship of the site

The feedback received concerning long-term stewardship of ecological outcomes has principally been addressed through proposed Resource consent conditions that would give iwi management and control of “reserve land” created through MP4 (the MEEA, Cranky Jims Link and potentially other protected areas) alongside OGNZL’s continuing consent obligations in those areas.

OGNZL also proposes to liaise further with Kā Rūnaka with regards to cultural inductions, partnering on Mahika kai enhancement works and further strengthening the relationship.

As discussed above in Section 8.2.2, the conversation between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka remains ongoing. Per the letter attached in **Part G.01** of this substantive application, OGNZL understands that Kā Rūnaka is preparing to provide a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment to be provided to the EPA prior to the Panel Convener Conference and full comments on the MP4 application when invited to comment under section 53 of the FTAA.

8.4 TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND WORKSTREAM ENGAGEMENT

A significant component of the engagement programme has involved direct engagement between Project technical specialists and external experts, including those representing Councils, iwi, and regulatory agencies.

This has included:

- > Establishment of discipline-specific expert groups;
- > Regular technical meetings and Project catch-ups;
- > Circulation of draft reports for review; and
- > Hosting of technical workshops and site visits.

The multi-agency technical expert site visit held on 20 April 2026 represented a key milestone in this process, providing:

- > A comprehensive Project overview;
- > Discipline-specific breakout sessions and site tours of key MP4 Project locations; and



- > Site-based technical discussions across water, ecology, landscape, and heritage.

This engagement enabled direct interaction between Project experts and external reviewers and provided a platform for detailed technical feedback.

Follow-up engagement has included circulation of summary information and requests for feedback, ongoing discipline-specific correspondence, and preparation and distribution of draft technical reports (first tranche issued in May 2026). Overall, this approach has enabled early identification of key technical issues and has supported an iterative process of report refinement which enables alignment with stakeholder expectations.

8.5 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with the local community and individual stakeholders has been undertaken through a combination of informal and formal consultation processes.

8.5.1 Local Community

A community drop-in session was held on 31 March 2026 for the Macraes community. This provided an accessible forum for:

- > Sharing Project information;
- > Responding to questions; and
- > Capturing community feedback.

Actions arising from this session have been recorded and incorporated into Project communications, including the development of Frequently Asked Questions material. OGNZL have also set up the Palmerston Information Centre for those with specific queries. Additional one-on-one engagement has been undertaken with community members as required.

OGNZL also meets with Macraes Community Incorporated (MCI) on a bi-monthly basis. It is made up of representatives of the Macraes Community to meet with and provide feedback to OGNZL on community and mining operations matters. Each of these sessions has a consenting and permitting update discussion. OGNZL also provided a MP4 Project specific update for MCI members in June 2026.

8.5.2 Landowners and Neighbouring Stakeholders

Targeted engagement has been undertaken with neighbouring landowners and stakeholders who have specific concerns to discuss Project-specific matters.



This has included:

- > Early engagement in January 2026 regarding inclusion of specific land areas within the project;
- > Follow-up discussions in March 2026 to provide more detailed briefings; and
- > Face-to-face engagement since May 2026 to address site-specific concerns.

Matters raised by these specific community members have included:

- > Land management and fencing;
- > Access arrangements;
- > Water availability and quality;
- > Noise and amenity effects;
- > Closure and rehabilitation; and
- > Potential impacts on land value.

Overall, stakeholders have emphasised the importance of transparency and ongoing communication. These matters have been recorded and are being addressed through Project design and technical assessment processes.

8.5.3 East Otago Community

A community drop-in session was held in April 2025 at the East Otago Event Centre in Waikouaiti to provide an overview of MP4 (RMA), the Macraes Operation, and the application process. Since then, the establishment of the Palmerston Information Centre provides ongoing opportunities for OGNZL to connect with the East Otago community, and for those passing through to learn about both MP4 and the Macraes Operation.

8.5.4 Engagement Material

As part of the consultation process, OGNZL has produced a series of engagement materials to provide the public information about the Project. This has included:

- > The preparation of a MP4 Overview booklet, which has been iteratively updated over time with the most recent version dated July 2026;
- > Development of MP4 Project Community Fact Sheets, that have been developed to explain certain aspects of the proposal as part of our ongoing engagement.



- > The establishment of a project website that is dedicated to MP4. The website includes a general overview of the history of the Macraes operation, a description of the Project, and examples of the types of effects mitigation activities that might be implemented; and
- > The development of an informational video of the Project (which is discussed earlier in this section).

8.6 SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK AND MATTERS RAISED

8.6.1 Overview

The following sections provide a high-level overview of the feedback and concerns regarding MP4 that have been expressed to OGNZL through the consultation and engagement process.

Consultation and engagement undertaken to date has been comprehensive and structured, commencing with early notification and progressing through increasingly detailed stages of engagement.

The programme has included:

- > Early and ongoing engagement with local authorities and administering agencies;
- > Meaningful engagement with iwi, including both governance and technical representatives;
- > Extensive technical engagement through multi-agency processes; and
- > Direct engagement with community members and affected stakeholders.

A clear progression is evident from initial Project introduction through to detailed technical review, supported by site visits and iterative feedback processes.

Feedback received to date has informed the ongoing development of the MP4 Project, particularly in relation to water management, ecological outcomes, infrastructure integration, and opportunities for stakeholder involvement. In particular, engagement with Kā Rūnaka has focused on opportunities for meaningful involvement in environmental stewardship, rehabilitation, biodiversity enhancement, freshwater management and long-term governance arrangements. Consultation has been undertaken in a manner that recognises the role of iwi as kaitiaki and has explored opportunities for ongoing participation in the implementation of environmental management and restoration initiatives associated with MP4.



OGNZL remain committed to engaging with stakeholders during lodgement and processing of the substantive application and has and will continue to exchange material and consider feedback.

