

Notice of application by OceanaGold New Zealand Limited and invitation to comment under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Comments from the Waihi Community Forum 25th August 2025

To the members of the Waihi North Expert Panel

Thank you for inviting the Waihi Community Forum (the Forum) to comment on the Waihi North Application.

One of the duties of the Forum, as per its Terms of Reference, is to: 'report, receive and respond to comments on community issues relating to the Consent Holder's operations in Waihi.'

Residents in Waihi have therefore been invited to provide feedback to the Forum on their concerns and/or support for the Waihi North Project. The Forum has collated this information in the attached appendix. It has also included the entire feedback from two residents who believe they are affected by the project in some way, but were not invited to comment.

In summary, the Forum comments address the following matters:

1. The Notice of Application letter sent to the affected and adjacently affected parties
2. The list of those deemed affected or adjacently affected
3. Draft Resource Consent Conditions
4. Planting Plans
5. Blasting Times
6. The Effects of Dust
7. Noise Control
8. Helicopter Flight Path
9. Height of the Northern Rock Stack
10. Gladstone Open Pit
11. Local Employment
12. Top Up Scheme
13. AEP Scheme
14. Waihi Community Forum Streets Ahead Scheme

Appendix A – Waihi Community Forum Comments

Appendix B – Comment from Katherine Lucas, resident, Waihi

Appendix C – Comment from Mary O'Donoghue, resident, Waihi

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on behalf of the community.

If you have any questions on these comments, please contact the Waihi Community Forum at



Appendix A – Waihi Community Forum Comments

The Notice of Application letter

The Forum believes that the letter sent to residents was unhelpful and confusing. Whilst we understand the need for procedural compliance, the letter is legalistic, and offers no simple outline of the proposal and steps that recipients should take. In fact, several residents believed they were simply meant to fill in the supplied boxes on page 4 as their only form of comment.

The Forum suggests that, for future Fast Track processes, Notices of Application and other documents are reviewed to ensure they are more 'user-friendly', taking into account the readership.

The Forum also notes that some residents received letters later than others, adding to the confusion.

The list of residents invited to comment on the Waihi North Project application.

The Forum has received feedback from residents that the list of those invited to comment missed out some residents who are clearly affected. This includes resident Mary O'Donoghue, whose comment is attached. Residents feared the process was inadequate as a result.

Draft Resource Consent Conditions

The draft resource consent conditions are highly technical. Many rely on subsequent management plans (33 separate plans are listed), which adds further to the complexity. The Forum notes that this was challenging for residents invited to provide meaningful feedback on whether the conditions are adequate.

The Forum suggests that, when the draft conditions of consent are provided for comment, the Panel requires that future applicants resource and make available independent experts to assist residents in understanding and commenting on the draft conditions. This would give residents greater confidence that the conditions are robust and protective of their interests, particularly those relating to matters that directly affect residential amenity, such as noise, vibration, blasting, and air quality.

As noted above, the proposed conditions rely on a large number of management plans being certified. While the Forum understands why this approach is used, residents are concerned that even the management plans certified by the Waihi North Expert Panel could later be changed without further involvement of the community.

While management plans provide OceanaGold NZ with operational flexibility, this should not come at the cost of certainty and enforceability for residents. The current process appears to allow amendments without assessing whether they might increase effects on local residents. The Forum therefore asks that the Panel ensure any future amendments to certified management plans are explicitly reviewed in terms of their potential effects on residents.

The Forum also notes that Condition C4 includes an 'Advice Note' stating that "amendments should be consistent with the objectives in the approved management plan". Because advice notes are not enforceable, the Forum believes this provision should instead be included as a condition to provide the community with greater certainty and protection.

Planting Plans

The Forum refers to the Ecology and Landscape Management Plan for the WNP and supports the plan. The Forum acknowledges that aspects of the WNP will have an impact on the visual amenity of residents and requests that screen and buffer planting of fast-growing natives occur in the first instance, if not immediately, so that buffers are created and have time to grow well before works commence, thereby reducing the visual impact of mining activity on residents.

Blasting Times

The Forum is concerned that, in this application, there are no scheduled blasting times for the GOP, Borrow Pit, Willows Access Tunnel and the WUG production blasting.

With current mining operations in Waihi, OceanaGold Waihi (OGW) conducts production blasting during the following windows: 7:00 am - 8:00 am, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm. These windows work well as residents in Waihi know when to expect the blasts. It has been raised that the effects of random blasting may cause distress among residents, particularly those living near areas where production or tunnel blasting will occur.

The Forum requests that 'blasting windows,' similar to those above, be a Condition.

