

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

MACRAES PHASE FOUR (MP4)

Air Quality

Evidence of **Richard Leslie Chilton**
Regarding Technical Assessment of **Air**
Quality Effects and Proposed
Conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is **Richard Leslie Chilton**.
2. My role in relation to Macraes Phase 4 (“**MP4**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to **air quality effects**. I wrote the **air quality assessment report** (“**the Report**”) which is provided within *Part B – Technical Reports*.
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 **Macraes Phase 4 Project Air Quality Assessment** 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

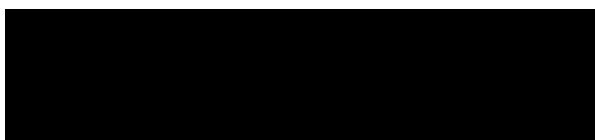
7. I hold the qualification of Bachelor of Science (Geography) and Master of Environmental Science, both from the University of Canterbury. I am a member of the Clean Air Society of Australia and New Zealand (CASANZ) and a Certified Air Quality Professional (CAQP). I am also certified as an independent Hearings Commissioner under a programme operated for the New Zealand Ministry for the Environment.
8. I am currently employed by Tonkin & Taylor Limited (T+T), where I hold the position of Technical Director – Air Quality, which I have held since 2021.

9. I have 27 years' experience in air quality assessment and management. I have undertaken air quality assessments for a wide variety of industrial processes, waste management activities, transport infrastructure, intensive livestock farms, quarries and mining operations in New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Fiji.
10. Example projects that I have been involved with include the following:
 - a. Wimmera Mineral Sands (Iluka Resources Limited, Australia, 2025): I am the technical air quality lead in the ongoing preparation of an air quality technical assessment to support an Environmental Effects Statement in relation to the proposed Wimmera Mineral Sands mining operation.
 - b. Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited - Waihi North Project (2024–2025): I was responsible for providing advice in relation to air quality effects. This included undertaking a technical review of the air quality assessments prepared by another consultant for the project, and assessing mine vent air discharges to inform an ecological effects assessment.
 - c. Technical review of Fosterville Gold Mine expansion (Greater Bendigo City Council, Australia, 2024): I completed technical reviews of the air quality assessment and relevant management plans to assist in informing the Council's submission, participated in expert caucusing and presented expert evidence to the Inquiry Hearing Panel.
 - d. Yaldhurst quarry expansions (Road Metals, 2006–2024): I prepared air quality assessments for five projects expanding Road Metals Limited's Yaldhurst quarries, assessing the effect of each expansion on surrounding sensitive receptors. On each occasion I prepared and presented expert evidence to a joint council hearing.
 - e. Lyttelton Port Coal Stockyard (Lyttelton Port Company, 2002–2023): I prepared an air quality assessment and dust management plan for the application by Lyttelton Port Company in relation to the consenting of its Coal Stockyard (2019–2023) for the export of coking coal. I participated in community consultation and iwi engagement and provided expert evidence to the hearing panel.
 - f. Mangatangi Coal Mine (Glen Coal Limited, 2013): I was the technical air quality lead responsible for undertaking an air quality assessment for a proposed new coal mine operation in the Waikato Region of New Zealand. I participated in community consultation and presented expert evidence at the joint Waikato District and Regional Council hearing considering the application.
11. In providing this evidence, I have considered the following matters as relevant to air quality effects:

- (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; and
- (c) The Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) for the Macraes site dated August 2026, which I have been responsible for updating.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

- 12. 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.
- 13. 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.
- 14. 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.



Richard Chilton

Dated this 4th day of September 2026