8.6.2 Air Quality

ORC's independent air quality advisor, John Iseli of SES Consulting, reviewed the work of Tonkin + Taylor (2026a). Mr Iseli advised that he was generally in agreement with the conclusions of the assessment and did not identify any significant issues with the proposed approach or findings. A number of recommendations were made to further strengthen the assessment, the proposed monitoring regime, and consent conditions. In particular, feedback focused on dust management, the proposed air quality monitoring programme, monitoring trigger levels, operational dust mitigation measures, emission monitoring, and management framework proposed to respond to elevated dust levels should they occur.

Mr Iseli provided recommendations regarding the management of potentially dust-generating activities, including material handling and reworking activities, and supported the proposed PM₁₀ monitoring approach. He recommended that monitoring locations and trigger levels be configured to provide early warning of potential effects at nearby sensitive receptors and that dust management measures be clearly reflected within the Dust Management Plan and proposed consent conditions.

In response to this feedback, Tonkin & Taylor reviewed the matters raised and incorporated amendments where appropriate in Tonkin + Taylor (2026a). This included refinement of the proposed monitoring framework, additional discussion regarding dust-generating activities and mitigation measures, confirmation of monitoring trigger levels and response procedures, and consideration of recommendations relating to emissions monitoring, human health assessment criteria and proposed consent conditions. The feedback provided through the review process assisted in refining the air quality management framework and resolving key matters relating to monitoring, dust management and adaptive management responses.

8.6.3 Water

Water resources and water quality were consistently identified as important matters during consultation with regulatory agencies, technical reviewers, the DOC, and Kā Rūnaka. Feedback covered a broad range of issues including waterways, water quality, groundwater, stream flows, wetland hydrology, water treatment, water discharge, augmentation dams, seepage management, pit lake water quality, and the long-term management of mine-affected water following closure. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of protecting



and enhancing freshwater environments and ensuring that adverse effects on waterways and waterbodies are appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated.

Specific concerns were raised regarding the potential effects of the Project on surface water and groundwater systems, including streams within the North Branch Waikouaiti River, Deepdell Creek, Mare Burn, and associated tributaries. Stakeholders sought assurance that freshwater ecosystems, stream connectivity, water quality and natural flow regimes would be maintained throughout the life of the Project and beyond. Particular attention was given to the proposed water quality compliance frameworks, operation of augmentation dams, stream compensation measures, fish passage, wetland management, groundwater-surface water interactions, contaminant mobilisation. The impact of mining on groundwater systems was also highlighted as a key concern during MP4 RMA. Stakeholders sought greater understanding of groundwater drawdown effects, groundwater recovery following mining, contaminant transport pathways, seepage from waste rock stacks and tailings facilities, and the potential interaction between groundwater and surrounding surface water systems. Questions were also raised regarding the long-term movement of contaminants through groundwater and seepage pathways and the extent to which these could affect downstream freshwater environments.

A recurring theme raised by reviewers related to long-term water quality outcomes and the management of pit lakes following mine closure. Stakeholders acknowledged the extensive modelling undertaken but noted the uncertainty inherent in predicting water quality over many decades, and in some cases centuries, following closure. Concerns were expressed regarding the potential for pit lake stratification, contaminant mobilisation, arsenic management, and the long-term effectiveness of proposed treatment systems. Several stakeholders considered that greater information should be provided regarding contingency measures available should actual water quality outcomes differ from those predicted by modelling.

Particular concern was also raised regarding the potential need for ongoing treatment of pit lakes, seepage collection systems and drainage infrastructure well beyond closure. Kā Rūnaka emphasised the importance of ensuring that long-term management obligations can continue after mining has ceased, including through appropriate governance, monitoring, maintenance and funding arrangements. Concerns were also raised regarding the long-term protection of water quality within the North Branch Waikouaiti River catchment and the need to avoid any further loss of natural waterways, including potential effects on Deepdell Creek. At the same time, Kā Rūnaka expressed support for opportunities to enhance freshwater environments, including riparian planting, revegetation of waterways and restoration of natural stream forms.



Stakeholders also emphasised the importance of ensuring that water generated during mining operations and extreme rainfall events is appropriately captured, managed and treated prior to discharge. Feedback sought additional information regarding active water treatment technologies, water treatment performance, pilot testing, stormwater management, and the assumptions underpinning hydrogeochemical, groundwater and pit lake modelling. Reviewers generally supported the overall assessment methodologies while recommending further investigation, monitoring, treatment trials and refinement of management frameworks to increase confidence in long-term outcomes.

The consultation process resulted in numerous refinements to the hydrology, hydrogeology, water quality and freshwater ecology assessments, including additional consideration of augmentation dam operation, ecological response monitoring, arsenic attenuation, fish passage effects, groundwater and seepage management, active water treatment systems, pit lake management methodologies and long-term closure requirements. Overall, the feedback assisted in strengthening the proposed water management framework while confirming that water-related effects can be appropriately managed through the implementation of the proposed monitoring, treatment, mitigation and adaptive management measures.

Previous MP4 RMA feedback was very clear that the Project needed to upgrade its water quality compliance limits. MP4 (FTAA) generally proposes 95% species protection limits, which in a number of cases sees a magnitude reduction in contaminant compliance limits, these provide a significant step change from existing limits that the operation has in place and in turn require very substantial investment by OGNZL in water treatment systems and associated infrastructure. These requirements have been built into the Project.

Furthermore, OGNZL is committing to a capitalisation fund to support the long term post closure water quality mitigations regime. Where post-closure management costs have previously been included in the rehabilitation bond, these are now identified and bonded for separately.

Consultation with WDC also included discussions regarding the existing Stoneburn Community Water Supply Scheme and the importance of providing certainty regarding future drinking water supply arrangements for affected residents. The scheme presents existing challenges for WDC due to existing water quality issues associated with naturally occurring and land-use related organic contaminants within the catchment, which are unrelated to OGNZL's mining activities. Through meetings held in July and August 2026, OGNZL and WDC discussed opportunities to partner on potential solutions, including supporting investigations associated with transferring users to the Waihemo Water Supply Scheme and assisting with alternative treatment-based options where appropriate. While



these matters sit outside the direct MP4 technical matters, the discussions informed OGNZL's commitment to work collaboratively with WDC to identify practical improvements to the scheme.