Air Quality Effects

The Forum notes that OceanaGold NZ plans to reduce the effects of dust by doing the following:

- Watering haul roads where required.
- Vehicle and equipment maintenance programme.
- Dust collectors and filters on drill rigs.
- Keeping stockpiles low, so the wind is less likely to spread dust.
- Optimal blasting techniques, using quality blasting compounds and blast-hole stemming.
- Planting pasture to cover long-term stockpiles.
- Establishing conservative speed limits around the site and having sealed high-use roads.
- Washing vehicles before leaving the site to travel on public roads.

The Forum supports these plans as Conditions.

Light Pollution

Residents have raised concerns about the lighting outside of daylight hours for the establishment of the Gladstone Open Pit, Willows Road area, and potentially the NRS and TSF3.

The Forum understands that this is necessary and requests that a condition be set to ensure that light spill is minimised and a planting screen is used where possible, to protect the amenity of nearby residents.

Helicopter Flight Path

The Forum appreciates that OceanaGold Waihi has addressed concerns about helicopter flight paths and noise by using a different flight path and by flying at a significantly higher altitude than before.

Residents have also expressed concern about the noise's impact on livestock and request that flight times be limited to between 7:30 am and 8:00 pm. The Forum would like to see resident-friendly restrictions on height, direction and time, included as Conditions for the WNP.

The Height of the Northern Rock Stack (NRS)

The Forum understands that the NRS of the Waihi North Project will be built up to a maximum height of 85 meters. The Forum has received several concerns from residents regarding the height of this rock stack and its impact on the natural topography of the land during the NRS construction.

Gladstone Open Pit (GOP)

Concerns have been raised by residents about the necessity of the GOP altogether, and this part of the WNP has received the most feedback from residents.

Concerns include potential property damage, noise, and vibration, as well as impacts on amenity, and, most importantly, loss of the natural topography of the land.

Local Employment

The Forum notes that

- The annual average unemployment rate in the Hauraki District was 5.6% in the year to March 2025, up from 4.6% in the previous 12 months.
- The annual average unemployment rate in Hauraki District was higher than in New Zealand (4.9%) (Infometrics)
- Jobseeker support recipients in Hauraki District in the year to March 2025 increased by 6.2% compared to a year earlier.
- Growth was lower than in New Zealand (12.6%), and an average of 896 people were receiving a Jobseeker Support benefit in Hauraki District in the 12 months ending March 2025. This compares with the ten-year annual average of 788.
- Waihi and the surrounding area has lower levels of education and qualifications compared to the regional and national averages.

The Forum views the WNP as an opportunity to improve these statistics by entering into contract agreements with contractors to employ local labour, as mentioned in the Social Impact Assessment (SIA).

The Forum also supports the SIA's suggestion to develop and maintain a Skills Development and Training Action Plan for the WNP, including training on Heavy Vehicle Licensing. This aligns Hauraki District Council's Manaaki Toiora Strategy's priority of 'growing skills and the local workforce'.

Top-Up Scheme

This scheme was designed to mitigate distortions in the property market resulting from adverse perceptions of mining effects. It also encourages ongoing private ownership.

The scheme involves paying the purchaser of a property the difference between their offer and the market value of the purchased property, as determined by two separate independent valuations.

The Forum understands that OceanaGold NZ will implement a Top-Up scheme for the properties identified in the WNP assessment. The Forum supports this scheme as a condition and further requests that residents outside the proposed Top-Up scheme area, but who may also be affected, such as resident Mary O'Donoghue, be able to apply to the scheme. Determining who is 'clearly affected' will require a clear and robust set of parameters. The Forum suggests it could engage the services of its Independent Review Panel, currently charged with Property Purchases in the

Correnso Underground Mine area, to determine whether a resident outside the proposed area is clearly affected, based on the set parameters.

The Amenity Effect Programme (AEP)

The AEP aims to offset a perceived loss of amenity. It is voluntary for Martha operations, but is mandatory for Correnso and any other CEPA operations.

The Forum would like to see this scheme included in the Conditions for the WNP as a mandatory requirement.

The Waihi Community Forum Streets Ahead Scheme

Whilst the Forum notes support from some residents for the WNP, it also acknowledges some residents' concerns about how the project will impact the existing community and well-being in Waihi.

Over the past 12 years that the Forum has been in existence, it has managed a 'Streets Ahead' scheme, which initially received funding from Newmont Waihi (the original Correnso Consent holder).

The Forum has used the fund to enhance the area where mining operations occur, including 'Home Improvement' grants, a new playground at Waihi East School, murals, 3x3 Basketball courts, hoops, and shelters, and, most recently, as seed funding for a new International-standard Pump Track at Morgan Park.

The Forum would like to continue working on the Outdoor Recreation Hub and enhance other amenities in the Waihi area. The Forum suggests that OceanaGold Waihi contributes annually to the Streets Ahead fund, so that the Forum (which has now become a Charitable Trust) can use any funding as seed-funding and continue to improve the area and well-being of the community where mining takes place. The Forum will be addressing Central Government separately to request that a portion of mining royalties also be returned to the community.

Thank you for taking the time to read the Forum's comments.

