

12 APPROVALS RELATING TO THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

12.1 INTRODUCTION

In assessing applications, panels are required to give the greatest weight to the purpose of the FTAA, which is “*to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits*”. Section 81(4) of the FTAA states that, when taking into account the purpose of the FTAA, the panel must consider the extent of the Project’s regional or national benefits. The FTAA introduces a consenting and permitting regime that consolidates and adjusts several existing regulatory statutes and regulations to enable the proponents of projects with significant regional or national benefits to go through one process to obtain the necessary approvals for the Project. Where a substantive application is made, the approval process set out in the FTAA applies instead of the processes provided for under other legislation.¹⁰²

Section 43(3)(a) of the FTAA states that the requirements specific to resource consent approvals are set out in Schedule 5, clauses 5-9 of the FTAA. This includes:

- > **A description of the proposed activity, including a description and map of the proposed location:**

This is addressed in **Part A.06** of this report.

- > **Confirmation that the application complies with Section 46 (2)(a), (b), and (d) of the FTAA:**

In accordance with Section 46 of the FTAA,¹⁰³ the application:

- > Has been developed to adhere to the requirements of Section 42 of the FTAA;¹⁰⁴
- > Includes all the information listed in Section 43 of the FTAA, and is specified in sufficient detail to satisfy the purpose for which it is required in accordance with Section 44 of the FTAA;
- > Is for a listed project;¹⁰⁵ and

¹⁰² Section 40 of the Act.

¹⁰³ Section 46 of the Act sets out the steps by the EPA after the substantive application is lodged.

¹⁰⁴ Section 46 (2)(a)(i) & (ii) of the Act.

¹⁰⁵ Section 46 (2)(b) of the Act.



- > OGNZL has paid the levy and application fee and the remittance advice is provided in **A.00** of this report [Cover Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency].¹⁰⁶
- > **The full name and address of each owner of the site and of land adjacent to the site, and each occupier of the site and of land adjacent to the site whom the applicant is unable to identify after reasonable inquiry:**
 - > This is addressed in **Part J** of this substantive application.
- > **A description of any other activities that are part of the proposal to which the consent application relates:**

Part A.06 of this report contains a detailed description of all aspects of MP4.
- > **A description of any other resource consents, notices of requirement for designations, or alterations to designations required for the project to which the consent application relates:**

This information is addressed in **Part A.07** of this report, and **Part F.01** and **F.02** of this substantive application.
- > **An assessment of the activity against Sections 5, 6 and 7 of the RMA;**

An assessment of the project against the purpose and principles of the RMA is set out in **Part A.12** of this report.
- > **An assessment of the activity against any relevant provisions of the following documents:**
 - > **A national environmental standard;**
 - > **Other regulations made under the RMA;**
 - > **A national policy statement;**
 - > **A regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement;**
 - > **A plan or proposed plan; and**
 - > **Iwi management plans.**

The project is assessed against the provisions of these documents in Sections 12.3 of this report.
- > **Information about Treaty settlements that apply in the area covered by the consent application:**

¹⁰⁶ Section 46 (2)(d) of the FTAA.



Information about applicable Treaty settlements is included in **Part A.05** of this report.

- > **A list of any relevant customary marine title groups, protected customary rights groups, or applicants under the Marine and Coastal Area (Takutai Moana) Act 2011:**

Not applicable.

- > **The conditions that the applicant proposes:**

A suite of proposed conditions is included in **Part D** of this this substantive application.

- > **A copy of the notice required under Section 30 of the FTAA:**

A copy of the letter from ORC is included in **Part G.03** of this substantive application.

- > **An assessment of the activity's effects on the environment:**

Part A.09 of this report, and the technical assessments provided in **Part B** of this substantive application, provide a comprehensive assessment of MP4's effects on the environment.

- > **If a permitted activity is part of the proposal to which the consent application relates, a description that demonstrates that the activity complies with the requirements, conditions, and permissions for the permitted activity (so that a resource consent is not required for that activity under the RMA):**

A detailed rules assessment for approvals required under the RMA, which includes an assessment of all the relevant permitted activities, is provided in **Part I** to this substantive application.

In addition, an application for the change or cancellation of a condition must include the same information as required by clauses 5 to 9, and those clauses apply as if references to:

- > **A resource consent where references to the change or cancellation of a condition; and**
- > **An activity were references to the effects of the change or cancellation of the condition.**

The above assessment of clauses 5 to 9 are also relevant for the change or cancellation of a condition.

Of relevance to assessing the statutory requirements, Schedule 5, clause 5(1)(g) and 5(1)(h) requires that an application for resource consent includes an assessment of the activity against sections 5, 6, and 7 of the RMA and any relevant provisions in;

- > A national environmental standard;



- > Other regulations made under the RMA;
- > A national policy statement;
- > A New Zealand coastal policy statement;
- > A regional policy statement or proposed regional policy statement;
- > A plan or proposed plan; and
- > A planning document recognised by a relevant iwi authority and lodged with a local authority.

Schedule 5, clause 17 specifies matters that a panel must consider for assessment of resource consent applications including:

- > The purpose of the RMA; and
- > The provisions of Parts 2 (sections 5, 6, and 7 only), 3, 6, 8, 9, 10 as they direct decision making (but excluding section 104D).

All statutory provisions referenced above, that are relevant to the consideration of this application, are assessed below.

12.2 PART 2 OF THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACT 1991

12.2.1 Overview

Pursuant to Schedule 5, clause 5(1)(g) of the FTAA, the requirement to assess an application for resource consent against Part 2 of the RMA is limited to sections 5, 6 and 7 (with section 8 of the RMA being excluded).

It is important to note that while promoting sustainable management is the purpose and focus of sections 5, 6 and 7 of the RMA, that is not the purpose of the FTAA, and sustainable management considerations must be given less weight in the Panel's evaluation than facilitating the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.¹⁰⁷

The Panel must 'take into account' Part 2 (purpose and principles), Part 3 (duties and restrictions under the RMA) and Part 6 (resource consents) as well as Parts 8-10 of the RMA, while giving the greatest weight to the purpose of the FTAA.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁷ Schedule 5, Clause 17 (1)(a) of the Act.

¹⁰⁸ Schedule 5, Clause 17 (1)(b) of the Act.



12.2.2 Section 5 of the RMA

MP4 aligns with the purpose of the RMA by promoting the sustainable management of natural and physical resources, particularly by enabling social and economic wellbeing. The recovery of approximately 130,000 ounces of gold per annum will sustain employment, generate economic returns, and support the continued use of existing mining infrastructure for local, regional and national benefits. By extending the life of the Macraes Operation beyond the anticipated decline in production from 2027–2028, MP4 provides continuity for the local workforce and community, consistent with section 5(2) of the FTAA.

When considering the environmental mitigations and substantial compensation proposed as part of MP4 in its entirety, the Project will safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil and ecosystems.

In relation to section 5(2)(a) and (b), MP4 maximises recovery of an existing mineral resource within an already developed environment, avoiding unnecessary additional disturbance and promoting efficient resource use. The proposal incorporates additional environmental controls within an established management framework, supporting the safeguarding of the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems.

The avoidance, remediation or mitigation of adverse effects does not require that there be no residual effects on the environment. Instead, section 5(2)(c) of the RMA contemplates adverse effects, the acceptability of which depend on and need to be assessed in the context of each application. As noted in this report, some residual effects on indigenous vegetation, avifauna, lizards and wetlands cannot be avoided. A significant compensation package is proposed, comprising large-scale habitat restoration and enhancement, predator and browser control, pest-exclusion fencing, wetland and freshwater habitat restoration, indigenous revegetation, and the long-term protection and management of significant ecological areas. Collectively, these measures are intended to secure enduring biodiversity gains at a landscape scale and provide compensation for residual effects that cannot be fully avoided within the MP4 footprint.

Part A.06 and **Part A.07** of this report outline the measures proposed by OGNZL to manage effects on the environment and on people's wellbeing in accordance with section 5 of the RMA, with associated conditions set out in **Part D** of this substantive application.

12.2.3 Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA

Sections 6 and 7 of the RMA refers to matters of national importance and the following matters are relevant:



- > Section 6(e), section 7(a) and (aa) of the RMA are all relevant to MP4 and OGNZL has been engaging with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Kā Rūnaka for the region, being Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, who represent mana whenua interests with respect to MP4;
- > A CIA is being prepared by Aukaha on behalf of the Kā Rūnaka to understand any actual and potential effects at Macraes Operation and surrounding areas, which is also relevant to section 6(e), section 7(a) and (aa) of the RMA. In the meantime, assessment based on the 2025 CIA for the Macraes Operation and the provisions of the relevant iwi management plan (Kāi Tahu Ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005) and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 indicates that the project would not be inconsistent with section 6(e), section 7(a) and 7(aa) of the RMA;
- > MP4 is not “inappropriate” in the context of section 6(a) or (b) of the RMA. Natural character values will be enhanced by progressive rehabilitation and recontouring of disturbed landforms, revegetation with pasture, tussock and native riparian species, stream reinstatement and ecological enhancement, and the implementation of sediment and water management systems that maintain hydrological function. These measures will progressively restore natural processes and ecological values over time, while consolidating disturbance within existing mining areas and reducing the long-term visual and environmental footprint of mining activities. The Macraes Operation is not within or near an outstanding natural feature or landscape, but is within a mining zone where mining effects are anticipated;
- > OGNZL has carefully considered the appropriate methods and approaches to avoid, remedy and mitigate any adverse effects on significant indigenous biodiversity and habitats where practicable, in accordance with section 6(c) of the RMA;
- > An Archaeological Authority is being sought for the destruction of a number of archaeological sites. None of these sites are identified in the Operative WDP, Proposed WDP, or 2GP as having significant historic values, and no sites of Māori heritage have been identified within the Macraes Operation. In addition, OGNZL will implement site-specific management plans for identified archaeological sites and apply accidental discovery protocols should previously unidentified archaeological material be encountered during works. Therefore, MP4 is not considered “inappropriate” and is generally in accordance with section 6(f) and section 6(e);
- > Consideration has been given to the management of significant risks from natural hazards in the technical assessments commissioned by OGNZL, and it is considered that there are appropriate factors of safety in the design of the various elements of MP4 (section 6(h));

- > Amenity values of the Macraes Operation, and broader areas adjacent to the site, will be maintained by progressively rehabilitating disturbed areas and designing landforms, planting, and works to blend with the surrounding landscape and existing mining footprint. Construction impacts will be managed by minimising disturbance and restoring natural character through revegetation and riparian enhancement. (section 7(c));
- > Potential effects on ecosystems, including freshwater and terrestrial ecology, are described in **Part A.06** of this report (section 7(d)). The assessment identifies effects on the intrinsic values of indigenous ecosystems and outlines a comprehensive package of avoidance, remediation, mitigation, restoration and enhancement measures. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, biodiversity compensation has been proposed to address residual effects;
- > MP4 will not adversely affect the habitats of trout and salmon (section 7(h)); and
- > The effects of climate change have been considered throughout this report and in the various technical reports, attached in **Part B** of this substantive application. MP4 will not exacerbate any risks associated with climate change (section 7(i)).

12.2.4 Section 8 of the RMA

While not required under the FTAA, consideration has been given to section 8 of the RMA, which relates to the Treaty of Waitangi. For completeness it is noted that OGNZL is not a “*person exercising functions and powers under the RMA*” for the purpose of MP4. That said, OGNZL is undertaking engagement with iwi in good faith and in a manner that reflects the scale and significance of the proposal. As described in earlier sections of this substantive application, MP4 was originally sought under the RMA before seeking to be a listed application under the FTAA. Multiple issues were raised by Kā Rūnaka during the RMA process and OGNZL have been working with mana whenua to resolve these issues. For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 aligns with section 8 of the RMA and have undertaken engagement with iwi in good faith.

12.3 RELEVANT PLANNING DOCUMENTS

12.3.1 Overview

Clauses 5(1)(h) and 5(2) of Schedule 5 of the FTAA require the Project to be assessed against relevant RMA planning documents. This assessment must specifically address any applicable objectives and policies relevant to MP4 (with rules considered separately in **Part A.07** of this report and **Part I** of this this substantive application). The statutory planning documents that are relevant to the MP4 are:



- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations 2020 (“**NES-F**”);
- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Air Quality) Regulations 2011 (“**NES-AQ**”);
- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants to Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011 (“**NES-CS**”);
- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Sources of Human Drinking Water) Regulations 2007 (“**NES-DW**”);
- > Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting Water Takes) Regulations 2010 (“**Water Take Regulations**”);
- > National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 (“**NPS-FM**”);
- > National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity 2023 (“**NPS-IB**”);
- > Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021 (“**RPS**”);
- > Regional Plan: Water for Otago (“**Otago Water Plan**”);
- > Regional Plan: Air for Otago (“**Otago Air Plan**”);
- > Regional Plan: Waste for Otago (“**Otago Waste Plan**”);
- > Operative Waitaki District Plan (“**Operative WDP**”);
- > Proposed Waitaki District Plan (“**Proposed WDP**”);
- > Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan (“**2GP**”); and
- > Kāi Tahu Ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005 (“**NRMP**”).

Each of these planning documents are considered in the following sections. As a preliminary point, it is noted that while these documents have been prepared with consideration of the RMA's sustainable management purpose, they do not directly inform the purpose of the FTAA. While the panel is required to consider these documents in their decision-making, the greatest weight is to be given to the purpose of the FTAA.

This section only considers relevant provisions of the above documents, and a full assessment of any actual or potential effects has been undertaken in **Part A.09** of this report. Further, conditions proposed by OGNZL to avoid, remedy and mitigate these adverse effects can be found in **Part D** of this substantive application.

For completeness, the following statutory planning documents are not considered relevant to MP4:

- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Electricity Transmission Activities) Regulations 2009 as these regulations are specific to high voltage electricity lines that were existing on 14 January 2010, and recent amendments introduce electric vehicle charging infrastructure which is also not relevant to MP4;
- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat) Regulations 2023. As mentioned above, MP4 does not involve the emission of greenhouse gases from heat devices;
- > Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Storing Tyres Outdoors) Regulations 2021 as no tyre storage is proposed as part of MP4;
- > National Policy Statement for Infrastructure 2025 because gold mining is not infrastructure as defined under the policy statement;
- > National Policy Statement for Natural Hazards 2025 because activities associated with MP4 are included in the National Planning Standards definition of primary production and primary production is excluded from the requirements of the policy statement;
- > National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat 2023 as MP4 does not involve the emission of greenhouse gases from heat devices;
- > National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land 2022 as the Macraes Operation is within a Special Purpose Zone specific to mining activities and is not in the rural or rural production zone, therefore the regulations of the policy statement do not apply;
- > National Policy Statement for Electricity Networks 2026 as MP4 does not involve any electricity transmission or distribution networks;
- > National Policy Statement for Renewable Energy Generation 2025 because there is no renewable electricity generation proposed as part of MP4;
- > National Policy Statement on Urban Development as MP4 does not involve urban development; and
- > The New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2010 does not apply to MP4 as the purpose of the NZCPS is to guide local authorities in their day-to-day management of the coastal environment.

Assessment of the Project against these documents will include consideration of any relevant provisions applicable to MP4. A summary of the approvals required is provided in **Part A.07** of this report, including consent requirements under the relevant National Environmental Standards, District Plans, and Regional Plans. A detailed rule assessment is contained in **Part I** of this substantive application.

12.3.2 National Environmental Standards for Freshwater

The NES-F came into effect on 3 September 2020 and was amended on 15 December 2025, with the new regulations coming into effect from 15 January 2026. The requirements in the NES-F operate as rules and set out requirements for carrying out activities that could pose risks to freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. The standards are designed to manage the protection of natural inland wetlands, protect streams from in-filling and maintain fish passage (among other things).

As described in **Part A.07** of this report, all MP4 activities requiring resource consent under the NES-F are discretionary activities. MP4 requires the following permits under the NES-F:

- > Land Use consent for the disturbance and reclamation of Trimbells Gully for the expansion of the Trimbells WRS;
- > Water permit for the passive take of groundwater in the Coronation Pit including drainage from horizontal drainage holes drilled in the pit walls;
- > Land Use consent for the disturbance and reclamation of the Clydesdale Creek Tributary for purpose of expanding the Golden Bar WRS;
- > Land use consent for culverts placement for the conveyance of surface water beneath access tracks or predator proof fencing in the MEEA, and associated stream bed disturbance; and
- > Water permit for the take and use groundwater associated with the capture of shallow seepage at the toe of WRSs by Seepage Capture Systems for use in the MWMS.

While the NES-F does not include objectives or policies for assessment, relevant freshwater objectives and policies are set out in the NPS-FM and other planning documents discussed later in this section.

The rule assessment for MP4 is provided in **Part I** of this substantive application. Further, a comprehensive assessment of the actual and potential adverse effects on freshwater associated with MP4 is provided in **Part A.06** of this report. OGNZL has proposed conditions to avoid, remedy, mitigate or compensate for these effects as set out in **Part D** of this substantive application. The conditions proposed mean that the MP4 activities can be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the NES-F.

12.3.3 National Environmental Standards for Air Quality

The NES-AQ came into effect in June 2011 and sets standards for the protection of health of New Zealanders. Among other things, the NES-AQ bans some discharges of toxins such as dioxins into the air and regulates other contaminant discharges (including fine particulates



(PM₁₀), sulphur dioxide (SO₂), carbon monoxide (CO) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂)) as well as setting standards for ambient (outdoor) air quality.

The NES-AQ applies where people are likely to be exposed for periods commensurate with the relevant assessment averaging period. The NES-AQ also includes concentration limits and the specified number of occasions that those concentration limits may be exceeded within any year.

Activities associated with MP4 do not trigger any of the regulations under the NES-AQ. However, a full assessment of actual and potential air quality effects is provided in **Part A.06** of this report, and conditions to avoid, remedy and mitigate these effects can be found in **Part D** of this substantive application. The NES-AQ does not contain objectives or policies for assessment against, however, there are considerations related to air quality in the RPS and the Regional Air Plan. The conditions proposed mean that the MP4 activities can be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the NES-AQ requirements as well as with the provisions of the RPS and Regional Air Plan.

12.3.4 National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil

The NES-CS came into effect in January 2012 and outlines the standards relating to the disturbance of soil at sites that are, or could be, potentially contaminated. It ensures that land affected by contaminants in soil is appropriately identified and assessed before it is developed. Where a change of land use to a more sensitive activity occurs, contaminated land is to be remediated, or the contaminants contained to make the land safe for human use.¹⁰⁹

As detailed in **Part A.05** of this report, the Macraes Operation is a listed HAIL site. Further, **Part A.07** of this report identifies that approval is required under Regulation 10 of the NES-CS. The rule assessment for MP4 is provided in **Part I** of this substantive application.

A detailed assessment of the actual and potential adverse effects associated with contaminated land is provided in **Part A.09** of this report. Proposed conditions to avoid, remedy, and mitigate these effects are set out in **Part D** of this substantive application.