8.6.4 Ecology and Biodiversity

Stakeholders highlighted the ecological significance and sensitivity of the Macraes environment and emphasised the importance of protecting indigenous biodiversity values while delivering meaningful long-term ecological enhancement. Particular attention was given to indigenous vegetation, wetlands, freshwater ecosystems, lizards, invertebrates, avifauna, Threatened and At Risk species, and the long-term restoration of ecological values following mining. Stakeholders generally recognised that substantial ecological values occur within and surrounding the Project area and that these values warranted a comprehensive effects management response.

A recurring theme throughout consultation was the potential disturbance or loss of indigenous habitats and species within the Project footprint. Stakeholders raised concerns regarding effects on wetlands, dryland shrublands, rockland habitats, native vegetation communities, freshwater habitats, lizard populations, threatened invertebrates and Threatened and At Risk flora. Particular concern was expressed regarding the ecological significance of lizard habitat, wetland ecosystems and habitats supporting threatened species, together with the ability of mitigation and restoration measures to adequately address residual effects.

Wetlands and freshwater ecosystems were identified as especially important. Stakeholders sought assurance that wetland values, hydrology and ecological function would be maintained, and that groundwater drawdown, habitat modification and changes to freshwater systems would be appropriately managed. Concerns were also raised regarding fish passage, habitat connectivity, stream diversions, freshwater compensation measures and the long-term ecological health of freshwater environments. Several reviewers noted the importance of integrating wetland restoration, stream compensation, fish management and riparian enhancement into a coherent freshwater ecosystem programme. Consultation and peer review also resulted in refinements to the proposed water quality framework, including the adoption of a predominantly 95% aquatic species protection level across affected freshwater environments. This was widely recognised as a significant enhancement to the Project's approach to protecting freshwater ecological values and responding to stakeholder and reviewer feedback.

Lizards were one of the most frequently discussed fauna groups during consultation. Stakeholders highlighted the ecological significance of lizard populations within the Project area and sought assurance regarding habitat loss, indirect effects, salvage and



translocation programmes, release site suitability, predator management, monitoring and long-term species recovery outcomes. Questions were also raised regarding indirect ecological effects associated with dust, lighting, vibration, noise and human activity, and the extent to which these effects may influence lizard populations and habitats beyond areas of direct disturbance. Reviewers also considered the practicality of salvage and translocation programmes, acknowledging that complete salvage of all individual lizards affected by mining activities would not be feasible or effective given the scale of populations present and the carrying capacity of neighbouring habitat to receive relocated populations. As a result, consultation focused less on achieving complete salvage and more on ensuring that the proposed package of avoidance, management, habitat enhancement, predator control and long-term restoration measures would protect and enhance the overall conservation status and long-term viability of Otago skink and other lizard populations.

Threatened and At Risk species were also a focus of consultation. Stakeholders sought greater understanding of how impacts on Threatened and At Risk flora, lizards, invertebrates and other species would be managed, and questioned the extent to which proposed salvage, propagation, restoration and translocation measures could successfully maintain or enhance affected populations. Several reviewers acknowledged the effort invested in developing species-specific management responses while emphasising the uncertainty inherently associated with ecological restoration and species recovery programmes.

A significant proportion of consultation feedback focused on the proposed biodiversity enhancement, compensation and offset package. Stakeholders generally supported the objective of achieving meaningful biodiversity gains but sought greater certainty regarding the effectiveness of proposed restoration, compensation and enhancement measures, the assumptions underpinning biodiversity modelling, and the extent to which predicted ecological gains could realistically be achieved and maintained over time. Particular attention was given to the distinction between mitigation, offsetting and compensation, and the demonstration of long-term biodiversity benefits.

In response to these matters, OGNZL further strengthened the specialist assessments addressing terrestrial ecology, wetlands, vegetation, freshwater ecology, fish passage, invertebrates, avifauna, bats, lizards and residual ecological effects. These investigations established a detailed understanding of existing ecological values, identified likely impact pathways, and informed the design and development of the Project and its associated mitigation, compensation and enhancement measures.

OGNZL has applied the effects management hierarchy throughout the Project design and has modified aspects of the proposal to avoid or minimise ecological effects where practicable. The Project incorporates a suite of conditions, ecological management plans,



monitoring programmes, species-specific management measures, freshwater restoration initiatives, compensation actions and habitat enhancement measures intended to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset or compensate for adverse ecological effects. Extensive monitoring and adaptive management provisions are proposed to ensure ecological outcomes are tracked throughout construction, operation, rehabilitation and closure.

A key component of the ecological response package is the establishment of the MEEA. Consultation feedback consistently recognised the MEEA as one of the most significant ecological enhancement initiatives associated with the Project. The MEEA will incorporate a large predator-management and biodiversity enhancement programme, including a substantial predator exclusion fenced area, wider pest management zones, habitat protection and ecological restoration measures. Stakeholders generally supported the concept of the MEEA while seeking confidence that fencing, pest management, biosecurity and long-term stewardship arrangements would be sufficient to deliver the anticipated biodiversity outcomes.

Beyond the MEEA, the Project includes extensive ecological restoration, pest management, habitat enhancement, stream rehabilitation, riparian planting, wetland management, lizard management, avifauna protection, invertebrate conservation measures and freshwater compensation initiatives. Together, these measures are intended to contribute to long-term biodiversity enhancement and improved ecological resilience across the wider Macraes landscape. Progressive rehabilitation will also be undertaken throughout the life of the Project to minimise disturbance areas and support the gradual restoration of ecological values.

The consultation process resulted in substantial refinement of ecological assessments, restoration strategies, monitoring programmes, management plans and compensation proposals. While stakeholders consistently sought greater certainty regarding long-term ecological outcomes, the effectiveness of restoration measures and the durability of biodiversity gains, consultation generally confirmed that these matters can be appropriately addressed through the proposed suite of mitigation, monitoring, adaptive management, ecological enhancement and long-term restoration measures.