Kind regards

Belinda Burke

Chair, Waihi Community Forum

Appendix B – Comment from Katherine Lucas, resident, Waihi, 25th August 2025

To the members of the Waihi North Expert Panel via the Waihi Community Forum

Post-Mining issues

- Economic Report

The economic report by Shamubeel Eaquib doesn't really look at what happens economically after mining ends. Instead, it compares the Waihi North Project with the mine closing in 2032 and points out that the project extends the benefits. That's fair enough, but it doesn't deal with the bigger question: what happens after WNP finishes.

- The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan

Section 2, Closure Concepts and Overview, displays the Integrated Mine Closure diagram from the ICMG Guidelines, Figure 5, no page number. The diagram gives seven social impacts that a mine closure will have on a community. These are Outward Migration, Reduced Social Services, Changing Local Economy, Indigenous Connections, Workforce Planning, Housing Demand and Scenario Planning.

Considering these factors the company could be asked to work with Council, central government and iwi on planning for the future of Waihi after mining. Clearly it is important to: start planning early, involve the community, look for new industries, help people retrain, make the most of heritage and the land, stabilise the housing and land market, and make sure funding is locked in. These factors ought to be a condition that the company has to do this planning, say in 10 years' time, so there is enough lead-in to manage the transition.

The draft consent conditions already have a requirement for a "Social Impact Management Plan". Maybe there could also be something like this added:

Post-Mining Transition and Community Resilience Plan

If/when approval for the Waihi North Project is granted, the company must work with Hauraki District Council, Waikato Regional Council, central government agencies, and tangata whenua / iwi authorities to prepare a plan for how the community will manage once mining ends.

The purpose of the plan would be to:

- Identify the likely social, cultural, economic and environmental effects of mine closure*
- Support a managed transition for workers, suppliers, and the Waihi community*
- Explore options for future land use that will benefit the Waihi community such as renewable energy or green waste to beneficial soil inputs.*
- Set out how funding, governance and monitoring will be organised to make it happen.*

A note regarding the Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan, it mentions the WNP or activity relating to, 6 times in the document and there are no maps showing TSF3, TSFGP or the NRS. Another

example Table 1, Rehabilitation Areas, doesn't include the areas for TSF3, TSFGP or the Northern Rock Stack which are relevant to this fast track plan application. [page 22 2.6, page 42 4.41, page 45 4.5, page 48 4.6.1.1.2, page 56 4.6.3 and Table 10 page 74.]

As the document does include mention the WNP do you take it this plan is the Mine Rehabilitation and Closure Plan for both the current mine areas and the WNP?

My sincere thanks for accepting my comments. I truly believe that the negative impacts on Waihi upon the modern mining withdrawal could be mitigated by our local body authorities and the mining company working together in the interest of a sustainable future for the citizens of Waihi.

Katherine Lucas

Resident, Waihi

Appendix C – Comment from Mary O’Donoghue, resident, Waihi, 25th August 2025

To the members of the Waihi North Expert Panel via the Waihi Community Forum

Please see attached documents – Mary O’Donoghue Comment 1, Comment 2, Comment 3 and Comment 4.

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited – Waihi North Project (WNP)

BACKGROUND

I own a Dairy Farm on the edge of Waihi with lovely rural views to the north of green hills and forest to the skyline. To the south the view isn't quite so pleasant, - mining activity, rock/dirt piles, etc.

My farm property adjoins land owned by Oceana Gold Ltd on two sides (south and east) and Waihi Whangamata Road (SH25) on the west.

I have been made aware that property owners, including my neighbours, have been "invited" to comment on the Fast Track application by Oceana Gold Waihi, however I have been omitted from this list for reasons unknown, so I have been forced to "comment" as part of Waihi Community Forum comments, who I am very grateful to.

I believe I fall into both Category 2 and 3 of the Fast Track minutes dated 28 July 2025:

FAST TRACK APPROVALS:

MINUTE 1 OF THE EXPERT PANEL Decision under section 53 of the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 inviting comments on substantive application. Waihi North [FTAA-2504-1046] 28 July 2025

...

[2] In determining what land is relevant for the purposes of s 53(2)(h) and (i), the Panel has treated land: (a) directly above proposed underground activities as "land to which the substantive application relates"; and (b) as adjacent to "land to which the substantive application relates" where the relevant title boundaries are contiguous or separated only by a road or watercourse.

[3] On the basis of the information currently available to it, the panel is of the view that the properties listed in appendix B, although not immediately adjacent to the "land to which the substantive application relates", are sufficiently exposed to the possible effects of the proposed activities to justify their owners and occupiers being invited to comment.

I am hugely impacted now by the mine's current exploration programme. It is greatly upsetting to me that I have been omitted from commenting directly and telling you how much the mine is affecting my life detrimentally.

If this mining project goes ahead, it has the potential to make my farm property worthless so I think I am majorly affected.