While the NES-CS does not include objectives or policies for assessment, relevant objectives and policies relating to contaminated land are addressed through other planning documents considered in this section.

¹⁰⁹ <https://environment.govt.nz/acts-and-regulations/regulations/national-environmental-standard-for-assessing-and-managing-contaminants-in-soil-to-protect-human-health/>

The conditions proposed mean that the MP4 activities can be undertaken in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of the NES-CS requirements.

12.3.5 National Environmental Standard for Sources of Human Drinking Water

The NES-DW came into effect on 17 June 2008 and sets requirements for protecting sources of human drinking water from becoming contaminated. The NES-DW requires that:

- > Discharge or water permits that are likely to result in community drinking water becoming unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment are not granted;
- > Permitted activities in regional plans will not result in community drinking water supplies being unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment; and
- > Conditions are placed on relevant resource consents that require notification of drinking water suppliers if significant unintended events occur (such as spills) that may adversely affect sources of human drinking water.

GHD (2026a) has undertaken a Surface Water and Groundwater Assessment which specifically considers potential effects on downstream water quality, including implications for drinking water supplies. The assessment identifies a range of mitigation measures that are required to manage actual and potential water quality effects associated with MP4, including the construction of seepage capture drains and toe bunds, implementation of a water treatment plant, construction of the Camp Creek and Coal Creek augmentation dams, improved waste rock stack design and management practices, ongoing pit lake treatment, and implementation of flushing regimes where required.

Water quality modelling demonstrates that, with these mitigation measures in place, the proposed compliance limits are expected to be achieved for the majority of parameters and locations, particularly during the closure phase. The modelling also confirms that any residual exceedances are understood, have been assessed through the technical investigations, and will be managed through the proposed treatment, monitoring, and adaptive management framework.

Importantly, MP4 incorporates comprehensive water management infrastructure, ongoing monitoring programmes, and contingency measures designed to detect and address any unforeseen water quality issues. Conservative modelling suggests that there may be occasional exceedances for the drinking water standard for sulphate at Waikouaiti River North Branch 03 (“**NB03**”), this is an aesthetic (taste) standard, drinking water will not be unsafe. OGNZL are in discussions with WDC to ensure that users of the Stoneburn Water Scheme are not affected. In addition, appropriate consent conditions can require the



notification of drinking water suppliers in the event of any significant unintended incident that may have the potential to affect drinking water sources.

On this basis, the proposed mitigation and management framework provides a high degree of confidence that MP4 will not result in community drinking water supplies becoming unsafe for human consumption following existing treatment. Accordingly, subject to the proposed conditions and management measures, the proposal is consistent with the intent and requirements of the NES-DW.

12.3.6 Resource Management (Measurement and Reporting Water Takes) Regulations 2010

The Water Take Regulations 2010 came into effect on 10 November 2010 and established a nationally consistent regime for measuring water use, allowing for a range of methods of reporting in either hard copy or electronic formats. The Regulations were amended in 2020 to introduce a staged timeline requiring holders of consents who take between five and more than 20 litres of water a second to measure their water use every 15 minutes, store their records, and electronically submit their records to the relevant council.

While the Regulations are more directly targeted at consumptive water takes affecting stream flows and water allocation regimes, the proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application include provisions for measuring the rate and volume of water taken to within an accuracy of +/- 5% over the nominal flow range with an output to a datalogger. The datalogger must log the flow rate at least once every 15 minutes and must have the capacity to hold at least twelve months data of water taken. The records collected must be provided electronically to the Consent Authority at annual intervals by 31 July each year and at any time upon request. The data must include the date, time and flow rates in no more than 15-minute increments of water.

The proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application meet the requirements of the Water Take Regulations.

12.3.7 National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management

The NPS-FM came into effect on 3 September 2020 and provides direction on how freshwater (including groundwater)¹¹⁰ should be managed under the RMA. The objective of the NPS-FM is to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that prioritises:

¹¹⁰ NPS-FM - Clause 1.5(1).



- > First, the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems;
- > Second, the health needs of people (such as drinking water); and
- > Third, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.¹¹¹

Central to the NPS-FM is the concept of Te Mana o Te Wai, which is described as:

“a concept that refers to the fundamental importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater protects the health and well-being of the wider environment. It protects the mauri of the wai. Te Mana o te Wai is about restoring and preserving the balance between the water, the wider environment, and the community.”

Te Mana o Te Wai is relevant to all freshwater management and encompasses six principles relating to the roles of tangata whenua and other New Zealanders, these are:

- > **Mana whakahaere:** the power, authority, and obligations of tangata whenua to make decisions that maintain, protect, and sustain the health and wellbeing of, and their relationship with, freshwater;
- > **Kaitiakitanga:** the obligation of tangata whenua to preserve, restore, enhance, and sustainably use freshwater for the benefit of present and future generations;
- > **Manaakitanga:** the process by which tangata whenua show respect, generosity, and care for freshwater and for others;
- > **Governance:** the responsibility of those with authority for making decisions about freshwater to do so in a way that prioritises the health and wellbeing of freshwater now and into the future;
- > **Stewardship:** the obligation of all New Zealanders to manage freshwater in a way that ensures it sustains present and future generations; and
- > **Care and respect:** the responsibility of all New Zealanders to care for freshwater in providing for the health of the nation.

The Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 (“**Freshwater Amendment Act**”) came into effect on 25 October 2024 and makes targeted changes to the RMA and national direction, which included the exclusion of the hierarchy of obligations in the NPS-FM from consideration in resource consenting while a review and replacement of the NPS-FM is undertaken. In particular, the Freshwater Amendment Act

¹¹¹ NPS-FM – Clause 2.1.

requires that a consent authority, when considering applications under section 104 of the RMA, must not have regard to clause 1.3(5) or 2.1 of the NPS-FM which relates to the hierarchy of obligations.¹¹²

It is noted, however, that the concept of Te Mana o Te Wai is still a relevant consideration for the purposes of this resource consent application being made under the RMA, as MP4 needs to be assessed against the regional plans that have been prepared in a way that gives effect to the hierarchy of obligations in Te Mana o Te Wai.

There are no habitats of trout or salmon within any waterbodies located within the Macraes Operation, however, inland wetlands are present. In respect of the NPS-FM policies, those relevant to this application are discussed in detail below.

Policies 1 and 2

Policy 1 of the NPS-FM seeks to ensure that freshwater is managed in a way that gives effect to Te Mana o te Wai. Policy 2 seeks to ensure that tangata whenua are actively involved in freshwater management and Māori freshwater values are identified and provided for.

In accordance with Te Mana o te Wai, the activities proposed as part of MP4 have been carefully identified and assessed to ensure that the health of freshwater and the wider environment is prioritised and managed, as summarised below:

- > Seepage capture drains have been proposed at multiple locations that collect to collection stumps to intercept WRS seepage before it enters surface water;
- > Collected seepage will be pumped from the sumps to a water treatment facility or for use onsite within the mine water management system and are not discharged into any waterbody;
- > MP4 will be subject to more stringent surface water quality compliance limits than those approved under previous authorisations, which is expected to contribute to the protection and long-term improvement of surface water quality;
- > Site-specific approaches will be applied including the ground infiltration approaches instead of direct discharge (where appropriate) to future reduce the potential for localised hydraulic disturbance;
- > Discharges will be managed through outlet configuration, energy dissipation measures, and erosion protection (such as riprap), where required to prevent scour and maintain the stability of the receiving environment;

¹¹² Section 104(2F) of the RMA. Nothing in the Act excludes the application of section 104(2F) of the RMA.



- > Continuous flow monitoring systems at Deepdell Creek, Tipperary Creek and key water sources will be installed to carefully monitor and identify any unexpected changes following the implementation of MP4; and
- > Sediment and erosion control measures will be used to avoid or minimise effects on wetlands and streams.

As demonstrated in **Part A.07** of this report, the various activities undertaken in association with MP4 will protect the health and wellbeing of waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, the health needs of people, and the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing, now and into the future.

OGNZL continues to work with mana whenua regarding activities occurring as part of MP4. Through this consultation process, the ways in which the MP4 protects the mauri of the wai and restores and preserves the balance between water, the environment and community, will be established.

Policy 3

Policy 3 of the NPS-FM requires that freshwater is managed in an integrated way that considers the effects of the use of land and development of land on a whole of catchment basis, including the effects on the receiving environments.

This policy primarily outlines actions to be taken by ORC, however, it is important to note that the technical studies commissioned by OGNZL have assessed MP4's actual and potential impacts on land and freshwater resources in an integrated way that includes any direct effects to a tributary or waterbody, but also the wider catchment. This approach includes evaluating all associated actual and potential effects of MP4, as detailed in **Part A.09** of this report.

While freshwater, as referred to in the NPS-FM includes groundwater, there are no direct references to groundwater or groundwater management within the policies of the NPS-FM. Notwithstanding this, the cumulative effects of MP4 with respect to freshwater matters (including groundwater) have been canvassed in detail by GHD (2026a) and Viridis (2026b) with respect to surface and groundwater quality and quantity, and by Viridis (2026a) with respect to freshwater ecology. GHD (2026a) has also considered the cumulative effects of MP4 and OGNZL's existing mining activities. Overall, integrated management of freshwater is therefore at the center of OGNZL's management approach not just for MP4, but its wider operations.

Policy 5

This policy aims to ensure that degraded freshwater bodies and ecosystems are improved, while protecting and maintaining the health of all others. It also supports further enhancement where communities choose to pursue it.

The National Objectives Framework in Subpart 2 of the NPS-FM directs how regional councils must set objectives, policies, and rules about freshwater in their regional plans. They must do this by establishing freshwater management units across their regions and identifying the values that communities hold for the water in those areas. Councils are required to maintain or improve water quality within their region.

Subpart 2 of the NPS-FM sets out the approach regional councils must follow in setting freshwater objectives, attributes and limits for individual water bodies. The NPS-FM requires that regional councils must consider freshwater values and how they should apply to local or regional circumstances. Appendix 1A of the NPS-FM sets out compulsory national values, while other values to be considered are set out in Appendix 1B.

There are four compulsory national values, as follows:

- > Ecosystem health;
- > Human contact;
- > Threatened species; and
- > Mahinga kai.

Appendix 2 of the NPS-FM sets out the attribute tables that are applicable to a waterbody and are related to the compulsory national values of ecosystem health and human contact.

The ORC has identified FMUs across the Otago Region and the Macraes Operation is within the Dunedin & Coast FMU and North Otago FMU. However, a plan change has yet to be undertaken that implements the NOF by identifying water quality targets and timeframes for their implementation.

It is also noted that the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 inserted provisions into the RMA that require regional councils not to publicly notify a freshwater planning instrument (i.e. an amendment to a regional plan to give effect to the NPS-FM), putting the Land and Water Plan on hold until a new NPS-FM is published to replace the current NPS-FM 2020, or until 31 December 2025. As the ORC has yet to notify provisions that implement the NOF, there are no requirements for MP4 to be assessed against in that regard.



That said, OGLNZ has sought to ensure that the MP4 condition framework for the management of freshwater during the operation and closure of the Macraes Operation appropriately manages potential adverse effects on these waterbodies and provides a pathway towards improved freshwater outcomes over time. This includes measures to avoid direct discharges of untreated mine water, capture and treat mine-affected water close to source and implement appropriate erosion and sediment controls. Further, MP4 proposes a significant step-change in water management at the Macraes Operation through the replacement of the existing water quality regime with a more protective compliance framework generally aligned with ANZG 95% species protection levels and, where applicable, drinking water standards.

Policy 6

Policy 6 seeks to ensure there is no further loss of extent of natural inland wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted. This policy is supported by clause 3.22 which requires all regional councils to include specific wording (as directed by the policy), to avoid the loss of extent of natural inland wetlands, protect natural inland wetland values, and promote restoration of natural inland wetlands, subject to various exceptions.

Approximately 4.72 ha of inland wetlands will be impacted as part of MP4. This includes losses of 1.1 ha of ephemeral wetlands, 1.4 ha of sedgeland wetlands, 2.1 ha of wetland freshwater herbaceous vegetation and 0.05 ha of other wetland and riparian habitats. Therefore, it is important to consider Clause 3.22(e) of the NPS-FM.

Clause 3.22(e) provides an exception to the policy requiring avoidance of the loss of extent, protection of, and promotion of restoration of natural inland wetlands where the activity is necessary for the purpose of the extraction of minerals and ancillary activities provided:

- > The extraction of the mineral will provide significant national or regional benefits;
- > There is a functional need or operational need for the activity to be done in that location; and
- > The effects of the activity will be managed through applying the effects management hierarchy.

Clause 3.22(e) was inserted in 2022; however, no amendments were made to policy 6. This means that policy 6 must be seen as consistent with directive provisions which required regional councils to provide consenting pathways for certain activities which could result in the loss of natural inland wetlands.

The significant national and regional benefits of MP4 have been described throughout these application documents, however in summary:

- > The Macraes Operation currently directly employs approximately 760 people and indirectly supports approximately 2,600 jobs in total across New Zealand, while MP4 will contribute additional employment of 853 indirect jobs and induced employment to a total of 352 jobs throughout the MP4 lifespan;
- > The financial economic impact in 2025 equates to \$734 million in revenue, \$113 million in spending on wages, \$597 on Opex and Capex and \$125 million paid in royalties and taxes;
- > MP4 would extend production at the Macraes Operation by approximately 130,000 ounces of gold per annum, adding at the base case price, \$4.5 billion in exports over the life of the Project, an average of \$320 million a year. At the upside price, this is estimated to be \$7.3 billion, or \$520 million a year in exports;
- > The royalties of MP4 component of the Macraes Operation are estimated at approximately \$59 million at the base case price, and \$196 million at the upside price. Company tax for MP4 is approximately \$285 million at the base case price, and \$1.0 billion at the upside;
- > PAYE on the wages of employees for MP4 adds a further \$180 million which will not change with the gold price. Overall, the Project returns between \$523 million (base case) and \$1.4 billion (upside) to the Crown from PAYE, corporate taxes and royalties; and
- > MP4 will contribute to approximately \$3.1 billion GDP over its life after allowing for imported equipment and materials. This supports approximately \$6.1 billion of economic activity through direct activity at the mine and its suppliers, indirect activity in their supply chains, and induced activity from household spending.

Recent case law has found that the application of “functional need” under the NPS-FM does not focus solely on a specific site. Instead, it considers whether the activity must be located within a particular environment.¹¹³ Similarly, in another case, the Court emphasised the need for a robust assessment to determine whether a genuine functional imperative exists, rather than one driven by convenience or economic benefit.¹¹⁴

Although the Macraes Operation is an existing mine, case law details that the focus is not limited to the occupation of a particular site, but on the relationship between the activity, the resource, and the receiving environment. In this context, the location of economically recoverable gold within a specific geological setting establishes a clear functional need for

¹¹³ C J Industries Ltd v Tasman District Council.

¹¹⁴ Remediation (NZ) Ltd v Taranaki Regional Council.



mining to occur in that environment. The gold resource is fixed and cannot be relocated to avoid freshwater interfaces or constraints. Accordingly, the proposed MP4 expansion is inherently tied to the same catchments and hydrological systems within which the mineralisation occurs, demonstrating that the activity must occur in that particular environment rather than at an alternative site.

With consideration to freshwater management, this functional need does not override the requirements of the NPS-FM but instead frames how they are engaged. However, the NPS-FM requires that adverse effects on natural inland wetlands are avoided, remedied, or mitigated, and that any loss of values is carefully assessed and managed. In this case, expansion is not driven by convenience or economic preference, rather, it reflects a genuine functional imperative to access a location specific resource while operating within a consented environment that requires robust assessment of effects on freshwater bodies, including water quality, quantity, and ecosystem health. This reinforces that the assessment must focus on how the activity can be undertaken in a way that maintains or improves freshwater outcomes, rather than whether the activity could simply be relocated elsewhere.

Furthermore, the established nature of the Macraes Operation provides a basis for integrating freshwater management into an existing operational and environmental framework. The expansion builds on existing infrastructure and management systems that already interact with the local freshwater environment, enabling the application of adaptive management, monitoring, and mitigation measures consistent with the NPS-FM. In this way, the functional need to access the resource is balanced with a requirement to give effect to freshwater objectives and limits, ensuring that the proposed mining activity occurs within management approach envisaged by the NPS-FM.

Lastly, the effects management hierarchy must be considered in relation to the pathway detailed in Clause 3.22(e) of the NPS-FM. As per the effects management hierarchy, the following points are noted:

- > As described in Sections 9.4, 9.5 and 9.7 of **Part A.09** of this report, adverse effects on freshwater have been avoided where practicable;¹¹⁵
- > As described in Sections 9.4, 9.5, 9.7 of **Part A.09** and **Part A.10** of this report, where adverse effects cannot be avoided, they have been minimised where practicable;¹¹⁶

¹¹⁵ Sub-part 3.21(1)(a)): Definitions relating to wetlands and rivers of the NPS-FM.

¹¹⁶ Sub-part 3.21(1)(b)): Definitions relating to wetlands and rivers of the NPS-FM.

- > As described in Sections 9.4, 9.5, 9.7 of **Part A.09** and **Part A.10** of this report, where adverse effects cannot be minimised, they have been remedied where practicable;¹¹⁷ and
- > As described in **Part A.10** of this report, where more than minor residual adverse effects cannot be avoided, minimised, or remedied, aquatic offsetting is provided where possible.¹¹⁸

Clause 3.21(e) states that if aquatic offsetting of more than minor residual adverse effects is not possible, aquatic compensation is provided and Clause 3.21(f) directs that if aquatic compensation is not appropriate, the activity itself is avoided. The proposed approach for MP4 is that aquatic compensation is provided rather than aquatic offsetting as the proposed compensation package does not meet the strict definition of biodiversity offsetting under the NPS-FM due to constraints in replicating equivalent wetland extent and hydrological conditions within the receiving environment. In addition, the creation of new wetlands would require significant modification of existing stream systems, resulting in additional adverse effects on freshwater values. The BOAM applied to MP4 does not provide sufficient certainty to demonstrate that all relevant biodiversity offset principles and standards will be met. However, the BOAM does provide a robust, transparent, and component-specific assessment of the aquatic compensation adequacy and forms the quantitative basis for demonstrating that the proposed compensation package can achieve an aquatic offset of no net loss and potentially net positive outcomes as described in **Part A.09** of this report.

In summary, MP4 does not specifically meet the intent in Policy 6 that there be no further loss of extent of natural inland wetlands, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted. However, the Project aligns with the pathway established under Clause 3.22(e) of the NPS-FM and is therefore not inconsistent with the implementation mechanism for Policy 6. As described above, MP4 will have regional and national economic benefits, there is a functional need for the activity to occur at the proposed locations, and the effects management hierarchy has been appropriately considered during MP4.