OGNZL has proposed to secure in perpetuity by way of ecological covenants all the major compensation activities developed for MP4, placing the long term stewardship of these with the cultural protectors of the land (Kā Rūnaka). Further to this, OGNZL is proposing to establish an enduring trust in which Kā Rūnaka will have control and which OGNZL will fund until 2050 in-line with “Predator Free NZ 2050”. Stakeholders generally supported these proposals and considered long-term governance, funding and stewardship arrangements to



be important mechanisms for ensuring that biodiversity gains are maintained beyond the operational life of the Project.

8.6.5 Archaeology and Heritage

Archaeological and heritage values were identified by a number of stakeholders as important considerations for the Project. Given the long history of gold mining within Macraes, stakeholders highlighted the importance of appropriately identifying, protecting and managing archaeological sites, historic mining features and heritage places that contribute to the area's cultural and historical significance. Stakeholders raised issues relating to the protection of archaeological sites, historic mining heritage, Chinese mining heritage, Māori archaeology, archaeological discovery procedures and the management of cultural heritage values during both construction and operation of the Project.

HNZPT, WDC, DCC, Kā Rūnaka, and their respective heritage advisors raised a range of matters during consultation. Stakeholders generally supported the identification, investigation and protection of historic heritage features associated with the Macraes goldfields. Consultation focused on a range of recorded archaeological sites, including historic mining features, water races, drystone structures, Chinese mining heritage and places of local historic significance. Particular attention was given to sites such as the Chinese Camp, Gay Tan's Cottage and other heritage features located within or adjacent to proposed mining areas. Stakeholders sought assurance that significant heritage values would be appropriately avoided, protected, investigated or recorded where impacts could not be avoided.

A key issue raised through consultation was the adequacy of the proposed Archaeological Management Plans prepared for individual Project components. Mana whenua reviewers undertook detailed reviews of the Archaeological Management Plan suite, provided in **Part C** of this substantive application, and expressed concerns that the plans focused predominantly on historic European and Chinese archaeological values while providing limited recognition of Māori archaeology. Reviewers considered that Māori archaeological values were primarily addressed through accidental discovery procedures rather than through proactive identification, investigation and management measures.

Stakeholders also raised concerns regarding known, unresolved and potentially unrecorded Māori archaeological sites within the wider Macraes area. Particular attention was drawn to recorded sites and locations that reviewers considered had not been adequately addressed within the Archaeological Management Plans, including sites recorded in previous investigations and archaeological studies. Mana whenua reviewers sought greater certainty regarding how such sites would be identified, assessed and managed as Project works progress.



Stakeholders further emphasised the importance of robust archaeological discovery procedures. Particular attention was given to processes for the management of kōiwi tangata, taonga tūturu and wāhi tapu should such material be encountered during Project works. Mana whenua reviewers sought stronger provisions regarding notification processes, decision-making responsibilities, stop-work procedures and treatment of discoveries of cultural significance.

The archaeological and heritage effects of the Project have been assessed in Origin (2026a) and (2026b), and a suite of Archaeological Management Plans is provided in **Part C** of this substantive application. These assessments informed avoidance measures, recording requirements, monitoring provisions, archaeological authorities and management procedures for known archaeological sites and heritage features.

Consultation also focused on the role of archaeological monitoring and ongoing engagement during Project implementation. Mana whenua reviewers sought greater opportunities for rūnaka involvement in archaeological processes, including notification procedures, cultural monitoring and review of archaeological findings and reporting. Reviewers generally emphasised the importance of ensuring that Māori archaeological values are afforded a level of recognition and management comparable to that provided for historic heritage values.

Consultation has contributed to ongoing consideration of archaeological management measures, discovery protocols, monitoring provisions and engagement arrangements associated with heritage and archaeological values. Overall, consultation confirmed broad agreement on the importance of protecting archaeological and heritage values within the Project area. While stakeholders generally supported the proposed management of historic mining and Chinese heritage sites, significant feedback was received regarding the identification and management of Māori archaeological values, the role of mana whenua in archaeological processes and the adequacy of provisions for managing discoveries of cultural significance. This feedback informed ongoing refinement and review of the archaeological management framework proposed for MP4.

8.6.6 Landscape, Visual, and Amenity

Landscape, visual amenity and natural character effects were raised during consultation, primarily in relation to the visibility of proposed mine expansions, the scale of waste rock stacks, changes to existing views, cumulative landscape change and the long-term appearance of the site following closure. Stakeholders sought assurance that the Project would continue to be integrated into the existing Macraes landscape and that adverse visual effects would be minimised where practicable.



Particular attention was given to the visibility of waste rock stacks and other mining landforms from Macraes township, local roads, surrounding rural properties and public viewpoints. Some reviewers considered that aspects of Boffa Miskell (2026) understated the visual and cumulative effects associated with the proposed expansion, particularly where landforms would become larger or more prominent over time. Concerns were also raised regarding the potential loss of rural openness, changes to local views and the cumulative effect of continued expansion within an already modified landscape.

Progressive rehabilitation was generally supported, with several stakeholders highlighting the importance of restoring disturbed land as it becomes available rather than relying solely on end-of-mine rehabilitation. Reviewers sought confidence that final landforms would be shaped and rehabilitated in a manner that reflects the character of the wider Macraes landscape.

The landscape and natural character effects of the Project have been assessed in Boffa Miskell (2026). The assessment considered the Coronation, Central and Golden Bar mining areas, associated infrastructure, proposed rehabilitation measures, long-term closure outcomes and the MEEA.

Consultation generally acknowledged that mining is an established feature of the Macraes landscape and that MP4 largely represents an extension of existing activities rather than the introduction of mining into entirely new locations, nor is MP4 adding new types of features to those that already exist. Reviewers also recognised the efforts made during Project development to incorporate landscape input into the design process, including consideration of landform design, visual integration and rehabilitation outcomes.