I am currently affected on a daily basis by the mine helicopter flying constantly overhead from sunrise to sunset, the sound of heavy machinery operating, spotlights and dust. Until recently I have had lovely rural views of green grass and trees. Now it is rock piles & machinery. This will only get a lot worse if the Waihi North project goes ahead. I have attached photos of views from my property.

WHAREKIRAUPONGA UNDERGROUND MINE AND WILLOWS ROAD FARM

OceanaGold have been exploring this area for a number of years.

Willows Road property was a productive Dairy Farm until purchased by OGL.

It is the proposed location of a Surface portal from WKP Underground mine and associated surface facilities. A portal entrance, waste rock storage and surface facilities servicing the underground mine, located on OceanaGold's private land at the end of Willows Road.

From my home I look directly across at this site. My view of rural paddocks, hills & trees is going to be greatly altered. I will also potentially be affected by dust, noise (machinery and traffic), lighting etc. When OGL had exploration rigs onsite huge spotlights were shining into my home so I know that building the proposed facilities will be greatly disruptive to my life.

As well as a change in landscape from greenery to rock piles and buildings it will take away the natural character of my rural views. The glare from lighting has the potential to affect my view at night. I am used to a Dark Sky outlook and this will change. When OGL were doing exploration on Willows Road property (where they are planning to site surface facilities) lights were shining towards my home. There will also be a sense of a loss of privacy as surface facilities will look down on my home.

As this area is planned to be worked 24/7 I think that there needs to be many restrictions and conditions on activities especially outside usual work hours of 8am to 5pm.

WATER

Water is such an unknown natural resource. There are lots of natural underground springs and streams/creeks and no one knows which way they go or where.

OGL want to take ground water which has the potential to affect the water take from my Bore.

We are also in a High Rainfall area so there is a high chance of potential water contamination.

Water take for Rural Domestic supply, Farm Dairy Sheds and Stock water are a Permitted Activity with Waikato Regional Council and no specific consent is required. It was noted in the application that there are no Resource Consents held in Willows Road area for Water Takes, however no Resource Consents are required for Farms and Domestic use.

I request a guarantee that OGL will compensate me if my water was affected by their mining, dewatering, and/or exploration activities.

My property also borders the Ohinemuri River, which is a beautiful clean river. Mining activity has the potential to contaminate this river. I request that the panel ensure that the risks of contamination are eliminated.

NORTHERN ROCK STACK AND CONVEYOR SYSTEM

My property looks directly at this area. I will be affected by dust and noise as a minimum. Also the changes to landscape and my outlook.

RIPARIAN PLANTING ALONG OHINEMURI RIVER

My property is adjacent to land that is part of this application.

MAP C10 - Mitigation planting (riparian) shows a planting plan with proposed riparian planting located on my land.

I haven't seen this plan before and it obviously hasn't been discussed with me. No consent to enter my property has been requested. OGL have owned the land beside me (between SH25 and Barry Road) for many, many years and have made no attempt to fence river area or plant anything. Now because it will help their consent process they have included it in their plan.

I request that the proposed riparian planting not be located on my land without my agreement and the payment of compensation.

HELICOPTER

I currently have to endure constant Helicopter noise from multiple daily flights over my property, from the Baxter Road site to WKP exploration site from sunrise to sunset 7 days a week.

OGL want the ability to host up to 4 helipads (2 existing and 2 new) for up to 200 hours (currently 100 hours) of helicopter activity in total per month.

This is a lot of flight time – 6.6 hours/day over a month if allowed every day or 10 hours/day if restricted to Monday to Friday. This seems excessive.

A new helipad on Willows Road property will only add to the noise & loss of privacy for me. I live on a farm and not next to an airport although some days it feels like it.

I request that the helicopter flights be limited to the current 100 hours per month and flights restricted to Monday to Friday between the hours of 8am to 5pm, and no flights on Public Holidays. Flight path is to avoid residential properties by 3km.

B.54-Boffa-Miskell-Landscape-Character-Visual-Effects-Assessment

Attached are some photos of mine site from my home.

I look directly at proposed Willows Road Surface Facilities area, as well as other OGL mine facilities. I note from Documents attached to application that NO photos have been taken from private land. All have been taken from roads or public land.

No account has been made for the visual effects on my view or the changes being made to the landscape or the topography of the land. I already contend with noise, dust, and reduced privacy with existing operations. My view of rural paddocks, hills & trees is going to be greatly altered and potentially complete change of the rural character from my property.

The selected viewpoints understate the level of visual effects:

- Simulation Viewpoint VS6: If photo had been taken further south on SH25 then it would show more of what I get to look at from a different position.
- Simulation Viewpoint VS15: Again if this photo was taken further north from my property it would show my direct view of conveyor belt and rock and dirt piles from my elevated position.

I believe these effects will be high and I request that they be fully assessed and reported to the panel as part of the Boffa Miskell assessment.