Policy 7

Policy 7 of the NPS-FM is intended to avoid the loss of river extent and values wherever practicable. This is reinforced by clause 3.24, which requires regional councils to incorporate a policy in their regional plans outlining how this policy will be applied locally, together emphasising the need to avoid river loss.

¹¹⁷ Sub-part 3.21(1)(c)): Definitions relating to wetlands and rivers of the NPS-FM.

¹¹⁸ Sub-part 3.21(1)(d)): Definitions relating to wetlands and rivers of the NPS-FM.

As described in **Part A.06** and **Part A.07** of this report, the Trimbells Gully and the Clydesdale Creek tributary will be directly impacted through instream works including a loss of 180 m of permanent stream and 230 m of intermittent stream (410 m in total) at Trimbells Gully and an additional 15 m² of habitat will be lost from the Clydesdale Creek Tributary.

Clause 3.24(1) says that the loss of river extent should be avoided unless a) there is a functional need for the activity in that location and b) the effects of the activity are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy.

The functional need for MP4 is detailed in the assessment for Policy 6 above, which remains relevant. In summary, the mineral resource is fixed within a specific geological and freshwater environment, creating a genuine functional need for the activity to occur in this location, while still requiring adverse effects to be appropriately managed under the NPS-FM.

The effects management hierarchy has been considered in Viridis (2026a) and ecological compensation is proposed as part of MP4. The compensation includes the restoration and enhancement of alternative stream reaches within the wider catchment of approximately 640 m of enhancement proposed for Murphys Creek and around 950 m for the North Branch Waikouaiti River at full implementation of the MP4 project. The compensation package is considered sufficient to address the loss of river extent, with compensation exceeding the minimum ecological compensation ratios and expected to achieve no net loss, and potentially a net gain, in ecological values within the catchment.

Policy 8

Policy 8 relates to the protection of significant natural values or outstanding water bodies. This policy is supported by the National Objective Framework, specifically through clause 3.8 which requires all regional councils to identify outstanding water bodies and monitor the freshwater management unit (“**FMU**”).

There are three waterbodies listed in Schedule 1A of the Water Plan that will be impacted by the proposed mining activities, including:

- > Deepdell Creek;
- > Mare Burn; and
- > Waikouaiti River.

The current version of the Water Plan does not have considerations for FMU and NOF as directed by the NPS-FM, mentioned earlier in this report. However, the potential effects of MP4 on the outstanding water bodies of Deepdell Creek, Mare Burn and the Waikouaiti River



have been assessed through the aquatic ecology, fish passage and ecological impact assessments. These assessments identify adverse effects on freshwater values associated with stream reclamation and realignment, fish passage barriers, habitat loss and modifications to flow regimes. Where practicable, these effects have been avoided and minimised through project design, including refinement of infrastructure footprints, stream realignment design, water quality management measures, flow management, erosion and sediment controls, fish salvage and riparian restoration. The assessments conclude that, following implementation of these mitigation measures, many effects will be reduced to low levels.

For those residual adverse effects that cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated, ecological compensation is proposed in accordance with the NPS-FM effects management hierarchy. This includes stream and riparian enhancement works within Murphys Creek and the North Branch Waikouaiti River to address unavoidable losses of stream habitat and ecological function. The technical assessments conclude that these measures are expected to achieve no net loss, and potentially a net gain, in freshwater ecological values. Supported by ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, the proposal will provide for the protection of the significant values of Deepdell Creek, Mare Burn and the Waikouaiti River and is therefore considered consistent with Policy 8 of the NPS-FM.

Policy 9 and 10

Protection of habitats of indigenous freshwater species is the focus of Policy 9. The wider catchments where the Macraes Operation is located contain habitats for various Threatened and At-Risk fish species. However, the majority of waterways located within the Macraes Operation do not contain indigenous freshwater species, but it is noted that the wider catchments are all dominated by Taieri flathead galaxias.¹¹⁹ Murphys Creek contains At Risk – Declining Taieri flathead galaxiids, upland bully, longfin eel and shortfin eel all of which are indigenous to New Zealand, and infrequent records of eel records of eels and brown trout occur at some sites, mainly in larger tributaries such as Deepdell Creek. Viridis (2026a) found that it is unlikely that there will be any adverse effects on these species, however, OGNZL have proposed to develop and implement a FMP to ensure any effects on fish are appropriately managed. The FMP sets out conditions that relate to installing culverts for the predator-proof fence during dry conditions, requirements for the migration of eels and timing and methodology for fish salvage activities. The purpose of the FMP is to manage any

¹¹⁹ It is noted that Taieri flathead galaxiids are also present in Coal Creek and Camp Creek, however the two reservoirs have been consented under previous resource consents and therefore have not been considered in this assessment.

actual and potential adverse effects on freshwater fish during instream works and stream reclamation in Trimbells Gully.

Further Policy 10 seeks to protect the habitat of trout and salmon insofar that is consistent with Policy 9. There are no salmon or trout species present in any of the waterbodies potentially affected by MP4. This statement extends to the wider Taieri River, Shag River and Waikouaiti River North Branch catchments.

Policy 11 and Policy 12

Policy 11 relates to efficient allocation of freshwater, where all existing over-allocation is passed out, and future over-allocation is avoided. MP4 does not impede the efficient allocation of freshwater.

Policy 12 of the NPS-FM sets a national target for increasing proportions of rivers (and lakes) that are suitable for primary contact to at least 80% by 2030 and 90% no later than 2040.

The consents sought for MP4 will not adversely affect any water bodies used for primary contact recreation and will not impose any impediments to achieving the requirements of these policies.

Policy 13 and 14

Policy 13 is that the state of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems should be regularly monitored over time, with measures taken to address degradation and to halt and reverse any declining trends.

Similarly, Policy 14 looks at information (including monitoring data) about the state of the waterbodies and freshwater ecosystems, and the challenges to their health and well-being, is regularly reported on and published.

Monitoring forms a key component of the MP4 compensation and environmental management framework, particularly in relation to freshwater quality and ecological effects. The conditions proposed by OGNZL are included in **Part D** of this substantive application. The MP4 project complies with Policies 13 and 14 in that:

- > The conditions detail the proposed improvements in water quality and compliance across multiple waterbodies, including (but not limited to) Mare Burn, Deepdell Creek, Murphys Creek and Shag River;
- > The conditions specify surface water quality monitoring parameters, frequencies and requirements for a range of water quality determinands, including ions, organic carbon and metals and metalloids;

- > Ecological trigger value, toxicity modifiers and compliance requirements are specified for relevant monitoring sites;
- > Long-term drinking water criteria and associated compliance requirements are specified for relevant monitoring sites;
- > The conditions detail long-term drinking water values and compliance criteria applicable to relevant monitoring sites;
- > Aquatic biological monitoring requirements and frequencies are specified; and
- > The conditions require monitoring results and compliance information to be recorded, reported and made available to the relevant consent authority, ensuring information on the state of freshwater bodies and ecosystems is regularly assessed and communicated.

Further, monitoring requirements apply during the construction and operation of mining-related infrastructure (including waste rock stacks, dams and haul roads) to ensure adverse effects on water quality and freshwater ecology are avoided, remedied or mitigated. These measures are supported through the management plans provided in **Part C** of this substantive application.

Policy 15

Communities are enabled to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing in a way that is consistent with the NPS-FM is the directive of Policy 15.

As set out in the assessment for Policy 6, the proposed activity has a clear functional need arising from the location-specific nature of the mineral resource. In summary, enabling access to that resource supports the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of communities through the continuation of the Macraes Operation, while remaining subject to the NPS-FM framework that requires freshwater values and outcomes to be appropriately managed and maintained. MP4 will have significant economic and social benefits as described in Section 9.2 of **Part A.09** this report.

With regard to cultural wellbeing, OGNZL believes that mana whenua are best placed to identify and articulate the cultural values associated with the affected freshwater environments, and to assess whether those values are appropriately recognised and provided for by the proposal. Engagement with affected iwi is ongoing, and the extent to which the proposal supports cultural wellbeing and aligns with Māori aspirations for freshwater management will continue to be informed through that engagement and any cultural evidence submitted as part of the approvals process. Accordingly, OGNZL considers that the proposal has the potential to contribute to the social, economic and

cultural wellbeing of communities, while remaining subject to a framework that seeks to appropriately manage freshwater values and outcomes. For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 aligns with Policy 15.

Summary

For the reasons set out above, MP4 is consistent with the provisions of the NPS-FM.

12.3.8 National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity

Overview

The NPS-IB came into effect in August 2023 and was amended in December 2025. It provides direction to councils to on their roles and responsibilities for identifying, protecting and maintaining indigenous biodiversity under the RMA. The scope of the NPS-IB is limited to terrestrial ecosystems (and some aspects of wetlands) and applies across all land tenures in New Zealand – on private and public land.

For completeness, it is noted that section 78 of the RMA (as inserted by the Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024 was considered during the assessment of the NPS-IB. However, the provisions listed in section 78 are not relevant to the MP4 Project.

Objective

The single objective of the NPS-IB is:

- i. *to maintain indigenous biodiversity across Aotearoa New Zealand so that there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity after the commencement date; and*
- ii. *to achieve this:*
 - (i) *through recognising the mana of tangata whenua as kaitiaki of indigenous biodiversity; and*
 - (ii) *by recognising people and communities, including landowners, as stewards of indigenous biodiversity; and*
 - (iii) *protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity as necessary to achieve the overall maintenance of indigenous biodiversity; and*
 - (iv) *providing for the social, economic, and cultural wellbeing of people and communities now and in the future.*

To achieve this objective the NPS-IB contains several policies of relevance to the MP4 Project to achieve this objective. An assessment of the Project against these policies is detailed below.



Policy 1 and 2

Policy 1 seeks to manage indigenous biodiversity in a way that gives effect to the decision-making principles and takes into account the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. Policy 2 seeks for tangata whenua to exercise kaitiakitanga for indigenous biodiversity in their rohe, including through:

- > Managing indigenous biodiversity on their land;
- > Identifying and protecting indigenous species, populations and ecosystems that are taonga; and
- > Actively participating in other decision-making about indigenous biodiversity.

The principles of the Treaty of Waitangi referred to in Policy 1 are centred around partnership, participation, and protection, which align with the goals of Policy 2.

As detailed throughout this report, OGNZL respects the traditions and cultures of mana whenua and recognises the unique relationship that Māori have with their ancestral land, water, sites, wāhi tapu and other taonga, including indigenous biodiversity.

Feedback received from Kā Rūnaka has been reflected in the proposed consent conditions, which provide for iwi management and control of reserve land established through MP4, with additional areas intended to transition to reserve status when operational obligations permit. Conditions further provide for the long-term protection of these areas and their transfer to, or control by, Kā Rūnaka for perpetual management in the exercise of rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga. Further, OGNZL is committed to ongoing engagement with Kā Rūnaka throughout this substantive application process, including collaboration on cultural inductions, mahika kai enhancement initiatives, and opportunities to strengthen the ongoing partnership and support the exercise of rangatiratanga and kaitiakitanga.

Accordingly, the proposed conditions actively provide for tangata whenua participation, management and long-term stewardship of indigenous biodiversity and are considered consistent with both Policy 1 and Policy 2.

Policy 3

Policy 3 of the NPS-IB requires a precautionary approach to be adopted where there is uncertainty regarding the effects of activities on indigenous biodiversity. While clause 3.7 is directed primarily at decision-makers, the approach taken in the development of MP4 is consistent with the intent of that policy.

As detailed throughout this application, MP4 incorporates a comprehensive ecological effects management framework, together with compensation and other measures where



adverse effects cannot be avoided, remedied or mitigated. The Macraes Operation is located within the Macraes ED, which supports significant indigenous biodiversity values, including indigenous vegetation, lizards, avifauna, invertebrates, wetlands, and aquatic ecosystems.

The ecological assessments recognise that some uncertainty remains regarding species detection, responses to management interventions, rehabilitation trajectories, and the timeframes over which ecological outcomes will be achieved. Consistent with a precautionary approach, these uncertainties have informed the design of MP4 and the proposed management measures. OGNZL has sought to reduce and manage uncertainty through avoidance of effects where practicable, staged development, progressive rehabilitation, comprehensive monitoring programmes, adaptive management mechanisms, and a substantial residual effects package.

In addition, the proposed pest-exclusion fencing provides a high level of confidence that protected areas can be maintained free from key mammalian predators and browsers, thereby establishing secure conditions for the protection and recovery of indigenous biodiversity over the long term. When considered together, these measures demonstrate a precautionary approach that is consistent with Policy 3 of the NPS-IB by recognising uncertainty and implementing management responses that reduce the risk of adverse biodiversity outcomes.

Policy 4

Policy 4 of the NPS-IB seeks to manage indigenous biodiversity to promote resilience to the effects of climate change. There are no specific activities proposed that promote climate change resilience as part of MP4.

Policy 5

Policy 5 of the NPS-IB refers to the management of indigenous biodiversity across administrative boundaries and ensuring these are managed in an integrated way. As mentioned throughout this substantive application, MP4 occurs within both the Waitaki District and Dunedin City Districts. The approach to managing biodiversity set out in this substantive application has considered in an integrated manner.

Policies 6 and 7

Policy 6 requires significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats of indigenous fauna be identified as SNAs, using a consistent approach. Policy 7 seeks to protect SNAs by avoiding or managing adverse effects from new use and development.



There are limited identified SNAs within MP4 in the 2GP and WDP. The Operative WDP identifies Site 106, *Macraes Ponds*, as a Significant Indigenous Vegetation and Habitat of Indigenous Fauna area (referred to as Natural Significance Sites on the Planning Maps), a portion of which falls within the MP4 boundaries used for agricultural purposes. However, Whirika (2026) concluded, through its assessment of wetlands and vegetation, that all four mining areas contain significant indigenous vegetation under the RPS. Further, the assessment also found the Coronation Mining Area and the Golden Bar Mining Area meet the NPS-IB criteria.

Accordingly, the Project affects indigenous biodiversity values, including significant indigenous vegetation, natural inland wetlands, and habitats of indigenous fauna. The Project must therefore be assessed against the provisions of the NPS-IB relating to subdivision, use and development affecting those values. In particular, consideration is required of the provisions directing the management of effects within SNAs and on significant indigenous biodiversity outside SNAs, in particular the exceptions provided for in clause 3.11.

Policy 8

Policy 8 of the NPS-IB seeks to recognise and provide for the importance of maintaining indigenous biodiversity outside of SNAs. Further to Policy 8, the NPS-IB requires that adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity which is not protected by an (NPS-IB) SNA be managed by applying the effects management hierarchy where those effects are significant.

As has been described above in respect of Policies 6 and 7 and the assessment under clause 3.16 below, MP4 proposes a comprehensive range of mitigation measures, following the effects management hierarchy to address effects on indigenous biodiversity.

Application of Clauses 3.10 and 3.16 (Management of Effects on and Outside Significant Natural Areas)

The NPS-IB gives effect to Policies 6, 7 and 8 through specific provisions relating to the management of effects on indigenous biodiversity within and outside SNAs. The most relevant provisions for MP4 are clauses 3.10 and 3.16, which are assessed below.

Clause 3.10 applies to new subdivision, use and development that is in, or affects, an SNA and establishes requirements for avoiding or managing specified adverse effects on the values and ecological integrity of SNAs. In this case, the identified Natural Significance Site comprises only a small part of the overall project area. The assessment therefore considers the effects of the proposal on the Natural Significance Site specifically, rather than treating the entire development as an activity within an SNA. The specific exception in clause 3.11 for

activities undertaken for the purpose of maintaining or restoring an SNA is also relevant for proposed indigenous planting and restoration works.

For the remainder of the Project Land that is outside the SNA, clause 3.16 is relevant. Clause 3.16 recognises that indigenous biodiversity occurs outside mapped SNAs and requires significant adverse effects of new subdivision, use or development on indigenous biodiversity outside a SNA to be managed through the effects management hierarchy. Accordingly, the assessment below considers whether the proposed activities outside the SNA would result in significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and, where relevant, how those effects are managed.

The Ecological Impact Assessment prepared by Biosearches (2026b) identifies significant indigenous vegetation, significant habitats of indigenous fauna, threatened and at-risk species, and natural inland wetlands within the Project boundaries. While avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures reduce many effects, residual effects remain for some biodiversity values, including tussock grassland, wetlands and lizard habitat. Following the implementation of avoidance, minimisation and mitigation measures, residual adverse effects remain for some biodiversity values, including effects assessed as moderate, high and very high.

To address those effects, OGNZL proposes a comprehensive package of measures intended to avoid, minimise, remedy, offset and compensate for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity. These measures include:

- > The MEEA near Murphys Creek, including predator-proof fencing, access tracks, and site facilities; and.
- > Mt Highlay restoration area;
- > Cranky Jims Link shrubland enhancement area;
- > Murphys Link tussock protection area; and
- > Additional offset and compensation measures for residual ecological impacts.

In addition, the Project includes wetland restoration and enhancement measures, landscape-scale pest management, habitat protection, covenant protection and long-term ecological monitoring and management commitments.

While residual adverse effects remain for some significant indigenous biodiversity values, the proposed offsetting, compensation and long-term management measures are intended to address those residual effects and deliver positive biodiversity outcomes at a landscape scale. These outcomes are supported by long-term protection mechanisms, covenant

arrangements, monitoring programmes, adaptive management requirements and proposed governance arrangements that provide enduring stewardship of the biodiversity enhancement areas beyond the operational life of MP4.

Having regard to the limited extent of the identified Natural Significance Site within the Project area, the avoidance of direct effects on that site through project design, and the broader ecological enhancement, compensation and long-term management measures proposed to address residual effects elsewhere, MP4 is considered consistent with the direction of clause 3.10 and 3.16.

Policy 9

Policy 9 recognises that established activities may continue within and outside SNAs where specific criteria are met. Although MP4 includes activities associated with an existing and long-established mining operation, the Project is being assessed as new subdivision, use and development rather than relying on existing use status or the continuation of established activities under the NPS-IB. Accordingly, Policy 9 is of limited relevance to the assessment. Nevertheless, the existence of the long-established Macraes Operation provides important context when considering the location of the Project, the modified nature of much of the receiving environment, and the functional need associated with accessing a location-specific mineral resource.

Policy 10

Policy 10 of the NPS-IB seeks to recognise and provide for activities that contribute to New Zealand's social, economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing.

In this case, MP4 is a location-specific mineral extraction project that will provide significant regional and national benefits through employment, export earnings, and support for the wider Otago economy. The continuation of mining at Macraes also provides for the social well-being of the local community by retaining families in the area and the flow-on effects for the school, and community groups. At the same time, the proposal incorporates extensive measures to avoid, minimise, remedy, offset and compensate for adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity. The assessment above demonstrates that biodiversity effects have been comprehensively identified and managed, including through long-term restoration, enhancement and protection initiatives. Accordingly, MP4 gives effect to the balancing approach contemplated by Policy 10, which recognises that activities contributing to social, economic and environmental wellbeing may be enabled where adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity are appropriately managed.