Consultation with mana whenua and their landscape advisor also highlighted the cultural significance of the wider landscape, including its association with traditional occupation, mahika kai, and connections with the headwaters of the Taieri, Waihemo and Waikouaiti catchments. Feedback emphasised the importance of water, the concept of Ki Uta Ki Tai, and the interconnected relationship between cultural values and the wider landscape. The mana whenua landscape review identified the potential for high cultural landscape effects; however, subsequent consultation clarified that this assessment largely reflected the enduring and cumulative effects of mining on the cultural landscape, rather than solely the incremental effects of MP4 when assessed against the existing and consented environment. This feedback informed refinements to the cultural landscape discussion within Boffa Miskell (2026).

Natural character values associated with nearby waterways were also discussed during consultation. Stakeholders highlighted the importance of stream, wetland and riparian rehabilitation and sought assurance that restoration measures would contribute positively



to freshwater and landscape outcomes over time. Consultation also identified opportunities to enhance riparian planting and ecological restoration as part of the wider rehabilitation programme.

Lighting effects were considered as part of the wider visual amenity assessment. Independent review of the lighting assessment generally agreed that anticipated lighting effects would be low and that existing operational controls would be sufficient to appropriately manage visible lighting effects. No significant concerns were raised regarding the proposed lighting approach.

Landscape and rehabilitation measures include progressive rehabilitation of disturbed areas, recontouring and revegetation of landforms, ongoing landscape restoration, riparian planting and rehabilitation planning for post-closure landforms. The MEEA also contributes to long-term landscape and ecological enhancement outcomes. Consultation on the rehabilitation and management plans also resulted in refinements to proposed landscape restoration measures and planting approaches. Reviewers sought confidence that rehabilitation outcomes would respond to the character and ecology of individual areas rather than relying on a uniform treatment across the site, and this feedback informed further development of Boffa Miskell (2026), the Landscape Rehabilitation Strategy and Management Plan, and Mine Mitigation and Closure Plans.

Overall, consultation confirmed the importance of landscape, visual amenity and natural character values to stakeholders. The feedback received primarily sought greater confidence in rehabilitation outcomes, visual integration and long-term landscape management rather than raising fundamental objections to the Project. Consultation has informed refinements in Boffa Miskell (2026), and the Landscape Rehabilitation Strategy and Management Plan and Mine Closure Plans, provided in **Part C** of this substantive application.

8.6.7 Noise

Noise effects associated with the Project were assessed in Acoustic Engineering Services (2026) and circulated to regulatory agencies and technical reviewers; however, no substantive concerns or objections were raised regarding the predicted noise effects of the Project.

8.6.8 Vibration and Airblast

Vibration and airblast associated with blasting activities were identified as matters of interest by a number of stakeholders during consultation. Concerns primarily related to the potential effects of blasting on amenity, the potential for vibration to affect buildings and



structures, and the experience of residents, visitors and landowners located in proximity to mining activities. Stakeholders also sought assurance that blasting activities would continue to be carefully managed and monitored throughout the life of the Project.

Particular attention was given to the potential effects of vibration on heritage structures and archaeological sites. During consultation, specialist feedback was provided regarding the need for appropriately qualified professionals to undertake condition assessments where heritage buildings may be exposed to blasting vibration. This resulted in refinement of the proposed management approach to ensure that assessments of heritage structures are undertaken by suitably experienced specialists with expertise in historic construction and materials.

Stakeholders also raised broader questions regarding how vibration, airblast and blasting-related effects would be monitored and managed over time. Feedback received during review of the proposed Noise, Airblast and Vibration Monitoring Plan, provided in **Part C** of this substantive application, highlighted the importance of maintaining robust monitoring, complaints management and reporting procedures, including consideration of effects experienced by visitors and users of nearby public places such as the Golden Point Historic Reserve. Reviewers also supported strengthening the analysis and reporting of complaints to assist in understanding any cumulative amenity effects that may arise over time.

The actual and potential effects of blasting vibration and airblast associated with MP4 have been assessed in TechNick (2026). The assessment considered the location of proposed mining activities, nearby sensitive receivers, existing operational practices, and the predicted vibration and airblast effects associated with blasting activities. Proposed management measures, monitoring requirements and consent conditions are also summarised in **Part A.10** of this report, with the proposed conditions designed to protect nearby residents, buildings, heritage features and amenity values.

Overall, consultation confirmed the importance of proactively managing blasting vibration and airblast effects. The feedback received resulted in refinements to monitoring and management procedures while confirming that vibration and airblast effects can be appropriately managed through the proposed assessment framework, operational controls, monitoring programmes and consent conditions.

8.6.9 Transport and Roothing

Transport and roading effects were raised during consultation, primarily in relation to road safety, the design of proposed road realignments, heavy vehicle movements and the ongoing management of public roads adjacent to mining activities. Stakeholders sought



assurance that changes to the road network would maintain safe and efficient operation of public roads and appropriately accommodate mine traffic and heavy vehicles.

A significant proportion of the feedback related to the proposed Macraes Road and Golden Bar Haul Road realignments. WDC reviewers raised questions regarding road geometry, curve design, superelevation, sight distances, safety barriers and the suitability of the designs for heavy vehicles, particularly during winter conditions where snow and ice may be present. Feedback also considered the proposed Macraes Road Stage 2 realignment across the Frasers Backfill Embankment and the associated easement arrangements. While reviewers sought assurance regarding the detailed design and long-term performance of this section of road, no objections were raised to the proposed alignment or easement approach. Reviewers generally supported the progression of the designs but sought further consideration of these matters through the detailed design process.

Stakeholders also sought assurance regarding the long-term stability and safety of public roads located adjacent to mining activities. Particular attention was given to Macraes Road and Golden Bar Haul Road where mining-induced ground movement, settlement or slope instability could potentially affect road performance. Reviewers highlighted the importance of ongoing geotechnical monitoring, road inspections, maintenance obligations and trigger-response procedures to ensure public safety is maintained.

