

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

MACRAES PHASE FOUR (MP4)

**Aquatic Environmental Effects -
Ecology**

Evidence of **Annabelle Julia Coates**
Regarding Technical Assessment of
Aquatic Environmental Effects
(Ecology) and Proposed Conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Annabelle Julia Coates.
2. My role in relation to Macraes Phase 4 (“**MP4**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to effects of proposed works on streams, specifically ecological values. I am a co-author of the Assessment of Aquatic Environmental Effects (“**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. The findings are set out in full in the Assessment of Aquatic Environmental Effects 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 a Bachelor of Science, completed in 2010 and a Master of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Canterbury, completed in 2013.
8. I am a full member of the Environmental Institute of Australia and New Zealand and am a Certified Environmental Practitioner (CEnvP).
9. I have approximately 13 years’ experience as a consultant ecologist.
10. I am currently employed as a senior ecologist at Viridis Limited and have held that position since February 2023.

11. My previous work experience includes conducting freshwater, terrestrial and coastal ecological impact assessments for both urban and rural developments, as well as ecological restoration and monitoring. I am part of the team that undertakes annual biological monitoring at OGNZL's Macraes mine (since February 2025) and Reefton mine (since February 2019). I have provided ecological input—such as reporting and reviewing—for projects approved under the COVID-19 Recovery (Fast-track Consenting) Act 2020, and for projects currently undergoing assessment under the Fast Track Approvals Act (2024).
12. 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 6 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 surface and groundwater technical assessment prepared by GHD Limited;
 - (d) The Golden Point Underground Extension - Mine Subsidence Assessment prepared by PSM Limited;
 - (e) Erosion and sediment control plans prepared by Engineering Geology Limited; and
 - (f) The Environment Institute for Australia and New Zealand Ecological Impact Assessment Guidelines.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

13. I confirm that in my opinion the Report contains an accurate and appropriate description of the environment, the actual and potential effects of MP4, and the recommended actions to manage those effects within my area of expertise.
14. 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.

15. 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.



Annabelle Julia Coates

Dated this **3** day of **September** 2026