Policies 13, 14 and 15

Policy 13 of the NPS-IB seeks to promote and provide for the restoration of indigenous biodiversity. Policy 14 seeks to promote increased indigenous vegetation cover in both urban and non-urban environments. Policy 15 seeks to increase awareness and identification of highly mobile fauna.

Bioresearches (2026b) consider the indigenous biodiversity values present within and surrounding the site, including highly mobile fauna, and assesses the potential effects of MP4 on these values. As discussed in **Part A.09** of this report, residual adverse effects on avifauna are anticipated following implementation of the proposed avoidance, mitigation and management measures. To address these residual effects, OGNZL has proposed a comprehensive biodiversity compensation package, including indigenous habitat restoration and enhancement measures.¹²⁰

The outcomes of the proposed compensation package are assessed in detail within the ecological evidence and are anticipated to result in a net gain for avifauna and indigenous biodiversity values. To the extent that the proposed restoration and enhancement measures increase indigenous habitat and vegetation cover, the proposal is also consistent with the direction of Policy 14. Furthermore, the assessment and management of effects on avifauna and other highly mobile fauna demonstrates recognition of the matters addressed by Policy 15.

Overall, for the reasons outlined in the ecological assessments and statutory evaluation, the proposal is considered to be consistent with Policies 13, 14 and 15 of the NPS-IB.

Policy 17

Policy 17 seeks to ensure that there is improved information on and regular monitoring of indigenous biodiversity. The proposed conditions contain a suite of conditions that require monitoring of biodiversity potentially affected by MP4 including, but not limited to:

- > The implementation of a Vegetation and TAR Flora Management Plan that details report and Biodiversity Outcome Monitoring;
- > The implementation of a WMMP that requires regular monitoring of natural inland wetlands, adaptive management approaches and wetland hydrology;

¹²⁰ Including establishment of the MEEA, Mt Highlay restoration area, Cranky Jims Link shrubland enhancement area, Murphys Link tussock protection area and additional offset and compensation measures for residual ecological impacts.

- > The implementation of an IMMP that includes monitoring and reporting provisions to assess the effectiveness of management actions;
- > The implementation of an AMMP that includes monitoring and reporting procedures specially to support compliance and adaptive management; and
- > The implementation of a LMP that includes monitoring and reports to assess the effectiveness of management actions, population trends, and the achievement of net positive outcomes for lizards.

Collectively, these monitoring, reporting and adaptive management measures will provide improved information on indigenous biodiversity values and the effectiveness of management actions over time. The proposal is therefore considered consistent with the direction of Policy 17 of the NPS-IB.

12.3.9 National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land

Overview

The NPS-HPL came into effect on 17 October 2022 and was last amended in December 2025. The single objective of the NPS-HPL is to ensure that highly productive land is protected for use in land-based primary production, both now and for future generations.

Highly productive land means land that has been mapped in accordance with criteria set out in the NPS-HPL. However, until a regional policy statement containing maps of highly productive land in the region is operative, each relevant territorial authority must treat as highly productive land any land that is:

- > Zoned general rural or rural production; and
- > LUC 1, 2 or 3 land (as mapped in the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory).

As detailed earlier in this application, the Macraes Operation comprises predominantly LUC 4 and LUC 6 land, with a small area of LUC 3 located adjacent to the area between the Coronation Mining Area and the Central Mining Area. The Macraes Operation spans the jurisdictions of both the DCC and WDC and includes a range of zoning overlays across the site. However, the majority of the MP4 footprint is located within the MMPPMZ, where the provisions of the NPS-HPL do not apply. The Coronation Mining Area is located within the Rural Zone under the 2GP but does not meet the definition of highly productive land.

Accordingly, the NPS-HPL does not apply to MP4, and no further assessment is required nor has been undertaken.

12.3.10 Otago Regional Policy Statement 2021

The RPS was notified in June 2021 and subsequently became subject to several appeals relating to its freshwater planning provisions. All consent orders addressing these appeals have now been issued, enabling the Proposed RPS to supersede the Operative RPS. The RPS was adopted on 24 June 2026 and was made fully operative 9 July 2026.

The relevant provisions of the RPS cover a broad range of domains and topics that are relevant to this application. These domains and topics are discussed further in the sub-sections below and include mana whenua, integrated management, air, land and freshwater, ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity, hazards and risks, historical and cultural values and natural features and landscapes.

12.3.10.1.1 Mana Whenua

The key relevant objectives and policies of the RPS relating to mana whenua seek to give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi in resource management processes and decisions and manage the natural environment to support the hauora¹²¹ of Kāi Tahu.¹²²

OGNZL has undertaken engagement with Ngāi Tahu and Aukaha throughout the development of MP4, and that engagement has continued throughout the drafting of this substantive application. Through this engagement, opportunities have been provided for mana whenua to participate in resource management processes and to identify matters of interest and concern relevant to the proposal. Feedback received from Kā Rūnaka has informed the development of the proposal, including measures that provide for the long-term protection of ecological values and the future management and control of protected areas by Kā Rūnaka.

OGNZL propose measures intended to avoid, remedy, mitigate and, where appropriate, compensate for adverse effects on natural resources and biodiversity values. These measures, together with the proposed management plans, monitoring requirements and adaptive management framework, are discussed throughout this report.

While it is not appropriate for this assessment to draw conclusions regarding whether the proposal supports the hauora of Kāi Tahu or aligns with Kāi Tahu values, the proposal has been developed with ongoing mana whenua engagement and provides mechanisms for continued involvement in the implementation and monitoring of biodiversity and environmental management measures. The proposed conditions further provide for the

¹²¹ A Māori concept of health and wellbeing encompassing physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions.

¹²² Proposed RPS – Objective MW-O1 and Policy MW-P3.

exercise of rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka through the long-term transfer or management of protected areas by Kā Rūnaka as described in earlier sections of this report.

For these reasons, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the direction of the relevant mana whenua objectives and policies of the RPS relating to engagement, participation and the recognition of mana whenua interests in resource management decision-making.

12.3.10.1.2 Integrated Management

The key objectives and policies of the RPS for integrated management seek to:

- > Manage natural and physical resources in a way that achieves healthy, resilient and safeguarded natural systems and supports the wellbeing of present and future generations, embracing ki uta ki tai;¹²³
- > Ensure communities provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing in ways that support or restore environmental integrity, form, functioning and resilience;¹²⁴
- > Recognise and provide for Kāi Tahu's relationship with natural resources by enabling mana whenua to exercise rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka, and facilitating active participation of mana whenua in resource management decision-making;¹²⁵
- > Manage the use and development of interconnected natural and physical resources where it extends beyond the immediate area of interest and impacts another part of the environment;¹²⁶ and
- > Manage the impact of cumulative effects on the form, functioning and resilience of Otago's environment.¹²⁷

The proposal has been assessed having regard to the integrated management objectives and policies of the RPS. The effects of MP4 on natural and physical resources, and the interconnected nature of those resources, have been comprehensively assessed through the technical assessments and statutory evaluation. This includes consideration of effects on terrestrial, freshwater and wetland environments (and, in particular, how effects on ground and surface water can affect biodiversity), landscape and visual amenity values, infrastructure, and the social and economic wellbeing of the surrounding community.

¹²³ RPS – Objectives IM-O1 & IM-O2.

¹²⁴ RPS – Objective IM-O3.

¹²⁵ RPS – Policy IM-P3.

¹²⁶ RPS – Policy IM-P5.

¹²⁷ RPS – Policy IM-P13.



The proposal incorporates a range of avoidance, mitigation, remediation and compensation measures that are intended to manage adverse effects and maintain or enhance the resilience and functioning of affected environmental systems. As discussed throughout this report, the proposal will also provide social and economic benefits at the local, regional and national level.

OGNZL has undertaken engagement with Ngāi Tahu and Aukaha throughout the development of the proposal and this engagement continues. This engagement has informed the proposed management framework and proposed consent conditions, including provisions for the long-term protection of land and their transfer to, or management by, Kā Rūnaka to support the exercise of rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka. OGNZL has also committed to ongoing engagement with Kā Rūnaka throughout the substantive application process, including opportunities for collaboration on cultural inductions, mahika kai enhancement initiatives, and the ongoing management of ecological values.

Opportunities for mana whenua participation in resource management processes have therefore been provided, and ongoing engagement is reflected in the proposed management and monitoring framework. The proposal therefore recognises and provides for Kāi Tahu's relationship with natural resources and supports active participation in resource management decision-making, consistent with Policy IM-P3. While this assessment acknowledges the importance of Kāi Tahu values and interests, it does not seek to characterise or reach conclusions regarding those values on behalf of mana whenua.

The assessment has also considered the wider environmental context within which MP4 will operate, including the management of effects beyond the immediate project area and the cumulative effects associated with existing and anticipated activities. The proposed conditions require ongoing monitoring, reporting and adaptive management to ensure that environmental outcomes are assessed over time and management responses can be implemented where required.

For these reasons, MP4 is considered to be consistent with the integrated management objectives and policies of the RPS.

12.3.10.1.3 Air

The key relevant objectives and policies of the RPS seek that localised adverse effects of discharges to air do not compromise human health, amenity, mana whenua and ecosystem values, and seek to provide for discharges to air that do not adversely affect these values.¹²⁸

¹²⁸ RPS – Objective AIR-O2 and Policies AIR-P3 and AIR-P6.



Furthermore, Policy AIR-P4 provides direction on managing adverse effects of discharges to air by seeking to:

- > Avoid noxious or dangerous effects;
- > Ensure discharges do not cause offensive or objectionable effects; and
- > Avoid, remedy or mitigate other adverse effects from discharges to air.

OGNZL commissioned Tonkin & Taylor (2026) to prepare an air quality assessment for MP4. The Central Mining Area contains the primary discharge sources associated with the Processing Plant. Dispersion modelling demonstrates that predicted contaminant concentrations are within relevant assessment criteria, with a substantial margin of compliance with health-based standards. On this basis, discharges are not expected to result in noxious or dangerous effects on human health, and effects on sensitive receivers are assessed as negligible.

Potential amenity effects, including offensive or objectionable odours or particulates, are similarly expected to be avoided, given the low predicted concentrations and separation from sensitive receptors. No significant adverse effects on ecosystem values are anticipated.

OGNZL has also proposed a programme of stack emission testing for particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, and metals at the POX plant on a three-yearly basis to monitor discharges and confirm ongoing compliance. This monitoring, together with existing operational controls, ensures that any residual adverse effects are appropriately avoided, remedied, or mitigated. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives and Policy AIR-P4 of the RPS.

12.3.10.1.4 Land and Freshwater

The land and freshwater chapter of the RPS is divided into several sub-sections relating to Te Mana o Te Wai, freshwater and land and soil.

Te Mana o Te Wai

The key objective within the Te Mana o Te Wai section seeks that Otago's water bodies and their health and wellbeing are protected and restored where they are degraded. The associated policies seek to:

- > Give effect to Te Mana o Te Wai by firstly prioritising the health and wellbeing of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems, secondly the health needs of people, and thirdly the



ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic and cultural wellbeing;¹²⁹ and

- > Recognise and give effect to Kāi Tahu rakatirataka in respect of freshwater.¹³⁰

The concept of Te Mana o Te Wai has been considered in Section 12.3.6 of this report, with the assessment considered to be equally applicable to these provisions. In summary, the activities proposed as part of MP4 have been carefully identified and assessed to ensure that the health of freshwater and of the wider environment is prioritised and protected. In particular:

- > There is a functional need for the siting and design of MP4 that has been informed by a range of factors. These include the location of the orebody, land ownership, the scale of key mine components, material movement costs, geotechnical and hydrogeological consideration and water management considerations as discussed earlier in this application;
- > The MP4 project is structured around a comprehensive suite of water management, treatment, monitoring, and erosion and sediment control measures designed to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on freshwater receiving environments, all of which are incorporated into the proposed consent conditions; and
- > OGNZL propose mitigation and management measures such as seepage capture and treatment, controls on discharges, site-specific infiltration approaches, and ongoing monitoring and adaptive management to identify and respond to any unexpected events during MP4, which have been incorporated into the proposed consent conditions.

Collectively, these measures are intended to give effect to the hierarchy of obligations underpinning Te Mana o te Wai by prioritising the protection of the health and wellbeing of freshwater bodies and freshwater ecosystems. Through the management of water quality and quantity effects, together with ongoing monitoring and adaptive management, the proposal seeks to maintain freshwater values while also supporting the health needs of people and the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of communities.

Freshwater

The key relevant objectives and policies within the freshwater section seek to:

¹²⁹ RPS – Objectives LF-FW-O9 & LF-FW-O10 and Policy LF-FW-P10A.

¹³⁰ RPS – Objective LF-FW-O10 and Policy LF-FW-P13.

- > Identify and protect the significant values of outstanding water bodies;¹³¹
- > Protect wetlands from inappropriate use and development and promote the restoration of wetlands where they are degraded;¹³²
- > Preserve and protect the natural character of wetlands, lakes and rivers and their margins from inappropriate use and development;¹³³ and
- > Where practicable, promote the restoration of the values of lakes and rivers where the natural character or instream values of lakes and rivers or the natural character of their margins has been reduced or lost.¹³⁴

MP4 has been designed to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset and compensate for effects on freshwater values, including wetlands, waterbodies and associated freshwater ecosystems. While the proposal will result in some residual effects on freshwater environments, it includes a comprehensive package of management, restoration, compensation and monitoring measures that protect significant freshwater values, maintain and enhance aquatic ecosystem health where practicable, and support the restoration of freshwater and wetland values over time. As such, the proposal is consistent with the direction of the freshwater objectives and policies of the RPS, recognising both the need to protect freshwater resources and the opportunities to improve environmental outcomes through active management and restoration initiatives.

Land and Soil

The key relevant objectives and policies within the land and soil section seek to:

- > Protect the availability and productive capacity of highly productive land for primary production and maintain general soil quality and health;¹³⁵
- > Provide for the ongoing use of rural areas for primary production and rural industry and not compromise the long-term viability of primary production and rural communities;¹³⁶
- > Minimise soil erosion and the associated risk of sedimentation in waterbodies;¹³⁷ and

¹³¹ RPS – Objective LF-FW-O8 and Policy LF-FW-P12.

¹³² RPS – Objectives LF-FW-O9 & LF-FW-O10 and Policy LF-FW-P10A.

¹³³ RPS – Objective LF-FW-O10 and Policy LF-FW-P13.

¹³⁴ RPS – Policy LF-FW-P14.

¹³⁵ RPS – Objectives LF-LS-O11 & LF-LS-O12 and Policies LF-LS-P16, P17 & P19.

¹³⁶ RPS – Objective UFD-O4 and Policy UFD-P7.

¹³⁷ RPS – Policy LF-LS-P18.



- > Provide for public access to and along lakes and rivers by maintaining existing access and seeking opportunities for landowners to enhance public access, unless necessary to protect (amongst other things) health and safety.¹³⁸

As discussed in Section 12.3.9 above, there will be no loss of any productive capacity or highly productive land due to MP4, and the Project will not compromise the long-term viability of primary production and rural communities.

Soil erosion and sedimentation will be carefully managed in accordance with the ESCMP provided in **Part B** of this substantive application. There are numerous site-specific ESCMPs planned for activities proposed as part of MP4 including activities that could pose erosion and sediment risks to any waterbody. The implementation of these site-specific ESCMPs will ensure that erosion-prone areas are appropriately managed, sediment-laden runoff is contained and treated before discharge, and sediment inputs to receiving waterbodies are minimised throughout construction and operational activities. Through the application of these measures, the proposal is consistent with the policy objective to minimise soil erosion and the associated risk of sedimentation in waterbodies.

While the watercourses within the Macraes Operation are located on private station land and access will be suitably restricted for health and safety purposes, OGNZL will continue to provide for public access to the surrounding conservation areas through the existing haul crossings and a new haul crossing to allow access to the Murphys Flat Historic Reserve Area.

For the reasons above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies related to land and soil.

12.3.10.1.5 Ecosystems and Indigenous Biodiversity

The key relevant objectives of the RPS relating to ecosystems and indigenous biodiversity seek that:

- > Otago's indigenous biodiversity is healthy and thriving and any overall decline in condition, quantity and diversity is halted;¹³⁹
- > Restoration and enhancement activities result in an overall increase in the extent and occupancy of Otago's indigenous biodiversity – including by restoring and enhancing habitat for indigenous species (including taoka species);¹⁴⁰ and

¹³⁸ RPS – Policy LF-LS-P22.

¹³⁹ RPS – Objective ECO-O1.

¹⁴⁰ RPS – Objective ECO-O2 and Policy ECO-P8.



- > Kāi Tahu exercise their role as kaitiaki of Otago's indigenous biodiversity.¹⁴¹

Policy ECO-P4 seeks to maintain indigenous biodiversity values by applying the effects management hierarchy for various activities that are either located in SNAs or may adversely affect indigenous species and ecosystems that are identified by mana whenua as taoka that require protection.

In addition, Policy ECO-P6 seeks to maintain indigenous biodiversity more broadly by seeking to apply the effects management hierarchy to manage significant adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity and requiring the maintenance of indigenous biodiversity for all other adverse effects.

As detailed in Section 12.3.7 of these application documents, the effects hierarchy has been applied to consideration of the ecological effects of MP4. This has resulted in numerous effects on biodiversity being avoided, remedied or mitigated and, where this has not been possible, a compensation package has been offered by OGNZL. At a broader level, MP4 includes biodiversity initiatives that will deliver positive ecological, cultural and landscape outcomes within the Macraes Ecological District that would not otherwise occur. While some residual adverse biodiversity effects remain, these are considered modest, and directing resources toward these wider biodiversity enhancement measures is considered to provide greater overall biodiversity gains than pursuing like-for-like remediation which would require a disproportionate response to the MP4 effects. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with Policy ECO-P6, having applied the effects management hierarchy to manage adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity while also delivering measures that maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity more broadly.

12.3.10.1.6 Infrastructure and Transport

The key relevant objectives and policies of the RPS relating to transport seek that the transport network is effective, efficient and safe, connects communities, and is resilient to natural hazards, climate change and the needs of the community.¹⁴²

In regard to the policy direction specific to transportation, Stantec (2026) prepared a transport assessment that considers the adverse effects of MP4 on the surrounding transportation network, specifically the safety of the public roading system and consider any effects of the proposed road realignments. The assessment found that the roading network remains effective, efficient and safe for MP4.

¹⁴¹ RPS – Objective ECO-O3 and Policy ECO-P1.

¹⁴² RPS – Objective EIT-TRAN-O7 and Policy EIT-TRAN-P21.



For the reasons detailed above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the energy, infrastructure and transport sections of the RPS.