GENERAL COMMENTS

OGL Royalties need to go back into local community – yes OGL give grants, but amounts are minimal compared to Company profits.

Many staff don't live in the Waihi Township so their personal spending doesn't go back into Waihi economy. Some live at Waihi Beach (Western Bay Council) or the greater Waikato area. OGL bring in a lot of specialist staff from overseas on short term work contracts.

I think it is unfair for lay people to have to read and understand all the information in the application by OGL in such a limited time frame, absorb it and comment on it without specialist help. The community will need help to comment on the conditions when they come out. We don't have the financial or technical resources to do this on our own.

Again, it is greatly upsetting to me that I have been omitted from commenting directly and telling you how much the mine is affecting my life detrimentally. I think there will be other people living in the community and property owners who have also missed out on the opportunity of commenting and aren't aware of the planned scale of mining operations. Unlike other fast track projects which might have more confined and short term impacts, this one will have widespread and ongoing impact on the entire Waihi community.

My property may be devalued with having mining operations next door and potential expansion takes away options from me like subdivision.

I also don't think that operations should be 24/7 especially activities on the surface areas.

Finally as Shane Jones MP recently said, any of these Fast Track Applications will need "Guard Rails" and personally I think that this project needs many, many Guard Rails.

22 AUGUST 2025

MARY O'DONOGHUE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PROJECT MAP Showing my property in relation to OGL land

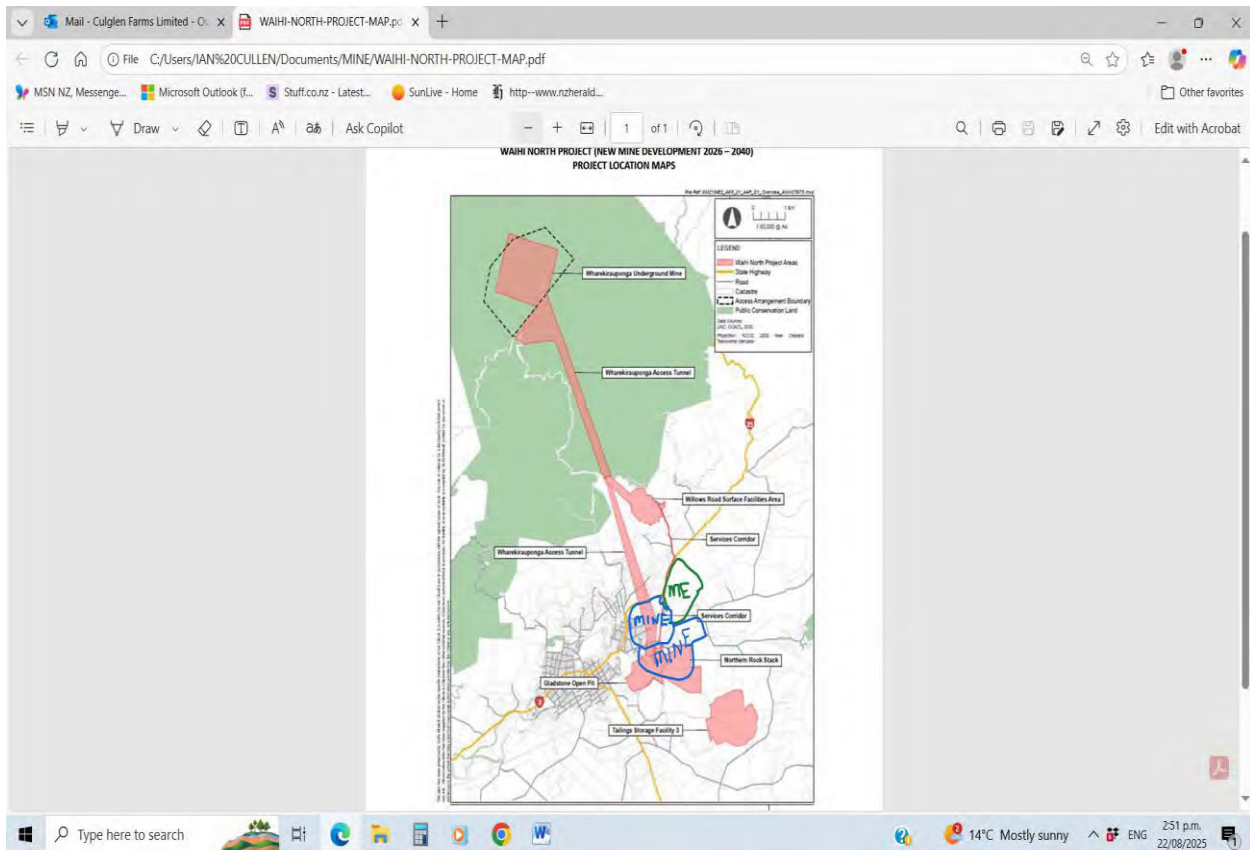
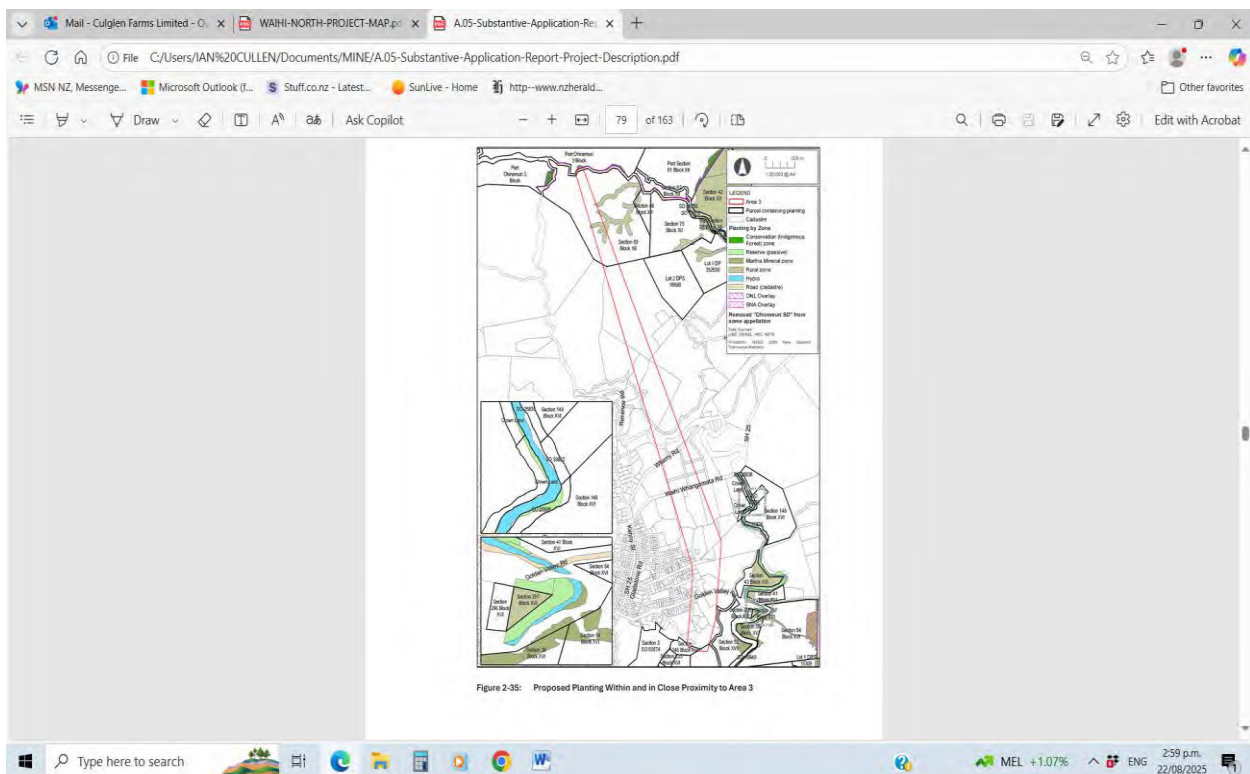


