

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

MACRAES PHASE FOUR (MP4)

LANDSCAPE

Evidence of Rhys James Girvan
Regarding Technical Assessment of
Landscape, Natural Character and
Visual Effects and Proposed
Conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Rhys James Girvan.
2. My role in relation to Macraes Phase 4 (“**MP4**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to landscape, natural character and visual effects. I co-wrote the Landscape and Natural Character Effects Assessment (“**the Report**”) which is provided within *Part B – Technical Reports* of the application.
3. This evidence has been prepared to accompany the Report and the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**”) for approvals required for MP4 under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”).
4. Section 4.1(h) of the FTAA Panel Conveners’ Practice and Procedure note (July 2025) says all technical experts authoring reports should include a statement regarding compliance with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. This evidence has been prepared to fulfil this requirement, and if a hearing is not held, this evidence confirms that, relative to my area of expertise the Report provides an appropriate description of the relevant environment, the proposed activities comprising the effects of the MP4 on that environment, and the way those effects are proposed to be managed.
5. My findings are set out in full in the Report included within *Part B – Technical Reports* of the application.
6. While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing the Report. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, the Report is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

7. I hold the qualifications of Master of Landscape Architecture from Lincoln University and Bachelor of Arts majoring in Psychology from the University of Canterbury. I am a registered member of the New Zealand Institute of Landscape Architects (“**NZILA**”).
8. I have been a landscape planning consultant for Boffa Miskell Limited (“**BML**”) since April 2012 and am currently employed as an Associate Partner Landscape Planner in BMLs Christchurch office.
9. I have practiced as a landscape planner for approximately 22 years. My experience includes the assessment of landscape and visual effects for development projects of many types and scales, including infrastructure use and development encompassing windfarms, utilities, quarries, mines, landfills, and roading projects. I am experienced in preparing district and region wide landscape assessments which recognise and

articulate important landscape values as well as preparing landscape plans and associated rehabilitation strategies to support successful development proposals within a wide range of natural and built contexts.

10. In providing this evidence, I have considered the following matters as relevant to that topic:
- (a) The project description provided by OGNZL as set out in Section 62 of the Substantive Application prepared by Mitchell Daysh Limited;
 - (b) The description of the existing environment as set out in Section 4 of the Substantive Application, the effects of MP4 on that environment and their significance, and the proposals to manage those effects as all set out in the assessment of effects in Section 9 of the Substantive Application;
 - (c) The technical assessments of ecology, heritage, geology, hydrology and lighting from other OGNZL experts that are relevant to my area of expertise;
 - (d) Peer Review comments provided by Philip Blakely, Registered Landscape Architect on behalf of Waitaki District Council and Dunedin City Council; and
 - (e) Input from Tangata Whenua, including through direct engagement with Alayna Rā, acting as a pūkenga on behalf of Kā Rūnaka, to the extent that relevant information has been made available. I acknowledge that mana whenua values, interests and associations are addressed separately through Iwi led Cultural Impact Assessments.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

11. I confirm that in my opinion the Report contains an accurate and appropriate description of the proposed development, the actual and potential effects of MP4, and the recommended actions to manage those effects within my area of expertise.
12. I confirm that in my opinion the contents of the Report may be relied on in making a decision on the approvals sought for MP4, and confirm that provided effects within my area of expertise are managed as proposed in the application those effects will not be unacceptable and will be managed to a standard that I consider meets good practice.
13. I confirm that I have reviewed the conditions that OGNZL proposes for the various approvals being sought as they relate to my area of expertise. I confirm that in my opinion those proposed conditions are appropriate.



Rhys James Girvan

Dated this 2 day of September 2026