12.3.10.1.7 Hazards and Risks

The key relevant objectives and policies of the RPS relating to natural hazards seek that:

- > The level of risk to people, communities and property from natural hazards are maintained where they are acceptable and managed to not exceed a tolerable level;¹⁴³
- > Areas where natural hazards may adversely affect people, community and property are identified;¹⁴⁴ and
- > People, communities and property are prepared for and able to adapt to the effects of natural hazards, including those exacerbated by climate change.¹⁴⁵

The assessment of MP4 against Chapter 4 of the RPS regarding natural hazards, contaminated land and hazardous substances equally applies to the consideration of the RPS provisions above.

In summary, MP4 has been designed to ensure it does not increase natural hazard risks to surrounding properties. EGL has prepared a suite of technical reports to inform the design of key mine components and proposed mitigation measures to ensure the features are stable and safe. These assessments consider natural hazard risks such as flooding, earthquakes and landslides relevant to the objectives and policies of the RPS. Finalisation of the design of the mine components is subject to detail design; however, the proposed mitigation measures focus on ensuring the long-term stability, safety, and performance of the development through robust design, quality-controlled construction practices, and ongoing monitoring. This includes managing water pressures and drainage, designing for extreme weather events, and accounting for settlement and runoff during closure. Regular inspection, monitoring systems, and adaptive management approaches are incorporated to identify and respond to potential risks throughout the operational and post-closure phases.

With respect to contaminated land, the overarching Objective HAZ-CL-O3 seeks that contaminated land and waste materials are managed to protect human health and do not harm Kāi Tahu values and the environment. The key relevant associated policies seek to:

¹⁴³ RPS – Objective HAZ-NH-O1 and Policies HAZ-NH-P2 & HAZ-NH-P5.

¹⁴⁴ RPS – Policies HAZ-NH-P1 & P2.

¹⁴⁵ RPS – Objective HAZ-NH-O2.

- > Identify sites of known contaminated land and manage contaminated land as to not pose an unacceptable risk to people and the environment;¹⁴⁶ and
- > Avoid the creation of new contaminated land, and where this is not practicable, minimise adverse effects on the environment and Kāi Tahu values to the extent reasonably practicable.¹⁴⁷

Technical reports have been prepared to inform contaminated land management (WWLA 2026a and 2026b) and the handling and storage of hazardous substances (Tonkin & Taylor 2026b). These reports have influenced a comprehensive suite of controls to manage the risks associated with contaminated land and the use, transport, storage and handling of hazardous substances. OGNZL has proposed a suite of conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application that seek to minimise adverse effects to the extent reasonably practicable. Further, OGNZL has engaged with Ngāi Tahu in the development of these application documents and is committed to ongoing engagement during consent implementation. This engagement has informed the proposed management framework and consent conditions, which seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on environmental and cultural values, and provide for the ongoing participation of Kā Rūnaka throughout the life of the Project.

For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies for hazards and risk.

12.3.10.1.8 Historical and Cultural Values

The relevant objectives and policies of the RPS relating to wāhi tūpuna seek to identify and protect wāhi tūpuna (and their associated cultural values), recognise the rakatirataka of mana whenua over wāhi tūpuna and enable mana whenua to exercise their role as kaitiaki within these areas.¹⁴⁸

As described throughout this report, OGNZL is committed to ongoing engagement with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou and Aukaha throughout the development, assessment and implementation of the proposal. While no listed or scheduled Māori archaeological sites have been identified within the Macraes Operation area, OGNZL acknowledges that unidentified wāhi tūpuna, archaeological sites, or associated cultural values may still be present and that the identification and significance of such values are matters for mana whenua.

¹⁴⁶ RPS – Policies HAZ-CL-P13 & P14.

¹⁴⁷ RPS – Policy HAZ-CL-P15.

¹⁴⁸ RPS – Objectives HCV-WT-O1 & O2 and Policies HCV-WT-P1 – P2A.

An updated CIA is being prepared and will inform future implementation of the Project once received. Through ongoing engagement and consideration of the findings of that assessment, the proposal seeks to recognise mana whenua interests, provide opportunities for the exercise of kaitiakitaka, and support the identification and protection of wāhi tūpuna and associated cultural values. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the direction of the RPS objectives and policies relating to wāhi tūpuna.

12.3.10.1.9 Natural Features and Landscapes

The key relevant objectives and policies of the RPS relating to natural features and landscapes seek to identify the areas and values of outstanding natural features and landscapes and protect them from inappropriate use and development by:

- > Avoiding exceeding the landscape capacity of the natural feature or landscape;
- > Maintaining the values that contribute to the natural feature or landscape being considered outstanding, even if those values are not themselves outstanding; and
- > Avoiding, remedying or mitigating other adverse effects.¹⁴⁹

OGNZL commissioned Boffa Miskell (2026) to undertake an assessment of natural features and landscapes of the Macraes Operation, relevant to MP4. Overall, MP4 is consistent with the policy directions detailed above. While construction and operational phases will result in landscape, natural character, and visual amenity effects these effects are generally assessed as moderate during operations and arise within an already modified and established mining environment. The assessment concludes that the proposal does not represent a fundamental change to the overall character of the wider Macraes landscape, nor does it exceed the landscape's capacity to absorb further mining-related development. Rather, the proposal represents an extension of an existing mining operation within a landscape that already contains substantial mining modification.

In terms of maintaining landscape values, the proposal largely retains the broader patterns and legibility of the modified mining landscape and is predominately confined to the existing mining areas and their immediate surrounds. Boffa Miskell concludes that the proposal does not adversely affect any of the natural landscapes or features and avoids development in areas where landscape capacity would be exceeded.

Importantly, the proposal adopts a comprehensive approach to avoiding, remedying, and mitigating adverse effects through progressive rehabilitation and closure planning. These measures include landform recontouring, pit lake establishment, ecological restoration and

¹⁴⁹ RPS – Objective NFL-O1 and Policies NFL-P1 - P2.

waterway enhancement initiatives that are intended to progressively reduce landscape and visual effects overtime.

By closure, landscape and visual effects are expected to reduce materially as rehabilitation measures mature, with effects generally assessed as low-moderate. Rehabilitated landforms are expected to integrate with the surrounding environment, and in some areas, natural character may be enhanced relative to the current baseline. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with the intent of the RPS objectives and policies by appropriately managing landscape capacity, maintaining landscape values, and effectively addressing adverse effects through mitigation and rehabilitation measures.

12.3.10.1.10 Overall Conclusion

It is concluded that, overall, the activities associated with MP4 are being undertaken and managed in a way that is consistent with the objectives and policies of the RPS.

12.3.11 Regional Plan: Water for Otago

The Regional Water Plan became operative in January 2004 and was last updated in September 2022. The purpose of the plan is to promote the sustainable management of water resources within the Otago Region. The Regional Water Plan sets objectives, policies and methods (including rules) to address the use, development and protection of freshwater resources, including the beds and margins of waterbodies.

The objectives and policies in the Regional Water Plan cover a broad range of topics that are relevant to MP4. The topics of relevance are discussed in further detail below and include natural and human use values of lakes and rivers, water quantity and quality, the beds and margins of rivers and lakes, groundwater and wetlands.

12.3.11.1.1 Natural and Human Use Values of Lakes and Rivers

The key relevant objectives and associated policies in the Regional Water Plan seek to:

- > Maintain or enhance the identified natural and human use values of rivers;¹⁵⁰
- > Maintain or enhance spiritual and cultural values and uses of significance to Kāi Tahu related to lakes and rivers;¹⁵¹
- > Maintain the heritage values associated with rivers and their margins;¹⁵²

¹⁵⁰ Regional Water Plan – Objective 5.3.1 and Policy 5.4.2.

¹⁵¹ Regional Water Plan – Objective 5.3.2 and Policies 5.4.1 & 5.4.2.

¹⁵² Regional Water Plan – Objective 5.3.7 and Policy 5.4.10.



- > Protect the natural character of rivers (particularly natural flow, water level and ecology) and their margins from inappropriate use or development, provide for their sustainable use and development and avoid in preference to remedying adverse effects on natural character;¹⁵³
- > Maintain or enhance amenity values (particularly aesthetic values and recreational opportunities) and public access to rivers and their margins – with a preference to avoiding instead of remedying adverse effects on amenity values;¹⁵⁴
- > Avoid the loss of river extent or values unless there is a functional need for the activity in that location and the effects of the activity are managed by applying the effects management hierarchy;¹⁵⁵ and
- > Avoid exacerbating any natural hazard, or the creation of a new hazard, associated with rivers.¹⁵⁶

As identified in **Part A.06** of this report, the Deepdell Creek and Mare Burn are both listed on Schedule 1A of the Regional Water Plan, identified as containing significant natural values.

The ecosystem values identified for Deepdell Creek include:

- > Free from biological nuisances such as exotic fish species and aquatic pest plants; and
- > Presence of indigenous fish species threatened with extinction.

Further to these ecosystem values, Deepdell Creek is significant habitat for flathead galaxiid.

The aquatic ecology assessments undertaken by Viridis (2026a and 2026c) and Bioresearches (2026a and 2026b) demonstrate that MP4 is not expected to compromise these identified values. MP4 does not involve the introduction of exotic fish species or aquatic pest plants, nor does it create pathways that are likely to facilitate their establishment within Deepdell Creek or associated waterways. In contrast, aspects of the Project may provide ecological benefits through the exclusion of predatory fish species from upstream habitats and the enhancement of habitat conditions through improved flow permanence in some receiving environments.

¹⁵³ Regional Water Plan – Objectives 5.3.3 & 5.3.6 and Policies 5.4.2 & 5.4.8.

¹⁵⁴ Regional Water Plan – Objectives 5.3.4 & 5.3.5 and Policies 5.4.2, 5.4.6 & 5.4.9.

¹⁵⁵ Regional Water Plan – Policy 5.4.2A.

¹⁵⁶ Regional Water Plan – Objective 5.3.8.

In relation to threatened indigenous fish species, detailed investigations have identified the presence of Taieri flathead galaxiid, longfin eel, and shortfin eel within parts of the wider project area and brown trout were identified at some sites in the Deepdell Creek. The assessment concludes that effects on these species will generally be low to negligible following implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. For stream reclamation and realignment works, fish are considered highly unlikely to occur within affected reaches due to the presence of existing fish passage barriers and the absence of fish detected through eDNA sampling.

The technical assessments indicate that the ecosystem values of Deepdell Creek relating to the absence of biological nuisances and the protection of threatened indigenous fish species, including the Taieri flathead galaxiid, will be maintained. Accordingly, the proposal is considered consistent with the objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan that seek to maintain and enhance the natural values of rivers, protect significant freshwater habitats and biodiversity, and manage adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems through avoidance, mitigation, compensation, monitoring and adaptive management.

The Mare Burn is identified in Schedule 1A of the Regional Water Plan for having the following natural ecosystem values:

- > Riparian vegetation of significance to aquatic habitats;
- > Presence of significant fish spawning areas for trout and salmon; and
- > Presence of significant areas of juvenile fish spawning areas for trout and salmon.

The aquatic ecology assessments undertaken by Viridis (2026a and 2026c) and Bioresearches (2026a and 2026b) conclude that, while MP4 will result in changes to flow regimes and the discharge of treated water to some receiving environments, these effects can be appropriately managed and are not anticipated to adversely affect the identified values of the Mare Burn. In particular, the proposed water quality management framework is expected to provide a higher level of protection than that currently required under existing consent conditions and is anticipated to improve water quality outcomes for a range of parameters relevant to aquatic ecosystem health.

With respect to fish habitat and spawning values, the assessments indicate that supplementary releases associated with the Coal Creek dam are not expected to adversely affect stream permanence, habitat availability, or fish passage conditions within the Mare Burn. Viridis (2026c) concludes that operational releases to the Mare Burn are unlikely to generate adverse fish passage effects because the waterway already functions as a permanent stream downstream of the Coal Creek confluence. The proposal therefore does

not result in the loss of identified spawning habitat or juvenile fish habitat within the Mare Burn.

The potential for indirect effects arising from sedimentation has also been assessed. Elevated sediment loads can adversely affect spawning gravels, egg survival, and juvenile fish habitat. However, comprehensive erosion and sediment controls will be implemented in accordance with the ESCMP, and existing and proposed sediment retention infrastructure will capture sediment before it reaches natural waterways. Monitoring of sediment levels and aquatic ecological indicators will provide an adaptive management mechanism to identify and address any unforeseen effects. On this basis, residual sediment-related effects on the spawning and juvenile fish values of the Mare Burn are expected to be low.

In relation to riparian vegetation, no significant adverse effects on the riparian margins of the Mare Burn have been identified. Where riparian vegetation is affected elsewhere within the Project Land boundaries, mitigation measures including direct transfer of native tussocks, riparian restoration, stock exclusion, and extensive enhancement planting are proposed. These measures will contribute to maintaining and enhancing riparian functions that support aquatic habitat values at a catchment scale.

In summary, the technical evidence indicates that MP4 will not result in the loss or significant degradation of the Mare Burn's identified Schedule 1A ecosystem values. The proposal incorporates measures to maintain water quality, manage sediment generation, protect aquatic habitat, and monitor environmental outcomes. Accordingly, MP4 is considered to give effect to the relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan that seek to maintain and enhance the natural, ecological, and fisheries values of rivers and their margins, including significant spawning and juvenile fish habitats.

Further, the Mare Burn is listed in Schedule 7 of the Regional Water Plan as a water body sensitive to suction dredge mining due to the unique value for fish spawning or rearing, and the importance of water supply.

There is no suction dredge mining proposed as part of MP4 and therefore this sensitivity is not relevant to this application.

There are no waterbodies within the Macraes Operation identified in Schedule 1C for containing historic values or Schedule 1D for containing spiritual and cultural beliefs, values and uses of significance to Kāi Tahu.

12.3.11.1.2 Water Quantity

The relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to water quantity seek to:

- > Retain flows in rivers sufficient to maintain their life-supporting capacity for aquatic ecosystems and their natural character;¹⁵⁷
- > Provide for the water needs of primary and secondary industries and maximise opportunities for diverse consumptive uses of water;¹⁵⁸
- > Maintain long-term groundwater levels and water storage in aquifers;¹⁵⁹
- > Minimise conflict amongst water takers and avoid adverse effects on existing groundwater takes (unless approval of affected persons has been obtained);¹⁶⁰
- > Minimise any adverse downstream effect of managed flows;¹⁶¹
- > Ensure the quantity of water taken is no more than required;¹⁶²
- > To recognise the hydrological characteristics of Otago's water resources, including behaviour and trends in:
 - > Levels and flows of surface waterbodies;
 - > The levels and volumes of groundwater; and
 - > Any interrelationships between adjoining bodies or water when managing the take of water;¹⁶³ and
- > The appropriate siting, construction and operation of new groundwater bores.¹⁶⁴

As outlined in Section 9.5 of **Part A.09** of this report, the assessment of water quantity effects has been informed by extensive hydrogeological, hydrological and water balance modelling, representing the most comprehensive assessment of water effects undertaken at the Macraes Operation to date. The assessment considered the effects of pit dewatering, groundwater recovery, pit lake development, groundwater-surface water interactions and long-term catchment water balances across the Coronation, Central and Golden Bar mining areas.

The modelling indicates that groundwater drawdown effects are generally localised around the proposed mining areas and that reductions in groundwater contributions to surrounding

¹⁵⁷ Regional Water Plan – Objective 6.3.1.

¹⁵⁸ Regional Water Plan – Objectives 6.3.2 & 6.3.4.

¹⁵⁹ Regional Water Plan – Objective 6.3.2A.

¹⁶⁰ Regional Water Plan – Objective 6.3.3 and Policy 6.4.10B.

¹⁶¹ Regional Water Plan – Objective 6.3.6 and Policy 6.4.14.

¹⁶² Regional Water Plan – Policy 6.4.0A.

¹⁶³ Regional Water Plan – Policy 6.4.0.

¹⁶⁴ Regional Water Plan – Policy 6.4.10C.

streams are relatively small. Predicted reductions in baseflow contributions to Deepdell Creek, Mare Burn, Murphys Creek, McCormicks Creek, Tipperary Creek, the Waikouaiti River North Branch and the Shag River are generally low in proportion to existing groundwater contributions, while groundwater levels are predicted to substantially recover over time following cessation of mining and development of the post-mining pit lakes.

GHD (2026a) has also specifically recognised the interrelationship between groundwater and surface water systems. The assessment has considered both direct dewatering effects and the longer-term influence of seepage, pit lakes and groundwater recovery on receiving watercourses. In response, MP4 incorporates a comprehensive and integrated water management framework that includes seepage capture systems, water treatment, enhanced monitoring, adaptive management, and the Camp Creek and Coal Creek augmentation dams. These measures are intended to maintain downstream flows during low flow periods, reduce pressure on receiving environments, and minimise the potential for adverse effects associated with mining activities.

The modelling further indicates that adverse effects on existing groundwater users are unlikely. Groundwater drawdown is predicted to remain largely confined to areas surrounding existing and proposed mine workings, and the assessment found that identified groundwater users are generally outside the predicted extent of significant drawdown and contaminant plume migration.

While the proposal involves significant management of groundwater and mine water, the quantities abstracted and managed are intrinsically linked to the operational requirements of the mine and associated environmental management systems. The proposed monitoring programme, including extensive groundwater and surface water monitoring networks, provides a framework to verify model predictions and support adaptive management should unforeseen effects arise.

Several of the Regional Water Plan provisions relating to water allocation are of limited relevance to MP4. The proposal does not involve any surface water takes and does not require a surface water allocation. Accordingly, Policies 6.4.0C and 6.4.1 are not directly applicable.

With regard to Policy 6.4.1A, WGA (2026b) provides an assessment of the stream depletion effects, an analysis of this policy and of the Schedule 5A requirements. In summary:

- > Water inflows to the Extension are not derived from any aquifer identified in Schedule 2C. The surrounding rock mass comprises low-permeability fractured schist, which does not constitute an aquifer in hydrogeological terms. Accordingly, the Extension is not expected to intercept or adversely affect any Schedule 2C aquifer.

- > Deepdell Creek is classified as a perennial surface water body for the purposes of Policy 6.4.1A. However, the proposed groundwater take is associated with underground workings located at least 105 m below ground level and below the bed of Deepdell Creek, with the separation distance increasing further to the east. Accordingly, the proposed take is more than 100 m from the bed of Deepdell Creek and is considered to comply with the relevant separation distance requirements of Policy 6.4.1A.
- > Schedule 5A modelling predicts a flow depletion of 1.5 L/s in Deepdell Creek, arising from reduced groundwater inputs upstream of monitoring site DC08 (GHD, 2026a). As this is substantially below the 5 L/s threshold in the RPW, the resulting effects on surface water flows are expected to be minor.
- > Therefore, the water take from the Extension can appropriately be treated as a groundwater take in accordance with Policy 6.4.1A.

Notwithstanding the above, MP4 includes a proposal to abstract stored water from the Coal Creek Dam to provide flow augmentation in Māori Hen Creek above the MB01 compliance site. OGNZL seeks authorisation for this take as supplementary allocation "on an alternative basis" pursuant to Policy 6.4.9(b) of the Water Plan.