Consultation with DCC's transportation team identified no significant concerns regarding the transport effects of the Project, acknowledging that most of the transport effects associated with the Project occur within the Waitaki District rather than on roads administered by DCC. DCC generally agreed with the conclusions in Stantec (2026) and noted that traffic generated by MP4 would be similar to that already associated with existing mining operations.

In response to matters raised during consultation, OGNZL confirmed that the proposed road realignment designs remain at the concept stage and will continue to be refined through detailed design. This process will include further assessment of road geometry, sight distances, safety barriers, heavy vehicle performance, road stability and geotechnical conditions adjacent to the proposed alignments.

Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of ongoing management of roads affected by mining activities. In response, OGNZL has prepared and continues to implement a Public Roads Ground Control Management Plan. This framework includes geotechnical monitoring, inspections, trigger-action-response procedures, road maintenance requirements, reporting protocols and measures to manage any mining-related effects on public roads. OGNZL also had correspondence with ECan in relation to the road across the Frasers TSF embankment.



ECan advised OGNZL that any formal response would be provided at a later date, when accompanied by the relevant building permit application.

Traffic associated with construction and operation of the Project will continue to be managed through established operational procedures and a Traffic Management Plan. This will address construction traffic, vehicle routes, road maintenance, temporary traffic management arrangements, communication procedures and monitoring of road conditions. Existing arrangements for monitoring and maintaining roads associated with the Macraes Operation will continue where relevant.

Overall, consultation confirmed that transport and roading effects can be appropriately managed through the proposed transport management framework, detailed road design process and ongoing geotechnical monitoring and road maintenance arrangements. The feedback received primarily resulted in refinement of road design, monitoring and management measures rather than any fundamental concerns regarding the Project's transport effects.

8.6.10 Geotechnical Stability and Natural Hazards

Geotechnical stability and natural hazard risks were raised by stakeholders throughout consultation, particularly in relation to the stability of open pits, waste rock stacks, tailings storage facilities, underground mining areas and public roads located adjacent to mining activities. Stakeholders sought assurance that existing and future geotechnical risks would continue to be appropriately assessed, monitored and managed throughout the life of the Project.

Particular attention was given to areas where historic ground movement and instability have previously occurred. Stakeholders raised questions regarding the stability of pit walls, the effects of continued mining adjacent to public roads, subsidence associated with underground mining, and the long-term stability of rehabilitated landforms following closure. Concerns were generally focused on ensuring that the potential risks to public safety, infrastructure and the environment remain appropriately managed over time.

In regard to GPUG, stakeholders sought assurance that underground mining-induced subsidence would not adversely affect Deepdell Creek, surrounding landforms or surface water systems. Particular concern was expressed regarding the potential for deformation or cracking beneath Deepdell Creek that could alter surface water flows or groundwater connectivity. Stakeholders generally supported a conservative design approach, ongoing monitoring and adaptive management to manage these risks.

Stakeholders also focused on the long-term performance of the Frasers TSF Stage 3 and other tailings storage structures. Consultation highlighted interest in embankment stability,



long-term settlement, seepage management, drainage performance and dam safety. Questions were raised regarding how these facilities would be monitored and managed over time, particularly where structures or drainage systems may remain in place after closure.

Public road stability was another recurring theme. Stakeholders sought assurance that mining-induced ground movement would not adversely affect Macraes Road, Golden Bar Road and other roads adjacent to mining areas. Particular attention was given to monitoring requirements, road maintenance obligations, trigger-response procedures and long-term stability management. Several stakeholders also highlighted the importance of maintaining appropriate geotechnical monitoring and management arrangements throughout operation and closure.

The geotechnical effects of the Project have been assessed through a suite of specialist investigations prepared by PSM, EGL, Agilitus and other geotechnical specialists. Reviewers generally considered the assessments to be robust and appropriate for the proposed consent application, noting that they draw upon extensive site-specific information, historical performance data and ongoing monitoring from the existing Macraes Operation.

Consultation also identified the importance of long-term management arrangements following closure. Stakeholders raised questions regarding permanent highwalls, residual instability risks, ongoing monitoring requirements and future maintenance obligations. Particular emphasis was placed on ensuring that any remaining geotechnical risks are appropriately managed through closure planning, monitoring programmes and long-term stewardship arrangements.

In response to these matters, OGNZL proposes to continue to expand its existing geotechnical management framework. This includes ongoing geotechnical assessments, monitoring programmes, Ground Control Management Plans, Trigger Action Response Plans, specialist review processes and adaptive management measures. Monitoring systems currently operating across the Macraes Operation will continue to be used to identify and respond to geotechnical risks as mining progresses.

Overall, consultation demonstrated a generally high level of confidence in the geotechnical investigations undertaken for the Project. The principal issues raised by stakeholders related to long-term stability, monitoring and management of geotechnical risks rather than the fundamental feasibility of the Project. Consultation has informed refinements to monitoring, road management, subsidence management and closure planning measures and has helped strengthen the proposed framework for managing geotechnical risks throughout the life of the Project and beyond.



8.6.11 Contaminated Land

Contaminated land was raised during consultation due to the long operational history of the Macraes Operation and the presence of workshops, fuel storage facilities, waste disposal areas and other activities with the potential to have caused localised contamination. Stakeholders sought assurance that areas affected by historic or current potentially contaminating activities would be appropriately investigated and managed before ground disturbance occurs.

The primary focus of consultation was the proposed framework for identifying, investigating and managing contaminated land within areas affected by MP4. Reviewers generally accepted the staged investigation approach proposed by OGNZL but sought greater clarity regarding the extent of investigation areas, the delineation of potentially contaminated sites, the identification of HAIL activities, and the process that would be followed as different parts of the Project progress.