FIGURE 2-35 Showing Ohinemuri River and Planting Plan. My property is along right side of river



WAIHI NORTH PROJECT (NEW MINE DEVELOPMENT 2026 – 2040) PROJECT LOCATION MAPS

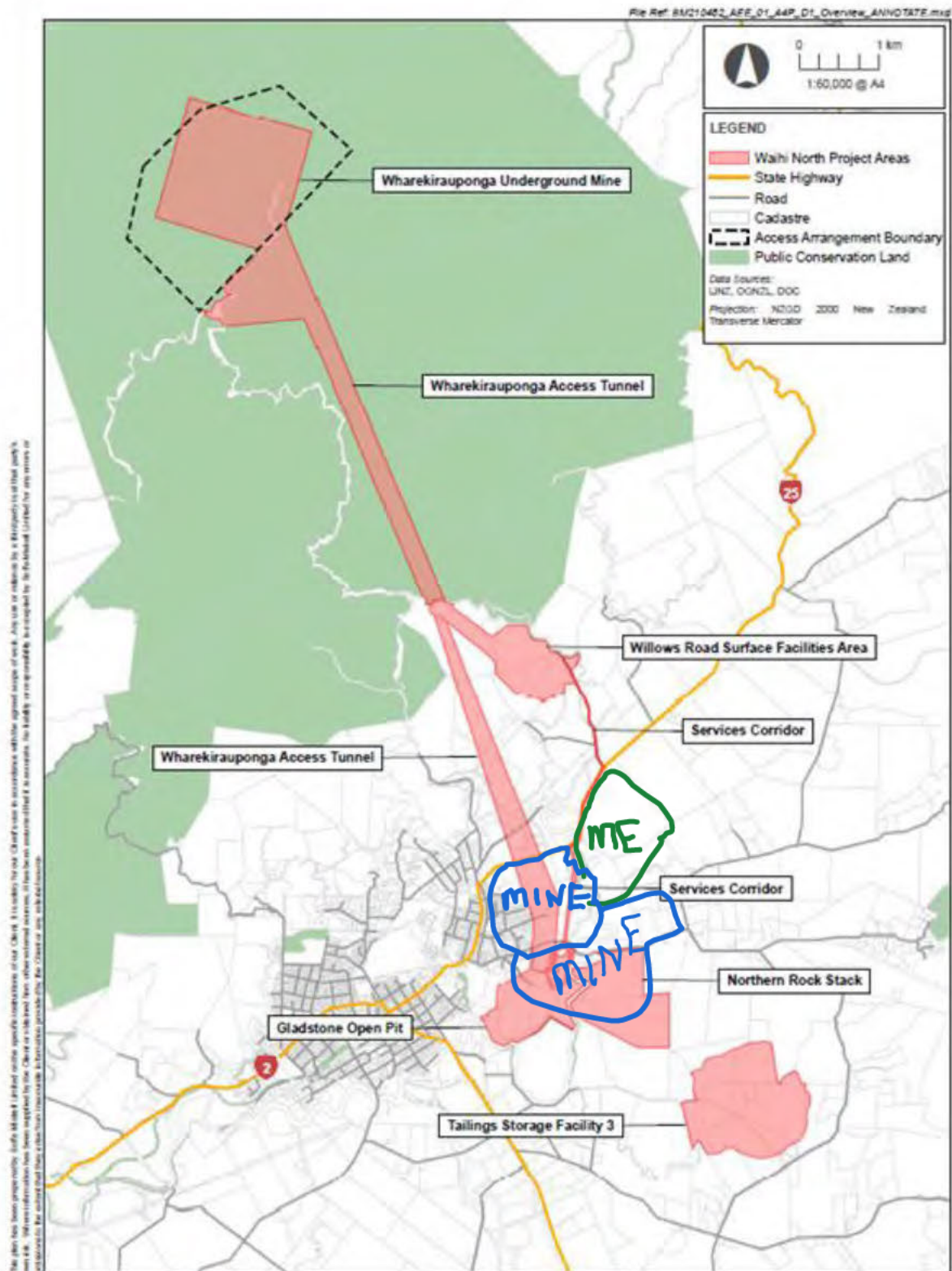


Figure 1

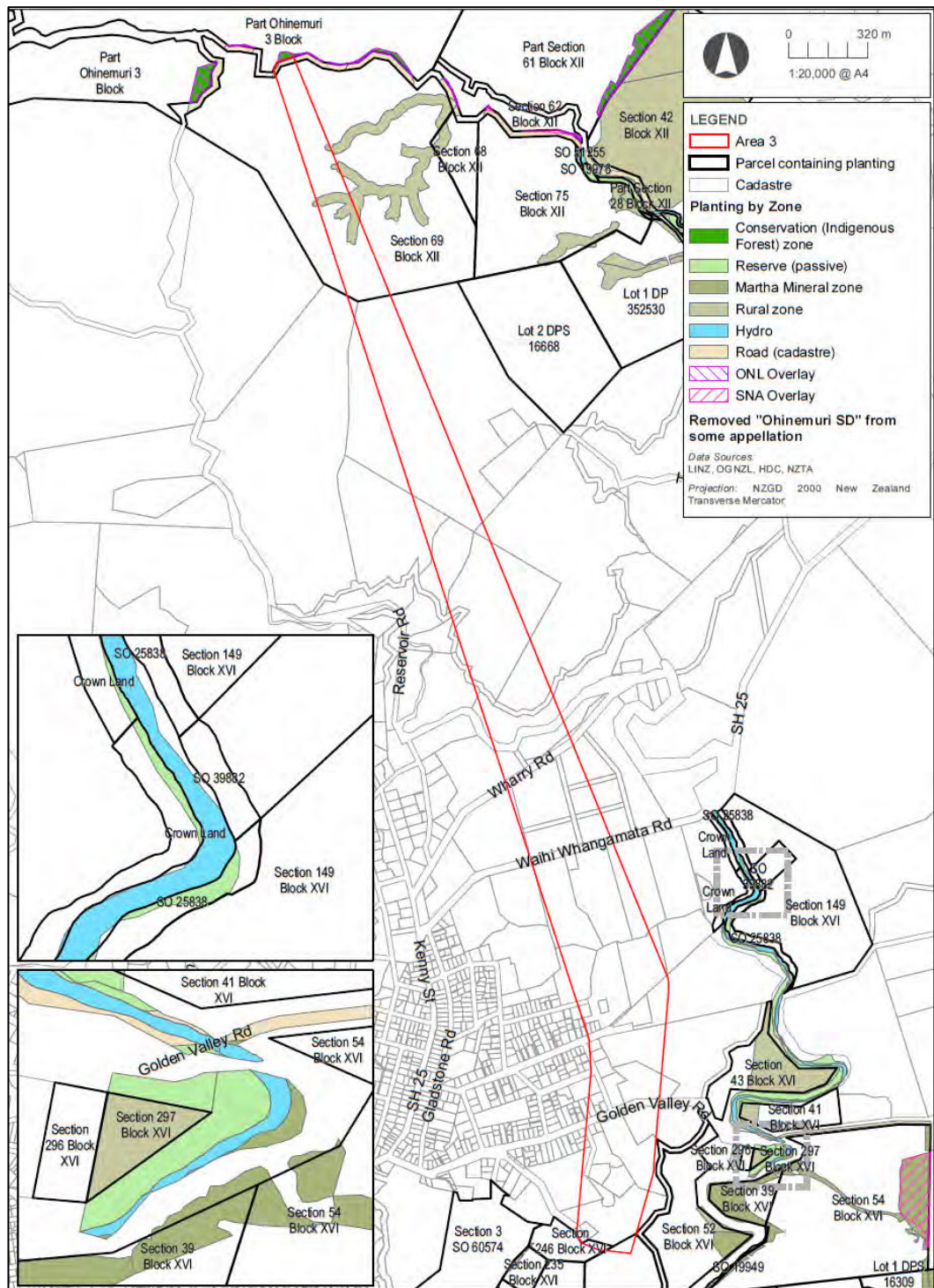
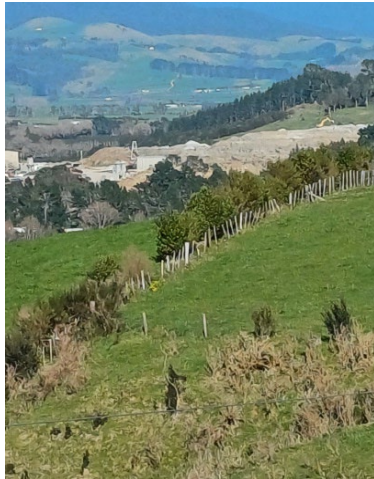
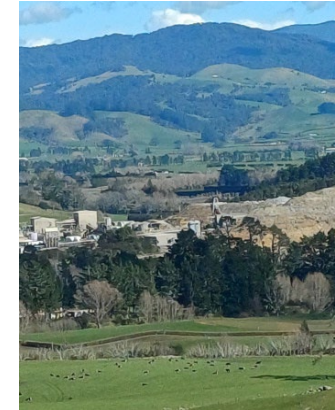


Figure 2-35: Proposed Planting Within and in Close Proximity to Area 3