Policy 6.4.9(b) provides for supplementary allocation where:

- (i) *the take has no measurable effect on flows at Schedule 2 monitoring sites at or below applicable minimum flows;*
- (ii) *any adverse effect on aquatic ecosystem values or natural character is no more than minor; and*
- (iii) *there is no adverse effect on any lawful existing take of water.*

The proposed abstraction from Coal Creek Dam is consistent with Policy 6.4.9(b) for the following reasons.

In relation to Policy 6.4.9(b)(i), the relevant Schedule 2 monitoring sites are located on the main stem of the Taieri River. The take would only occur following construction and operation of the Coal Creek Dam, at which point flows downstream of the dam will be controlled by discharge consent RM16.138.08. The taking of stored water from the dam may theoretically influence the frequency or magnitude of overtopping events; however, any such effects are unlikely to result in measurable changes at the relevant Schedule 2 monitoring sites. Overtopping events are unlikely to coincide with periods when flows at the monitoring sites are at or below minimum flows, and the substantial distance between the dam and the nearest Schedule 2 monitoring site further reduces the potential for any measurable effect. In addition, water abstracted from the dam will be discharged immediately into Māori Hen Creek within the same catchment. Accordingly, the proposed



take will have no measurable adverse effect on flows at Schedule 2 monitoring sites at or below minimum flow conditions.

In relation to Policy 6.4.9(b)(ii), adverse effects on aquatic ecosystem values and natural character will be no more than minor. The abstraction is intended to facilitate a more effective flow augmentation regime and will be constrained by operational requirements to ensure sufficient stored water remains available to maintain the dam's required minimum discharge. The abstraction infrastructure will also incorporate fish screening to avoid adverse effects on Taieri flathead galaxias and other aquatic fauna.

In relation to Policy 6.4.9(b)(iii), there is no evidence that operation of the Coal Creek Dam or the proposed abstraction would adversely affect any lawful existing water take. To the contrary, the augmentation regime is intended to supplement flows in the receiving environment, improve low-flow conditions and support downstream water quality outcomes.

For these reasons, the proposed abstraction from Coal Creek Dam is considered consistent with Policy 6.4.9(b) of the Water Plan.

In summary, the proposal recognises the hydrological characteristics of the affected catchments, appropriately accounts for groundwater and surface water interactions, and incorporates a comprehensive suite of mitigation, augmentation, monitoring and management measures. For these reasons, MP4 is considered to be consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to water quantity.

12.3.11.1.3 Water Quality

The relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to the water quality of discharges seek to:

- > Maintain water quality in rivers, wetlands and groundwater, but enhance water quality where it is degraded;¹⁶⁵
- > Avoid objectionable discharges of water or contaminants, and enable the discharge of water and contaminants to water or land where it maintains water quality and supports natural and human use values, including Kāi Tahu values;¹⁶⁶
- > Allow the discharge of water and contaminants to rivers, wetlands and groundwater where:

¹⁶⁵ Regional Water Plan – Objective 7.A.1.

¹⁶⁶ Regional Water Plan – Objective 7.A.2 and Policy 7.B.2.



- > the discharge will have minor effects, or
- > the discharge is short-term and will have short-term adverse effects;¹⁶⁷
- > When assessing discharges to land, consider the land's capacity to assimilate contaminants, potential effects on soil contamination and land stability, impacts on water quality, and any adverse effects on nearby coastal waters used for contact recreation or seafood gathering;¹⁶⁸
- > Encourage land management practices that reduce the adverse effects of water or contaminants discharged into water;¹⁶⁹ and
- > Encourage adaptive management and innovation that reduces the level of contaminants in discharges.¹⁷⁰

A key objective of the MP4 water management workstream is to achieve improved water quality outcomes relative to the existing consented regime. This is proposed through a combination of source controls, seepage capture and treatment, flow augmentation, monitoring, adaptive management and ecological restoration measures. MP4 also proposes a more stringent water quality framework that aligns more closely with contemporary aquatic ecosystem protection objectives, including ANZG 95% species protection levels across much of the receiving environment and higher levels of protection where drinking water values are present.

Water quality modelling undertaken by GHD (2026a) indicates that these measures have the potential to achieve the majority of the proposed water quality objectives during both operational and closure phases, while significantly reducing contaminant loads to receiving waters. Compared to both existing conditions and the current consent framework, the proposal is expected to provide improved protection for aquatic ecosystems through reduced exposure to contaminants, ionic stressors and nutrient enrichment. While some modelled exceedances remain under conservative scenarios, these are proposed to be managed through ongoing monitoring, adaptive management and refinement of mitigation measures over time, as provided for in the proposed consent conditions. The modelling identifies residual risks of exceedance for a limited number of parameters and locations, particularly copper, zinc, arsenic, iron and sulphate under certain operational and long-term post-closure scenarios. However, the assessment concludes that these risks are generally low, reflect conservative modelling assumptions in some instances, or are capable of being

¹⁶⁷ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.B.3.

¹⁶⁸ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.B.4.

¹⁶⁹ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.B.7.

¹⁷⁰ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.B.8.



further managed through treatment, operational controls and adaptive management measures.

The proposal also incorporates extensive surface water and groundwater monitoring to verify model predictions and inform future management responses, including design of the water treatment system. In addition, the design has considered the assimilative capacity of receiving environments and incorporates a range of source controls, treatment measures and land management practices to minimise contaminant generation and migration. The GHD (2026a) assessment has been informed by catchment-scale water balance and contaminant transport modelling that explicitly considers stream flows, dilution capacity, seepage interception, treatment systems and flow augmentation measures when assessing downstream water quality outcomes. While some modelled exceedances remain under conservative scenarios, the technical assessments indicate that these effects can be appropriately managed through the proposed monitoring and adaptive management framework. Importantly, the proposal is not limited to managing the effects of the MP4. Several of the proposed mitigation measures, including seepage interception, active water treatment and flow augmentation, are directed toward reducing contaminant loads associated with existing and consented mining activities and improving receiving water quality outcomes over time.

Collectively, these measures are intended to reduce contaminant loads and improve long-term water quality outcomes relative to the existing consented regime, while recognising that some residual compliance risks may occur before mitigation measures are fully implemented and effective. The proposal also provides for ongoing monitoring, review and adaptive management to respond to model uncertainty and to verify environmental performance over time. In this context, the proposal is directed toward maintaining and enhancing water quality where it is currently degraded, reducing the adverse effects of contaminant discharges, promoting improved land and water management practices, and enabling ongoing innovation and adaptive management in accordance with the objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan. These matters are fully captured in the proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application.

Section 7.C of the Regional Water Plan relates to policies for discharges of specified contaminants, and stormwater (among other things) as well as discharges from industrial or trade premises and consented dams. The following policies are considered as relevant:

- > When assessing discharges to water, consider opportunities to improve the quality of receiving water bodies where existing water quality is degraded, particularly where enhancement would support natural values and human use values;¹⁷¹
- > When assessing discharges to water, or to land where contaminants may enter water, consider the nature of the discharge, the sensitivity of the receiving environment, the environmental and financial implications of alternative discharge methods, and the suitability and effectiveness of the proposed discharge approach based on current technical knowledge;¹⁷² and
- > Remedy any adverse effects from the failure or overtopping of the dam structure for storage of contaminants, either during or after its construction.¹⁷³

In relation to Policy 7.C.11, the proposal incorporates a range of engineered water management and storage infrastructure, including tailings storage and water management facilities that have been subject to separate engineering design, monitoring and management assessments. The proposal includes monitoring, operational management and contingency measures intended to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects associated with structural failure, seepage or overtopping events. Accordingly, the risk of adverse water quality effects arising from failure of contaminant storage structures is proposed to be appropriately managed through the overall design and management framework for the Project.

Accordingly, having regard to the findings of the technical assessments, the proposed mitigation measures, the monitoring and adaptive management framework and the proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to water quality and discharges. While some residual adverse effects and modelled exceedances remain, the proposal incorporates measures that are directed toward improving water quality outcomes over time, particularly within catchments affected by existing mining activities.

12.3.11.1.4 Beds and Margins of Rivers and Lakes

The key relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to the beds and margins of rivers and lakes seek to:

¹⁷¹ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.C.1.

¹⁷² Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.C.2.

¹⁷³ Regional Water Plan – Policy 7.C.11.



- > Maintain bed and bank stability and flood and sediment carrying capacity of rivers;¹⁷⁴
- > Minimise reductions in water clarity caused by bed disturbance;¹⁷⁵
- > Maintain the passage of fish, or improve the passage of fish by instream structures, except where it is desirable to prevent the passage of some fish species;¹⁷⁶
- > Avoid changes in flow and sediment processes in water bodies where those changes will cause adverse effects on the stability and function of structures, erosion or sedimentation effects, or a reduction in flood carrying capacity for rivers;¹⁷⁷
- > For unavoidable adverse effects of damming or reclamation on natural or human use values identified in Schedule 1 of the Regional Water Plan, require that these effects are remedied, mitigated or offset;¹⁷⁸
- > Consider practical alternatives and only use cleanfill for the reclamation of the bed of any river;¹⁷⁹
- > Have regard for spawning requirements of indigenous fauna, bed and bank stability, water quality, amenity values and water clarity and downstream users when disturbing the bed or margin of any lake or river;¹⁸⁰ and
- > Promote the creation, retention and enhancement of riparian vegetation where it will maintain or enhance water quality, aquatic ecosystems, natural character, amenity and mahika kai.¹⁸¹

The aquatic ecology assessments prepared by Viridis (2026a and 2026c) and Bioreserches (2026a and 2026b) demonstrate that the proposal has sought to avoid, remedy and mitigate adverse effects on the beds and margins of rivers and streams wherever practicable. While MP4 will result in the reclamation and realignment of sections of Trimbells Gully and a tributary of Clydesdale Creek, the realigned channel has been designed to maintain hydrological function and improve habitat quality and diversity. Stream enhancement and riparian restoration measures are also proposed within Murphys Creek and the North Branch Waikouaiti River to address residual effects and achieve no net loss, and potentially a net gain, in freshwater ecological values.

¹⁷⁴ Regional Water Plan – Objective 8.3.1.

¹⁷⁵ Regional Water Plan – Objective 8.3.2.

¹⁷⁶ Regional Water Plan – Objective 8.3.5.

¹⁷⁷ Regional Water Plan – Policy 8.4.1.

¹⁷⁸ Regional Water Plan – Policy 8.4.2.

¹⁷⁹ Regional Water Plan – Policies 8.8.1 and 8.8.2.

¹⁸⁰ Regional Water Plan – Policy 8.6.1.

¹⁸¹ Regional Water Plan – Policy 8.7.1.

Measures including erosion and sediment controls, discharge design, energy dissipation structures, riparian planting, flow monitoring and adaptive management will assist in maintaining bed and bank stability, minimising sedimentation effects and protecting water clarity. The proposal also promotes the retention and enhancement of riparian vegetation through channel restoration and enhancement works.

While the Camp Creek and Coal Creek dams will create barriers to fish passage, detailed assessment concludes that adverse effects on fish populations are expected to be negligible to minor given the limited extent and quality of affected habitat, the non-migratory nature of the Taieri flathead galaxiid, and the small contribution of the upstream habitats to catchment-scale populations. The assessment also identifies potential ecological benefits associated with predator exclusion and increased downstream flow permanence. The proposal therefore recognises fish passage values while appropriately managing the effects of structures where fish passage cannot be maintained.

Overall, the proposal includes a comprehensive package of avoidance, mitigation, restoration and compensation measures and is considered to be consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to the beds and margins of rivers and lakes.

In addition to the ecological assessments, the surface water and groundwater assessment prepared by GHD (2026a) supports the conclusion that MP4 is consistent with the Regional Water Plan provisions relating to the beds and margins of rivers and lakes. GHD (2026a) concludes that changes in groundwater contributions to receiving streams resulting from dewatering activities are generally small and localised, and that a suite of measures, including seepage capture systems, waste rock stack rehabilitation and capping, water treatment infrastructure, and the Camp Creek and Coal Creek augmentation dams, will assist in maintaining stream function, water quality and low-flow conditions. These measures reduce the potential for adverse effects on stream stability, sediment processes and downstream receiving environments, and support the long-term maintenance and restoration of freshwater systems affected by the Project.

12.3.11.1.5 Groundwater

The relevant groundwater objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan seek to maintain groundwater quantity and quality, ensure that aquifers remain suitable for their recognised uses, and require the appropriate siting, construction and operation of



groundwater bores and drill holes to protect both groundwater resources and groundwater quality and prevent contaminants entering aquifers.¹⁸²

The nearest applicable Water Plan mapping (Map C19) identifies the Shag Alluvium Aquifer and an associated Groundwater Protection Zone A. However, the MP4 Project Land is located some distance northwest, both outside of the mapped aquifer and Groundwater Protection Zone, and therefore the specific provisions associated with these mapped resources are not applicable.

Nevertheless, GHD (2026a) has prepared a comprehensive groundwater assessment that considers the maintenance of groundwater quantity and quality, groundwater flow, contaminant transport and the interaction between groundwater and surface water systems.

The assessment includes numerical groundwater flow and contaminant transport modelling for the Coronation, Central and Golden Bar Mining Areas, together with targeted seepage assessments for specific waste rock stack and mine infrastructure locations.

The groundwater assessment indicates that groundwater flow and drawdown effects associated with the proposed mining activities are expected to remain largely localised around the existing and proposed pit extensions and underground workings. Groundwater recovery is predicted to occur progressively following cessation of dewatering and formation of pit lakes, although post-closure groundwater flow patterns will continue to be influenced by mine landforms including pit lakes, waste rock stacks and tailings storage facilities.

Groundwater modelling also indicates that groundwater drawdown associated with current and proposed mining activities is expected to remain largely confined to areas surrounding the proposed pit extensions and underground workings. Existing groundwater bores, proposed bores and consented groundwater takes were assessed against both the predicted extent of drawdown and the predicted contaminant plume extents, with the assessment concluding that adverse effects on non-mining groundwater users are unlikely.

The assessment further considered the interaction between groundwater and surface water systems. Predicted reductions in groundwater contributions to receiving streams during dewatering were generally small relative to existing groundwater-derived flows, with reductions of less than 3.1% in the Mare Burn, less than 6% in Deepdell Creek, and generally less than 0.5% in other receiving streams. On this basis, groundwater-related effects on connected surface water systems are expected to be localised and manageable.

¹⁸² Regional Water Plan – Objective 9.3.3. and Policies 9.4.1, 9.4.2, 9.4.14 & 9.4.17.

Groundwater contaminant transport modelling was undertaken using sulphate as a conservative indicator contaminant. The modelling predicts that contaminant plumes will generally remain constrained within the local groundwater system and migrate predominantly through weathered and fractured schist toward local receiving environments and mine water management infrastructure. Existing groundwater bores, proposed bores and consented groundwater takes were assessed against the predicted extent of the contaminant plumes. The assessment concludes that these receptors are not expected to be intersected by the predicted plume extent and adverse effects on groundwater users are therefore considered unlikely.

The Project incorporates a range of measures intended to maintain groundwater quality and reduce groundwater contaminant migration, including seepage capture drains, collection and treatment of mine-affected water, waste rock stack rehabilitation and capping, pit lake monitoring and management, and ongoing groundwater monitoring. These measures are intended to intercept contaminated seepage before it reaches groundwater and surface water receptors and to reduce contaminant loads over time.

The Project also includes a comprehensive groundwater monitoring programme involving monitoring bores, continuous groundwater level monitoring, groundwater quality sampling and long-term monitoring of plume migration and groundwater recovery. This monitoring framework provides a mechanism to verify model predictions, identify emerging effects and support adaptive management where required.

While the modelling identifies long-term groundwater contaminant transport associated with mine-related sources, GHD (2026a) concludes that groundwater quality effects are expected to be localised and capable of being appropriately managed through the proposed mitigation, monitoring and adaptive management framework. In this respect, conditions are proffered that that require ongoing groundwater quality and groundwater level monitoring, implementation of seepage capture and treatment systems, review of monitoring results, and adaptive management where required.

Overall, the groundwater drawdown effects are expected to be localised, adverse effects on existing groundwater users are unlikely, and potential groundwater quality effects can be appropriately managed through the proposed seepage interception, treatment, rehabilitation, monitoring and adaptive management measures. MP4 is therefore maintains groundwater resources for their recognised uses and is considered to be consistent with Objective 9.3.3 and Policies 9.4.1, 9.4.2, 9.4.14 and 9.4.17 of the Regional Water Plan.

12.3.11.1.6 Wetlands

The relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan relating to Otago's wetlands seek to maintain or enhance wetlands and their individual and collective values and recognise and sustain regionally significant wetlands.¹⁸³

In accordance with the direction provided from the NPS-FM, the loss of natural inland wetlands is avoided, their values are protected, and their restoration is promoted, except where the loss of extent or values arises from a select few specific activities.¹⁸⁴

There are no listed or mapped regionally significant wetlands within the Macraes Operation.

As mentioned earlier, approximately 4.72 ha of inland wetlands will be impacted as part of MP4. This includes losses of 1.1 ha of ephemeral wetlands, 1.4 ha of sedgeland wetlands, 2.1 ha of wetland freshwater herbaceous vegetation and 0.05 ha of other wetland and riparian habitats. As discussed in Section 12.3.7 of this report, the location of economically recoverable gold within a specific geological setting establishes a clear functional need for mining, and thus wetland loss, to occur in that environment.

Although the proposed mining activity is not a specific activity (including specified infrastructure) for which wetland loss does not need to be avoided, OGNZL proposes a compensation strategy that focuses on the restoration, enhancement, protection, and long-term management of degraded wetland ecosystems within the Macraes ED as described in **Part A.09** of this report. This is a requirement of the proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application and will result in a net gain of wetland values, enhancing the extent and quality of wetlands within the wider region and ensuring collective wetland values are protected and restored. Broadly, MP4 is not inconsistent with the wetland objectives and policies of the Regional Water Plan.

12.3.11.1.7 Replacement Water Takes and Use Permits

Objectives 10A.1 and 10A.1.1 seek to ensure the efficient and effective transition from the operative freshwater planning framework toward a new integrated regional planning framework by managing the take and use of freshwater, the replacement of Deemed Permits and the replacement of water permits for takes and uses of freshwater that expire prior to 31 December 2025.

Policy 10A.2.2 provides that, irrespective of any other policies in the Water Plan concerning consent duration, resource consents for takes and uses of freshwater that were not

¹⁸³ Regional Water Plan – Objectives 10.3.1 - 10.3.2.

¹⁸⁴ Regional Water Plan – Policy 10.4.8.



previously authorised by a Deemed Permit or a water permit expiring prior to 31 December 2025 should be granted for a duration of no more than six years. This policy is particularly relevant to the substantive application because OGNZL is seeking new water permits as part of MP4.