Stakeholders also sought assurance that contaminated soils associated with workshops, fuel storage areas, waste disposal locations and other operational facilities would be appropriately managed during earthworks. Particular attention was given to hydrocarbon contamination, asbestos, PFAS, underground fuel infrastructure and the management of contaminated materials during relocation, remediation and disposal activities.

A recurring theme throughout consultation was the protection of human health and the environment. Reviewers highlighted the importance of preventing contaminated soils, sediment, water or other contaminants from adversely affecting site workers, surface water bodies, groundwater systems and surrounding ecological values. Stakeholders also sought confidence that appropriate contingency procedures would be in place should unexpected contamination be encountered during works.

The contaminated land effects of the Project have been assessed in WWLA (2026a) and (2026b), and the Site Management Plan – Ground Contamination (“**SMP**”), provided in **Part C** of this substantive application. These investigations identified potentially contaminating activities within the Project area and established a framework for future investigations, remediation and management where required.

Consultation generally supported the proposed contaminated land management framework. Reviewers considered the overall approach to managing contaminated soils to be reasonable, while recommending greater clarity around investigation areas, management processes, reporting requirements and the ongoing assessment of contaminants such as PFAS.



In response to matters raised through consultation, OGNZL proposes that contaminated land investigations will be undertaken in advance of works within identified HAIL areas. Investigations and any required remediation will be overseen by suitably qualified and experienced practitioners, with management requirements developed to reflect the contamination identified within each work area.

The proposed contaminated land management framework includes:

- > Staged contaminated land investigations in identified HAIL areas;
- > Preparation and implementation Site Management Plans and site-specific management measures;
- > Management, remediation, reuse or disposal of contaminated soils where required;
- > Procedures for managing contaminants such as hydrocarbons, asbestos and PFAS where identified;
- > Unexpected contamination response procedures;
- > Monitoring, validation sampling and reporting; and
- > Preparation of long-term management plans where residual contamination remains following remediation.

Overall, consultation confirmed support for a staged investigation and management approach to contaminated land. The feedback received primarily resulted in requests for additional clarity regarding investigation, management and reporting processes rather than fundamental concerns with the proposed framework. Consultation has informed further refinement of the SMP and contaminated land investigation programme and has helped strengthen the approach proposed for management of contaminated land within the Project area.

8.6.12 Economics and Employment

Economic and employment benefits associated with the Macraes Operation were a recurring topic during consultation. Stakeholders generally acknowledged the long-standing contribution the Macraes mine has made to local employment, business activity and the wider Otago economy. A common theme was that extending the life of the mine would provide additional certainty for workers, contractors, businesses and communities that have developed around the operation.

Stakeholders expressed a preference for economic benefits associated with MP4 to be retained within the local area wherever possible. In particular, consultation highlighted the importance of local procurement, use of local contractors and employment of local

workers. Stakeholders also noted the value of providing additional time for businesses and communities to prepare for the eventual closure of mining activities.

The economic effects of the Project have been assessed in Eaquib & Eaquib (2026a). The assessment considered employment, business expenditure, procurement, exports and government revenues associated with extending the life of the Macraes Operation.

The principal feedback received on the draft economic assessment focused on the assumptions and methodology used within the analysis. The councils' independent economic reviewer sought further clarification regarding matters such as employment projections, procurement expenditure, contractor employment, regional distribution of benefits, royalty arrangements and the assumptions underpinning the economic modelling. The reviewer also requested additional explanation of how economic benefits were distributed between Waitaki District, Dunedin City, the wider Otago Region and the rest of New Zealand.

The feedback did not challenge the proposition that the Project would generate economic benefits. Rather, it largely focused on improving the transparency, presentation and explanation of the underlying assumptions and modelling. In response, OGNZL and its economic advisor reviewed a number of matters raised through the peer review process and incorporated additional clarification into the assessment documentation.

Consultation also highlighted the importance of workforce development and local participation. In response, OGNZL has committed to maximising local participation wherever practicable, including through the use of local suppliers and contractors and by supporting workforce development initiatives. OGNZL has also begun developing a Skills Development and Training Action Plan in collaboration with local secondary and tertiary education providers, industry training organisations and other relevant groups. OGNZL also supports local employment through the provision of bus services to local and regional towns and by maintaining a locally based workforce rather than relying on fly-in fly-out arrangements.

Overall, consultation demonstrated broad recognition of the economic and employment benefits associated with extending the life of the Macraes Operation. Stakeholders generally supported the continuation of employment and business opportunities associated with the mine, while seeking assurance that the benefits of the Project would continue to be shared locally and that the assumptions underlying the economic assessment were robust and transparent.



8.6.13 Cultural Values

In redesigning the Project following the withdrawal of MP4 (RMA), OGNZL gave thorough consideration to the 2025 CIA to guide the response to potential impacts on cultural values. Cultural values were a significant focus of consultation, particularly through engagement with mana whenua and subsequent review of Project documentation by representatives of Kā Rūnaka. Consultation addressed the relationship of mana whenua with the land, waterways, archaeological sites, cultural landscapes and natural resources within the Project area, together with the exercise of kaitiakitanga and the protection of cultural heritage values.

A recurring theme raised by mana whenua was the need for meaningful recognition of mana whenua interests and greater involvement in the management of cultural values. Stakeholders sought assurance that mana whenua would have an appropriate role in decision-making processes relating to cultural heritage, archaeological discoveries, monitoring activities and the implementation of management plans. Particular concern was expressed regarding the extent to which Archaeological Management Plans recognised the role of Kā Rūnaka and provided mechanisms for their ongoing participation.

Mana whenua also emphasised the importance of kaitiakitanga and sought opportunities for direct involvement in the monitoring and management of cultural values throughout Project implementation. Feedback included requests for kaitiaki monitoring provisions, cultural induction programmes, participation in site investigations, appropriate provision for tikanga practices, and greater involvement in the management of discoveries of cultural significance.