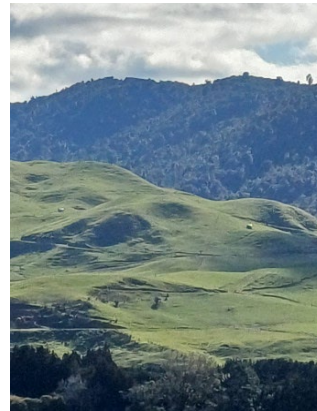
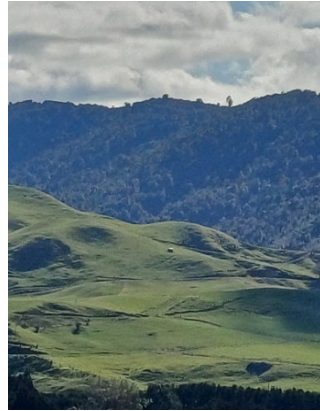




VIEW TOWARD PROCESSING PLANT



VIEW TOWARDS EXISTING
UNDERGROUND ROCK STACK



VIEW TOWARDS WILLOW ROAD SITE

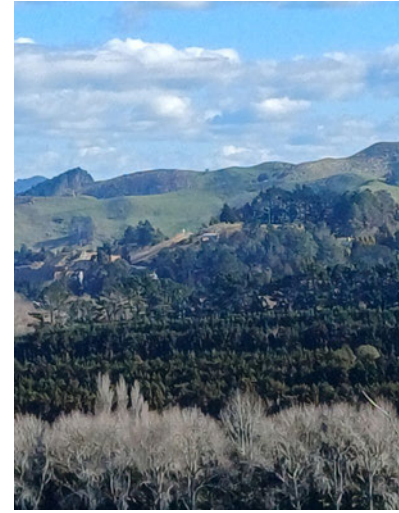
**Tank is where Surface facilities plan to be located



TAILINGS DAM
PROCESSING PLANT



VIEW TOWARDS ROCK STACK



VIEW TOWARDS MARTHA PIT



ROCK AND DIRT PILES