Section 127B was inserted into the RMA on 21 August 2025 by the RMA (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act. It creates a legislative limitation on the duration of water permits granted under the Water Plan and provides that such permits must not exceed six years. Similarly, Policy 10A.2.2 directs that resource consents for new takes and uses of freshwater are to be granted for a duration of no more than six years, except in limited circumstances.

The statutory and planning context in which Section 127B and Policy 10A.2.2 were developed is important. Both provisions were introduced as transitional mechanisms intended to manage freshwater allocation and facilitate the transition from the existing freshwater planning framework to a new integrated regional planning framework. The six-year duration limit was designed to avoid long-term allocation decisions being made under an outgoing planning regime while replacement planning instruments were being developed. The subsequent introduction of Section 127B was a response to delays in the freshwater planning reform process and the risk that existing permit holders would otherwise face uncertainty before a new planning framework was in place.

In the present case, the circumstances differ materially from those contemplated by those transitional provisions. The proposed MP4 water permits:

- > Will not create or exacerbate freshwater allocation constraints;
- > Are associated with a nationally and regionally significant project being considered under the FTAA;
- > Will not undermine the ability of the ORC to transition to a future integrated planning framework; and

Require alignment with the duration of the broader suite of approvals sought for MP4 to provide investment certainty and enable efficient delivery, operation and rehabilitation of the Project. As detailed in **Part A.11** of this report, Section 127B and Policy 10A.2.2 are therefore relevant considerations that weigh against granting a 35-year consent duration. However, they are not, in the context of the FTAA, necessarily determinative. Clause 17(4) of Schedule 5 to the FTAA directs that where a provision of the RMA would otherwise require an application to be declined, a panel must not treat that provision as mandating refusal of the application. Rather, the Panel is required to undertake an overall evaluative judgment having regard to all relevant statutory considerations and the purpose of the FTAA.



Applying that approach, significant weight can be afforded to the benefits of enabling the long-term operation of MP4, including the national and regional economic benefits, investment certainty, operational efficiency, and the practical need for the water permits to align with the duration of other project approvals. Against that, the adverse implications of departing from the six-year duration contemplated by section 127B and Policy 10A.2.2 are limited, given the unique circumstances of the proposal and the fact that the project does not compromise the underlying objectives that those provisions were intended to achieve.

Overall, while the proposal is inconsistent with the six-year duration anticipated by section 127B of the RMA and Policy 10A.2.2 of the Regional Water Plan, those provisions should be afforded limited weight in the particular circumstances of MP4. On balance and having regard to the purpose and decision-making framework of the FTAA, it is considered that the Panel is not precluded from granting the proposed water permits for a duration exceeding six years, including the 35-year term sought by OGNZL.

12.3.12 Regional Plan: Air for Otago

The Regional Air Plan became operative in January 2003 and was last updated in April 2026 for minor corrections under Schedule 1 of the RMA. The Regional Air Plan promotes the sustainable management of Otago's air resource and provides objectives, policies, rules and other methods to address air quality issues facing Otago.

Part 3 of the Regional Air Plan contains the objectives and policies, with the key relevant provisions to MP4 seeking to:

- > Avoid adverse effects (including cumulative effects) from the discharge of contaminants to air on Kāi Tahu values, human health, cultural, heritage and amenity values, and the health and functioning of ecosystems;¹⁸⁵
- > Avoid adverse effects from hazardous air contaminants identified in Schedule 3 of the Regional Air Plan;¹⁸⁶
- > Avoid discharges to air that are noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable on the surrounding environment;¹⁸⁷ and
- > Avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects of dust beyond the property boundary.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸⁵ Regional Air Plan – Objectives 6.1.1 & 6.1.2 and Policy 8.2.3.

¹⁸⁶ Regional Air Plan – Policy 8.2.2.

¹⁸⁷ Regional Air Plan – Policy 8.2.8.

¹⁸⁸ Regional Air Plan – Policy 10.1.1.

Policy 8.2.4 also states that when considering the duration of a Discharge Permit, applicants must have regard to the mass and nature of the discharge, the nature and sensitivity of the receiving environment, and any existing discharges to air from the site.

The analysis provided for the relevant air quality provisions of the RPS is equally applicable to the provisions of the Regional Air Plan.

The activities associated with MP4 have the potential to generate dust and may discharge particulate matter comprising coarse and fine particulate, respirable crystalline silica and fine particulate containing elevated levels of arsenic. Stack emissions from the Processing Plant have the potential to release contaminants including sulphur dioxide (SO₂), acid mist and trace metals (including mercury).

Arsenic compounds are listed in Schedule 3 of the Regional Air Plan and are all identified as carcinogenic category A. Mercury compounds are also listed in the schedule, however, mercury is identified as carcinogenic category D.

Although dust was generally found to have a negligible impact as a result of MP4, OGNZL will mitigate potential dust effects through water suppression of haul roads and working areas, management of vehicle speeds, regular haul road maintenance, stabilisation and maintenance of exposed surfaces and stockpiles to reduce dust generation, wind entrainment and through use of wet processing methods.

OGNZL has designed the Processing Plant to minimise emissions and environmental impacts through built-in controls, including managed stack releases, a wet scrubber in the POX plant, mercury capture and recovery via a retort oven, dust controls on the barring furnace, and the largely wet processing circuit, which helps reduce airborne contaminants.

Dispersion modelling demonstrates that predicted contaminant concentrations are within relevant assessment criteria, with a substantial margin of compliance with health-based standards. On this basis, discharges are not expected to result in noxious or dangerous effects on human health, and effects on sensitive receivers are assessed as negligible.

OGNZL has also proposed a programme of stack emission testing for particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, and metals at the POX plant on a three-yearly basis to monitor discharges and confirm ongoing compliance. This monitoring, together with existing operational controls, ensures that any residual adverse effects are appropriately avoided, remedied, or mitigated. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with the relevant objectives and Policy AIR-P4 of the RPS.

Summary

For the reasons listed above it is considered that MP4 aligns with the relevant objectives and policies of the Regional Air Plan.

12.3.13 Regional Plan: Waste for Otago

The Regional Waste Plan became operative in April 1997 and was last updated in July 2022. It guides how ORC manage Otago's waste issues and sets policies and methods (including rules) for how specific activities should be carried out.

The relevant sections of the Regional Waste Plan for MP4 relate to contaminated sites, hazardous substances and hazardous wastes. There are two sections relevant to MP4, these are discussed together in the following section.

12.3.13.1.1 Contaminated Sites, Hazardous Substances and Hazardous Wastes

Part 5 of the Regional Waste Plan contain objectives and policies relating to contaminated sites which overall seek to avoid, remedy or mitigate the adverse effects of existing contaminated sites and avoid further site contamination.¹⁸⁹ Because the site is an existing mining operation, it includes land which is found on the HAIL list.

Part 6 of the Regional Waste Plan contains the provisions relating to hazardous substances and hazardous wastes. Hazardous substances are stored and used at the site for a variety of uses including fuel, oils and lubricants, paints and solvents. The tailings also fall within the definition of hazardous waste. The relevant objectives and associated policies seek to avoid, remedy and mitigate the risk from hazardous substances and waste to the environment and human health, including on values of importance to Kāi Tahu.¹⁹⁰

It should be noted that in 2017, amendments to the RMA significantly refined the extent to which regional authorities can control the storage and use of hazardous substances. The Regional Waste Plan has not been updated to reflect these amendments.

As discussed in Section 10.3.9 of this report, technical reports have been prepared to inform contaminated land management (WWLA 2026a and 2026b) and the handling and storage of hazardous substances (Tonkin & Taylor 2026b). These reports have influenced development of a comprehensive suite of controls to manage the risks associated with contaminated land and the use, transport, storage and handling of hazardous substances to avoid contamination risks. OGNZL has proposed a suite of conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application that seek to minimise adverse effects to the extent reasonably practicable.

¹⁸⁹ Regional Waste Plan – Objectives 5.3.1 & 5.3.2 and Policies 5.4.1 - 5.4.5.

¹⁹⁰ Regional Waste Plan – Objectives 6.3.1 & 6.3.2 and Policy 6.4.1.

In addition, OGNZL will utilise a SMP and MWMS (both provided in **Part C** of this substantive application) to provide effective management over potential discharges and remediation-related effects.

Summary

For the reasons detailed above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies of the Regional Waste Plan.

12.3.14 Operative Waitaki District Plan

Overview

The Operative WDP became operative on the 4 June 2013 and was last revised in June 2025. The Operative WDP is in five parts, however for the purposes of this assessment, this section of the report will focus on Part II (issues, objectives and policies) and the policy framework relevant to MP4.

As described in **Part A.05** of this report, the Macraes operation is located in the MMPMZ. While the predominant land use in the zone is open pit mining and the processing of rock to extract the gold resource, areas of the zone that are not subject to mining activities are used for farming activities. A site of natural significance applies to a small portion of farmland within the zone.¹⁹¹ While the Operative WDP includes a dedicated chapter containing rules for this zone, the chapter does not include its own objectives and policies. Instead, the objectives and policies related to mining are addressed through the wider policy framework, and those relevant to MP4 have been described below.

Section 01 – Takata Whenua

There are two primary objectives listed under this section of the Operative WDP. They seek to recognise the partnership between WDC and mana whenua, specifically in the management of the natural and physical resources throughout the Waitaki district and to protect, and where appropriate, enhance wāhi tapu, wāhi taoka, cultural property and mahinga kai.¹⁹²

These objectives are supported by the following policies:

¹⁹¹ Subject to Site Development Standard 6.4.2

¹⁹² Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objective A: 1.3.1 and Objective B: 1.3.4.



- > Recognise the Treaty of Waitangi as providing a foundation document for relationships between the Council and Kai Tahu as mana whenua and ensure iwi are given an appropriate level of input into resource management matters;¹⁹³ and
- > Recognise Kai Tahu Whanui as the manawhenua of all land within the district and to recognise Te Runanga o Moeraki as exercising this manawhenua from the Waitaki River south to the Waihemo (Shag) River, and Te Runanga o Kati Huirapa ki Puketeraki exercising this manawhenua south of the Waihemo (Shag) River;¹⁹⁴ and
- > Recognise and protect values attached to waahi tapu, waahi taoka and cultural property of iwi and important mahinga kai areas. Also, to allow Kai Tahu to manage waahi tapu and waahi taoka in a manner consistent with traditional practices.¹⁹⁵

OGNZL recognise and acknowledge that only tangata whenua can speak to what they understand these provisions mean for MP4. To get a better understanding of how these objectives and policies apply to MP4, OGNZL has undertaken comprehensive consultation with mana whenua (as detailed in **Part A.08** of this report) and seeks to continue consultation throughout the implementation of MP4. Conditions proposed by OGNZL are included in **Part D** of this substantive application, which demonstrate their commitment to recognising and protecting cultural values within the Macraes Operation and input into the resource management process.

Section 02 – Heritage Values

Objective 2.3.1 states that the conservation and enhancement of the heritage values of the district, including historic places and areas, wāhi tapu sites and areas, and archaeological sites, in order that the character and history of the district can be preserved and managed.

The relevant policies that support the objective, seek to ensure that:

- > All development in the vicinity of recorded waahi tapu and archaeological sites follow the listed notification process and are undertaken in accordance with the Historic Places Act 1993;¹⁹⁶
- > Heritage Protection Orders are used where necessary to protect significant heritage items;¹⁹⁷ and

¹⁹³ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 1.3.2(1) and 1.3.2(2).

¹⁹⁴ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 1.3.2(3).

¹⁹⁵ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies B: 1.3.5(1 - 3).

¹⁹⁶ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 2.3.2(2).

¹⁹⁷ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 2.3.2(5).



- > Council and Kai Tahu Ki Otago establish processes to protect the sensitivity relating to waahi tapu.¹⁹⁸

Further to the matters outlined above, the policies in section 2.3.2 also promote public participation in the protection of historic heritage (including historic buildings) and require appropriate weight to be given to heritage impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified experts when considering applications involving listed heritage items within the Operative WDP.¹⁹⁹

The activities proposed as part of MP4 include the removal or modification of heritage and archaeological sites within the Macraes Operation. However, none of the sites proposed to be affected are scheduled heritage items in the Operative WDP. Rather, they are classified as archaeological sites under the HNZPT largely due to their association with historic mining activities and the age of the sites. Because of the location of the ore, it is no surprise that MP4 activities co-locate alongside areas where mining has previously occurred.

Technical assessments prepared by Origin (2026a and 2026b) conclude that there are no identified archaeological sites of Māori heritage within or directly adjacent to the Macraes Operation. Notwithstanding this, OGNZL acknowledges that only mana whenua can confirm the presence or absence of wāhi tapu or sites of cultural significance, and that there remains potential for previously unidentified sites to exist within or adjacent to the Macraes Operation.

To address this uncertainty, OGNZL has proposed an Accidental Discovery Protocol (set out as the consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application). This protocol ensures that any unanticipated discoveries during earthworks are managed in accordance with HNZPT requirements, including adherence to statutory processes, consultation requirements, and established notification procedures.

Considering the above and given that the proposal does not affect scheduled heritage items, is supported by technical assessment, and incorporates appropriate safeguards to manage potential effects on unknown sites, MP4 is consistent with Objective 2.3.1 and the associated policies relating to the protection of heritage values.

Section 03 – Open Space and Recreation

The Operative WDP policy framework for open space and recreation refers specifically to public areas and facilities but not specifically to riparian margins. However, based on the

¹⁹⁸ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 2.3.2(6).

¹⁹⁹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies A: 2.3.2(3), 2.3.2(4) and 2.3.2(7).



definition of an open space, it includes riparian margins. For this reason, the following objectives and policies are considered relevant to MP4:

- > To facilitate the development of a variety of open space types and recreation facilities, ranging from indoor facilities to local, district and regional reserves; and in locations that are convenient and accessible for the anticipated users;²⁰⁰
- > To recognise the contribution of existing recreation areas to the district and where appropriate maintain the open space function of such areas;²⁰¹
- > Consider whether to acquire or receive land for public open space or recreation areas, or whether to dispose of existing areas (based on the matters listed in the Policy);²⁰²
- > A level of public access to and along the District's rivers, lakes and coastal areas which is adequate to provide for the current and foreseeable recreational and leisure needs of residents and visitors to the District but which will not compromise public safety, adversely affect waahi tapu located on or adjacent to water courses or reduce the natural conservation or hazard mitigation values of these areas;²⁰³
- > When considering resource consents that come before the Council, to ensure that regard is given to any adverse effects of the activity on public access to and along, and public enjoyment of, the margins of the district's lakes, rivers and wetlands;²⁰⁴
- > To maintain and enhance public access to natural and physical resources, in particular access along rivers, lakes and the coast, where they are important for recreational values, aesthetic values, and/or tourism opportunities;²⁰⁵ and
- > To manage those areas which are particularly valued within the district for providing opportunities for remote experience recreation and/or passive recreation and enjoyment of peace and tranquillity, in such a way as to avoid conflict between recreational activities.²⁰⁶

Public areas for recreation or leisure are limited within the Macraes Operation. The site operates as an existing mine with restricted access for health and safety purposes. The Macraes Operation do contain waterways and wetlands; however, access is restricted for

²⁰⁰ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.2.3(1).

²⁰¹ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.2.3(2).

²⁰² Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.2.3(6).

²⁰³ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Objective 3.3.2.

²⁰⁴ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.3.3(6).

²⁰⁵ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.3.3(8).

²⁰⁶ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 3.4.3(1).



the same reasons provided above. Further, the waterways within the Macraes Operation provide limited recreational values and opportunities for visitors.

Access to Murphy's Flat Historic Reserve will continue to be available throughout life of MP4. The Reserve is currently accessed from Golden Bar Road, and the proposed Golden Bar Haul Road will reconnect with the existing reserve access point. A managed haul road crossing will be provided to enable continued public access during both the construction and operational phases of MP4.

Public access to Golden Point Historic Reserve will also be maintained throughout the life of the project. Access via Golden Point Road between Deepdell Creek and Horse Flat Road will remain available, with traffic management measures implemented when the road is being used by mining-related heavy equipment. These measures may include authorised access procedures, the use of sentries, haul road crossing controls, and ongoing road maintenance to ensure safe public access.

Accordingly, MP4 does not result in the loss of public access to Murphy's Flat Historic Reserve, Golden Point Historic Reserve, or other historic areas surrounding the Macraes Operation. Rather, public access will continue to be maintained through the implementation of appropriate access and traffic management measures.

As MP4 will maintain existing public access to the Murphys Flat Historic Reserve and Golden Point Historic Reserve and will not compromise public safety by providing new public access and recreational opportunities, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the intent of Objective 3.3.2, Policy 3.3.3(6) and Policy 3.3.3(8).

Section 04 – Natural Hazards

This section contains a singular objective that seeks to avoid loss of life, and avoid or mitigate damage to assets, infrastructure, natural and physical resources or disruption to the community from natural hazards.²⁰⁷

Two policies support Objective 4.2.1 are relevant to MP4:

- > Monitoring the degree to which long term trends in land use practices and patterns may increase the vulnerability of communities to natural hazards;²⁰⁸ and

²⁰⁷ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objective 4.2.1.

²⁰⁸ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 4.2.2(2).



- > Ensure development is carried out in a manner that avoids or mitigates against potential adverse effects of natural hazards and ensuring that adequate assessments have been undertaken during the consent process to avoid and mitigate such risks.²⁰⁹

The assessment provided in the RPS section of this report is relevant to these natural hazard objectives and policies. However, to summarise MP4 has been designed to ensure it does not increase natural hazard risks to surrounding properties and a suite of technical assessments have been prepared by EGL (2026a – 2026d) and PSM (2026a – 2026d) to inform that the mine components are stable and safe. The proposed mitigation measures focus on ensuring the long-term stability, safety, and performance of the development through robust design, quality-controlled construction practices, and ongoing monitoring. This includes managing water pressures and drainage, designing for extreme weather events, and accounting for settlement and runoff during closure. Regular inspection, monitoring systems, and adaptive management approaches are incorporated to identify and respond to potential risks throughout the operational and post-closure phases.

Therefore, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the natural hazard objectives and policies.

Section 06 – Transport

The two objectives are relevant to MP4, as they aim to manage the effects of transport activities by avoiding or mitigating adverse impacts on the surrounding environment, while also promoting the efficient use of transport resources, including fossil fuels. They further support the ongoing maintenance and improvement of access and safety for all road users across the district.²¹⁰

The following policies are also relevant:

- > Require off-road loading for most activities to limit congestion and loss of safety and efficiency of adjacent roads and to promote the maintenance of the amenity of those roads;²¹¹
- > Protect the amenities of specified areas and discourage traffic in areas where it would have significant adverse environmental effects;²¹²

²⁰⁹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies 4.2.2(3) and 4.2.2(4).

²¹⁰ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objectives 6.2.2 and 6.3.2.

²¹¹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.2.3(4).