Protection of waterways and the cultural health of freshwater systems remained an important consultation theme. Mana whenua highlighted the significance of the Taiari, Waikouaiti and Waihemo catchments and emphasised the need to maintain and enhance the mauri of these environments. Stakeholders sought assurance that freshwater management, restoration and rehabilitation initiatives would contribute positively to the long-term health of affected catchments and support ongoing cultural connections to the landscape.

Consultation also focused on the management of kōiwi tangata, taonga tūturu, wāhi tapu and other discoveries of cultural significance. Mana whenua reviewers sought stronger provisions regarding notification procedures, treatment decisions, stop-work authorities, resumption of works and the management of culturally significant material should it be encountered during Project activities. Stakeholders emphasised the importance of ensuring that cultural values are appropriately recognised and protected through discovery and response procedures.



A further issue raised during consultation related to the identification and protection of Māori archaeological values and culturally significant sites. Mana whenua reviewers sought greater certainty regarding how known, unresolved and potentially unrecorded Māori sites would be recognised and managed. Stakeholders also highlighted the importance of protecting culturally sensitive information and ensuring appropriate management of information relating to archaeological sites and cultural heritage locations. Concerns were raised regarding the handling and distribution of site information and the need for culturally sensitive approaches to the management of location data associated with Māori sites and values.

Feedback from mana whenua, including matters identified through the 2025 CIA and subsequent engagement with Kā Rūnaka, has informed ongoing consideration of cultural values, freshwater management, rehabilitation initiatives, archaeological management processes and environmental restoration measures. Consultation also informed consideration of opportunities for ongoing mana whenua involvement throughout Project implementation and closure planning.

Overall, consultation confirmed the importance of recognising and providing for mana whenua values throughout the life of the Project. The principal issues raised related to mana whenua participation in cultural and archaeological management processes, the protection of cultural heritage and archaeological values, the exercise of kaitiakitanga, and the management of discoveries of cultural significance. This feedback has informed ongoing refinement of cultural, archaeological and environmental management measures associated with MP4.

OGNZL acknowledges and thanks Kā Rūnaka for the significant amount of engagement undertaken on MP4. The consultation process has included hui, site visits, review of Project information, technical expert engagement, comments on draft reports and discussion of consent conditions. OGNZL considers that this engagement, together with the 2025 CIA, has been valuable in helping to inform aspects of the Project and is committed to continuing to develop the relationship between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka.

Engagement is ongoing and would continue through the life of the Project.

Proposed mechanisms for direct involvement of Kā Rūnaka in the Project include:

- > Joint Steering Committee establishment between OGNZL and Kā Rūnaka;
- > Preferred contractor status on ecological work packages;
- > Commitment from OGNZL to funding cultural health baseline studies and monitoring programs;



- > OGNZL to develop a cultural induction program for the Macraes Operation; and
- > The placing of key ecological compensation packages into in perpetuity protection vehicles with Kā Rūnaka stewardship.

OGNZL values the relationship that has been strengthened through the consultation process and will continue to engage with Kā Rūnaka throughout the processing of the MP4 application and the broader FTAA process. Per the letter attached in **Part G.01** of this substantive application, Kā Rūnaka are underway with preparations of a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment for the Project and have outlined their intention to make this available to the EPA prior to the Panel Convener Conference.

8.6.14 Rehabilitation and Closure

Rehabilitation and closure planning was a recurring theme throughout consultation. Stakeholders generally supported the objective of progressively rehabilitating disturbed land and restoring environmental values across the Macraes Operation. However, many stakeholders sought greater certainty regarding the long-term success of rehabilitation measures and the arrangements that would be in place once mining activities cease.

A common concern raised through consultation was the extent to which proposed rehabilitation outcomes could be successfully achieved and maintained over time. Stakeholders questioned whether rehabilitated landforms, pit lakes, waste rock stacks, tailings facilities, restored habitats and freshwater systems would perform as intended in the long term and whether proposed environmental gains would be resilient to future changes in climate, land use and management practices.

Stakeholders also sought assurance regarding long-term stewardship responsibilities following closure. Particular attention was given to the future management of pit lakes, tailings facilities, waste rock stacks, drainage systems, ecological restoration areas and infrastructure that may require ongoing monitoring or maintenance. Questions were raised regarding post-closure monitoring, maintenance obligations, future ownership arrangements and the availability of funding to support long-term management where required.

The rehabilitation and closure framework for MP4 has been developed through a suite of specialist investigations, including the Mine Closure Plan, Landscape Rehabilitation Strategy and Management Plan, geotechnical assessments, ecological restoration plans and residual effects assessments. These documents informed the design of closure landforms, rehabilitation measures, environmental management requirements and long-term monitoring programmes.



Several stakeholders emphasised the importance of undertaking rehabilitation progressively throughout the life of the Project rather than waiting until closure. Progressive rehabilitation was generally viewed positively as a means of reducing the area of active disturbance, providing earlier environmental benefits and demonstrating the effectiveness of rehabilitation methods over time.

In response to these matters, OGNZL proposes to continue its existing approach of progressively rehabilitating disturbed areas as they become available. This includes rehabilitation of waste rock stacks, backfilled mining areas, tailings facilities and other disturbed landforms, together with restoration of freshwater habitats, riparian margins and ecological values where appropriate. The MEEA also forms an important component of the long-term restoration and enhancement programme.

Stakeholders also sought confidence that rehabilitation outcomes would be supported by robust monitoring and adaptive management. Reviewers noted that ecological and landscape restoration outcomes may take many years to develop and requested that monitoring programmes continue long enough to demonstrate that rehabilitation objectives are being achieved. Several stakeholders also supported the inclusion of contingency measures where rehabilitation outcomes do not perform as anticipated.

Overall, consultation confirmed broad support for progressive rehabilitation and long-term restoration of the Macraes Operation. The principal issues raised by stakeholders related to the durability of rehabilitation outcomes, long-term monitoring and stewardship obligations, and ensuring that sufficient resources and management arrangements are in place to support successful closure outcomes. Consultation has informed ongoing refinement of rehabilitation, restoration, monitoring and closure planning measures for the Project.