²¹² Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 4.2.2(2).

- > Ensure new roads are designed to visually complement the surrounding area to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the landscape, the coastal environment, waterways or areas which have significant conservation value;²¹³ and
- > Implement appropriate procedures, in conjunction with the takata whenua and Historic Places Trust, should any waahi tapu or waahi taonga be unearthed during roading construction.²¹⁴

MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies listed above for the following reasons:

- > Haulage trucks will be used to transport ore from the open pits to the Processing Plant. The transportation will be undertaken on private haul roads within the boundaries of the Macraes Operation, and such will not have any adverse effects on the public roading network;
- > The haul roads proposed to be realigned as part of MP4 do not meet the definition of a 'road' under the Local Government Act 1974 and therefore Policies 6.3.3(4) and 6.3.3(5) do not directly apply to MP4. However, OGNZL proposes to construct all haul roads in a manner that compliments the wider Macraes Operation landscape and where possible, avoids or mitigate any adverse environmental effect;
- > No road loading is proposed as part of MP4; and
- > Although the haul roads do not meet the definition of a road, OGNZL has proposed an Accidental Discovery Protocol condition in **Part D** of this substantive application which sets out the protocols if any waahi tapu or waahi taonga is discovered.

While the Integrated Transport Assessment identifies a small number of technical non-compliances with the Operative WDP transport rules in respect of cycle parking, unsealed parking and loading areas and vehicle crossing lengths, these do not affect compliance with the objectives and policies in the Plan. The proposals are fit-for-purpose (such as vehicle crossings being wider than standard to enable heavy vehicle access) and recognising the long-established nature of the activities on site, and its rural environment, they are assessed as not giving rise to adverse transport, safety or efficiency effects.

For these reasons, MP4 is consistent with the relevant transportation objectives and policies.

²¹³ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.3.3(4).

²¹⁴ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.3.3(5).

Section 07 – Signage

Objective 7.2.2(1) is that signs should convey necessary information, while avoiding or mitigating any adverse effects on public safety, convenience and access or on the visual amenities in the district.

The Policies in section 7.2.3 seek to:

- > Recognise the right of property owners to erect on-site signage for activities on that particular site in a manner which does not compromise the character, attractive appearance and visual amenity of the different areas of the district;²¹⁵
- > Ensure that the display of signs does not adversely affect traffic safety by causing confusion or distraction to motorists, or obstruct their views;²¹⁶
- > Ensure all signs are constructed and placed in a manner which does not pose a danger to property or people;²¹⁷
- > Limit signs in or over public places or attached to utilities, community facilities or public reserves, other than in business areas, to signs necessary for direction, public information or public safety;²¹⁸
- > Enable the display of a wide range of signs, limited only by public safety and access needs and consistency with the overall character of the area;²¹⁹
- > Encourage the consolidation of information signs in order to reduce the effects of such signs on visual amenity and traffic safety;²²⁰ and
- > Ensure that signs are maintained in good order and do not deteriorate to the point where their original purpose cannot be fulfilled.²²¹

Signs are placed in various locations around the Macraes operations to advise the public of the activities in the area (and in particular, to alert people of potential hazards that may be present) that do not compromise the character, appearance and visual amenity of the area. The signage does not adversely affect traffic safety by causing confusion or distraction to motorists, nor do they obstruct views or pose a danger to property or people. The

²¹⁵ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(1).

²¹⁶ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(2).

²¹⁷ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(3).

²¹⁸ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(4).

²¹⁹ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(5).

²²⁰ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(6).

²²¹ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 7.2.3(7).



predominant purpose of the signage is to provide direction, public information or public safety. The signs are maintained in good order to ensure their original purpose is fulfilled.

The Macraes operation signage is consistent with the Operative WDP objectives and policies.

Section 08 – Subdivision, Development and Financial Contributions

MP4 does not result in any development that requires provision of any additional Council services, nor does it add incrementally to infrastructure demands on the district or involve subdivision in a natural hazard area.

Objective 8.4.2 (3) is that development is managed so that amenity, nature conservation and landscape values are maintained or enhanced.

The policies in section 8.4.3 seek to:

- > Protect significant trees and significant indigenous vegetation or significant habitats of indigenous fauna from the adverse effects of development;²²²
- > Ensure that physical works associated with development avoid or mitigate the adverse impacts on the natural qualities of the environment and on areas that have nature conservation value;²²³
- > Avoid development where it would not give effect to the policies for the outstanding or significant natural features, the outstanding landscapes, and the significant coastal landscapes set out for the Rural Zone under Chapter 16.8, Issue 7 – Landscapes;²²⁴ and
- > The margins of lakes, wetlands and rivers are managed so that natural character is preserved and protected from inappropriate development.²²⁵

The MP4 project design, proposed consent conditions (**Part D** of this substantive application), and associated management plans will assist in maintaining and, where practical, enhancing amenity, nature conservation and landscape values across the wider project area. The proposal incorporates measures to avoid, minimise, remedy, mitigate and, where necessary, offset for adverse effects on indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna. These measures include vegetation management, habitat protection and restoration initiatives, ecological rehabilitation, and species-specific management

²²² Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 8.4.3(1).

²²³ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 8.4.3(2).

²²⁴ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 8.4.3(5).

²²⁵ Operative Waitaki District Plan - Policy 8.4.3(6).



responses, as detailed within the ecological assessments and proposed consent conditions.

The landscape assessments conclude that MP4 will not adversely affect the values of any identified outstanding natural features or outstanding natural landscapes. In relation to wetlands, rivers and other freshwater environments, adverse effects are managed through avoidance, minimisation, mitigation, rehabilitation and, where required, offsetting or compensation measures, resulting in outcomes that are consistent with the objectives and policies of the District Plan.

Section 10 – Utilities

The Operative WDP explains that utilities are typically provided for the benefit of the wider community, however, some utilities are provided for activities specific to their own properties. No utilities proposed as part of MP4 are for the benefit of the wider public, but utility activities will occur as part of MP4.

Objective 10.2.2 is relevant and it seeks that the construction, installation, operation and maintenance of utilities avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on amenity values and the surrounding environment.

The supporting policies seek to manage the adverse environmental effects of utilities by ensuring incompatible activities are appropriately separated, and that visual amenity and safety are provided for but also through the encouragement of co-sitting of utilities (where possible). Also, they seek to protect sensitive natural environments by managing the effects of utilities on outstanding landscapes, significant natural features, indigenous vegetation, and habitats of indigenous fauna.²²⁶

Importantly, Policy 10.2.3(5) requires WDC to take into account the economic and operational needs in assessing the location, design and appearance of utilities.

Hydraulic mining electricity infrastructure upgrades are proposed as part of MP4, which includes the construction of an additional switchyard, stepdown transformers (66kV/11kV) and associated switchgear and the relocation of the existing 11kV distribution network. Further, MP4 includes the construction of pipes and structures and equipment necessary for the supply, drainage and treatment of water or sewage. The proposals mean that the infrastructure takes into account the economic and operational needs of the Project while avoiding effects on surrounding activities.

²²⁶ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies 10.2.3(1), 10.2.3(2) and 10.2.3(4).



MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies because:

- > The proposed electricity, water, drainage and wastewater infrastructure is necessary to support the operation of the Project and reflects its operational and economic requirements;
- > Utility activities are located within and directly associated with the mining operation, minimising potential adverse effects on surrounding activities and amenity values;
- > The infrastructure has been integrated into the overall site design to ensure its safe and efficient operation while managing visual and environmental effects; and
- > The utilities are located within an existing modified environment.

Overall, the utility activities are ancillary to and necessary for MP4 and are considered to be consistent with Objective 10.2.2 and the relevant policies of the Operative WDP.

Section 12 – Hazardous Substances

The singular objective for hazardous substances is to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental effects arising from the use, storage, transportation, manufacture, and disposal of hazardous substances.

There are several supporting policies, those that are particularly relevant to MP4 include:

- > To avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effect on the environment caused by accidental spillages of hazardous substances, during the use, storage, manufacture, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances;²²⁷ and
- > To manage the environmental risks of hazardous substances by avoiding or mitigating adverse effects, while recognising that acceptable quantities vary depending on surrounding land uses, community expectations, and environmental sensitivity.²²⁸

Other related policies, while not directly relevant to MP4, focus on promoting a coordinated cross-agency management approach to hazardous substances, increasing public awareness of the potential adverse environmental effects of hazardous substances, as well as ensuring all substances are safely disposed.²²⁹

²²⁷ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 12.2.3(1).

²²⁸ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 12.2.3(2).

²²⁹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policies 12.2.3(4) and 12.2.3(5).



MP4 involves the storage and use of hazardous substances associated with activities at the Processing Plant, refueling bays, workshops, and for explosives. MP4 is consistent with the objectives and policies above for the following reasons:

- > OGNZL have a comprehensive suite of controls in place to manage risks associated with hazardous substances which includes (but is not limited to) compliance with the regulatory requirements, automated handling systems, specific management controls for the storage of explosives and the use certified handlers to minimise risk to people and the environment. Procedures are in place and spill kits available in the event of any accidental spills; and
- > The storage of hazardous substances will be designed, located, constructed, and operated in accordance with HSNO Act controls and the Health and Safety at Work (Hazardous Substances) Regulations (“**HSW-HS**”) to minimise residual risk to people and the environment, consistent with Policy 12.2.3(2).

Conditions are included in **Part D** of this substantive application, which demonstrate OGNZL’s commitment to adequately managing hazardous substances throughout MP4.

Section 16 – Rural

The site is primarily located within the Macraes Mining Project Mineral Zone, with smaller portions of the Macraes Operation falling within the Rural and Rural Scenic zones. The Macraes Operation is bordered by Rural Scenic zoned land to the north and east and Rural zoned land to the south and east. The rural zone objectives and policies are therefore relevant to MP4.

Mineral Extraction

Objective 16.7.1(6) seeks to give extractive industries the ability to access minerals in a way that avoids, remedies or mitigates adverse effects on the environment.

The policies in 16.7.2(6) seek to:

- > Acknowledge the importance of known mineral deposits in the District by, where appropriately, discouraging the establishment of future activities or developments that are likely to compromise access to these mineral deposits;²³⁰
- > Recognise the potential adverse effects of extractive operations, including mineral exploration, on the rural environment, and to control such operations in order that an assessment may be made as to the sensitivity of an existing area and the degree to

²³⁰ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.7.2(1).



which an operation will avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse effects on the amenity and environment of the rural area;²³¹

- > Provide for a mining zone at Macraes Flat in recognition of the scale and intensity of the mining operation while ensuring the adverse effects of mining operation are avoided, remedied or mitigated;²³²
- > Ensure that after mining, sites are rehabilitated sufficiently to enable the establishment of activities appropriate to the area;²³³ and
- > Avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the rural amenity and environment by, where appropriate, encouraging extractive industries to continue in existing locations.²³⁴

MP4 is located where there is a well-known, existing ore deposit that has been accessed for many years. The existence of the mining zone at Macraes Flat recognizes the importance, scale and intensity of mining operations in the area while providing for adverse effects to be avoided, remedied or mitigated. The proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application mean that the effects of MP4 are avoided, remedied or mitigated and ensure that after mining, sites are rehabilitated sufficiently to enable the establishment of activities appropriate to the area. MP4 will continue to operate in the existing Macraes mining location, consistent with Policy 6.7.2(5).

The proposed MP4 activities are therefore entirely consistent with and give effect to Objective 16.7.1(6) and the policies in section 16.7.2.

High Class Soils

Rural Objective 16.2.2(1) and Policy 16.2.3(1) seek the retention of the productive potential of high-class soil in the Plains area by encouraging productive use and avoiding subdivision of rural land into small allotments. There is a small area of LUC 3 land within the Macraes Operation; however, all other land is not considered compatible for productive purposes. MP4 aligns with the relevant objective and associated policies, as it will not result in any additional loss of productive capacity within the Waitaki District, and no subdivision is proposed as part of this substantive application.

²³¹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.7.2(2).

²³² Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.7.2(3).

²³³ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.7.2(4).

²³⁴ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 6.7.2(5).



Rural Amenity and Landscape

With respect to amenity values and landscape, the following objectives and policies are relevant:

- > Maintain rural amenity that is consistent with a range of rural activities, while avoiding unpleasant conditions or significant environmental decline;²³⁵
- > Encourage a wide range of rural land use and land management practices in the Rural General Zone, without increasing the potential for conflict or the loss of rural amenity;²³⁶
- > Use performance standards and enforcement provisions to manage activities that may cause unpleasant living or working conditions for people in the rural community;²³⁷
- > Establish commercial, industrial and service (among other things) activities, that are compatible with the amenities of the lower density rural environment;²³⁸
- > Manage rural activities in a way that protects significant natural landscapes and features from inappropriate land use and development and to ensure Rural Scenic Zone landscape qualities are retained;²³⁹
- > Maintain the character of those landscapes identified as being outstanding because of their high degree of openness, naturalness and/or visual coherence and to avoid land use and development in those parts which cannot absorb change;²⁴⁰
- > Manage landscape change in the Rural Scenic Zone in a manner that maintains the overall character of the significant landscape, which forms the basis of the visual amenity associated with this Zone;²⁴¹
- > Recognise that the Rural General Zone is made up of landscapes that have a greater capacity to absorb change because the land has been more intensively developed, and contains a greater range of land uses with a greater dominance of buildings and structures while at the same time acknowledging that the rural amenity of this zone still needs to be managed;²⁴² and

²³⁵ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objective 16.5.1.

²³⁶ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.5.2.

²³⁷ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.5.3.

²³⁸ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objective 16.6.1.

²³⁹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Objective 16.8.2.

²⁴⁰ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.8.3(2).

²⁴¹ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.8.3(3).

²⁴² Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.8.3(8).



- > Protect site-specific and outstanding geological or geomorphological features that are of scientific importance from inappropriate use and development.²⁴³

The Macraes Operation adjoins land zoned General Rural and rural amenity must be considered. The policy framework recognises that the Rural General Zone accommodates a range of productive and extractive land uses, including mining. While construction and operational activities will give rise to some temporary and localised amenity effects, these are consistent with the expectations of a working rural environment that already exhibits an established mining character. The proposal does not introduce activities that are out of character with the existing land use pattern and therefore does not result in an unreasonable loss of rural amenity or create significant conflict with other rural activities.

Policy 16.8.3(2) refers to avoiding land use and development in areas that cannot absorb change. The Landscape and Natural Character Effects Assessment prepared by Boffa Miskell (2026) found that expansion of the existing mining areas will result in an increase in the scale of modified landforms and associated landscape change. Landscape effects are generally assessed as moderate during operations, reducing to low-moderate following rehabilitation and closure activities. These effects arise within an established mining landscape and do not fundamentally alter the overall character of the wider Macraes landscape.

The Macraes Operation is considered able to absorb the changes proposed as part of MP4 because the proposed works are largely located within, or immediately adjacent to, existing mining disturbance areas. Progressive rehabilitation, landform shaping, revegetation, pit lake formation and ecological enhancement measures will further assist in integrating the proposed works into the surrounding landscape over time. While some localised adverse landscape and visual effects will occur during operation, these effects are generally confined to locations with views of the proposed mining areas and are considered acceptable within the context of the established Macraes mining environment. The extent of these effects is expected to reduce over time as rehabilitation and closure measures are implemented.

Boffa Miskell (2026) also recognises that the Macraes landscape holds cultural significance for mana whenua and forms part of a broader cultural landscape. While MP4 contributes to ongoing modification of this landscape, the proposal incorporates rehabilitation, restoration and enhancement measures that seek to respond to landscape values and improve environmental outcomes within the wider catchment over the long term.

²⁴³ Operative Waitaki District Plan – Policy 16.8.3(9).

Potential adverse effects on amenity, including visual, noise, and lighting are managed through the application of performance standards, design measures, and operational controls. A summary of these effects, and the proposed mitigation measures are detailed in Section 9 of these application documents. These mechanisms ensure that any unpleasant conditions are appropriately avoided, remedied, or mitigated, consistent with the policy framework. In this respect, the proposal adopts a proactive and effects-based approach to managing the interface with the surrounding rural community.

Nature Conservation Values

With respect to indigenous biodiversity values, Objectives 16.9.2.1 and 2 seek to protect significant indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna, maintain broader indigenous biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, and maintain or enhance the quality of aquatic and coastal environments while protecting them from inappropriate subdivision, use and development. These objectives are supported by a number of policies (16.9.3) that aim to manage the adverse effects of land use and development on significant indigenous vegetation, habitats of indigenous fauna, aquatic ecosystems and ecological processes; maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity, ecological connectivity and natural character, recognise and protect areas of ecological significance and other indigenous habitats with conservation value, and encourage the long-term protection and stewardship of indigenous ecosystems, wetlands, rivers, lakes and associated habitats.

As described in the Ecological Impact Assessment prepared by Bioresearches (2026b) and the supporting ecological assessments, MP4 has been designed to avoid, minimise, remedy and mitigate adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity where practicable and, where residual adverse effects remain, provides an offsetting, compensation and long-term management package. The compensation measures include habitat restoration and enhancement, restoration planting, predator and browser control, pest-exclusion fencing, wetland and freshwater habitat enhancement, vegetation management, and the long-term protection and management of ecologically significant areas. Consents are also sought for activities required to establish, operate, maintain and manage these ecological compensation measures, including associated earthworks, access track construction and maintenance, fencing, restoration planting and vegetation management, and the establishment and use of site offices, equipment sheds and associated operational areas. As detailed in the ecological assessments, these measures are intended to address residual effects on indigenous biodiversity and contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of ecological values, ecosystem functioning and ecological connectivity within the wider Macraes Ecological District. Accordingly, while some residual adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity are unavoidable as a consequence of mining activities, the proposed



management, rehabilitation and compensation framework is considered to be consistent with Objectives 16.9.2.1 and 16.9.2.2 and the associated policies of the Operative WDP.

Summary

For the reasons detailed above, MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies of the Operative WDP.

12.3.15 Proposed Waitaki District Plan

The Proposed WDP was notified by WDC in early 2025; however, all notified workstreams were affected by the Central Government's plan stop under the Amendment Act. WDC subsequently sought an exemption under sections 80W(2)(a), 80W(2)(b), and 80W(2)(h) of the Amendment Act, which was approved by Minister Bishop on 3 December 2025. Through this process, several chapters of the Proposed WDP have been withdrawn.

While some remaining Proposed WDP provisions are relevant to MP4, for the majority of the sections remain subject to hearings, and final decisions.²⁴⁴ Accordingly, the Operative WDP prevails overall, and greater weight should be given to its objectives and policies. However, for completeness, the relevant objectives and policies of the Proposed WDP are also considered below.

The Macraes Operation is located predominately in the Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining, and part of the Macraes Operation is within or bordering the General Rural Zone (the latter having been withdrawn from the Proposed Plan).

Under the Strategic Direction section of the Proposed WDP, there are objectives and policies that relate to the following matters:

- > Historic and cultural identity values;
- > Mana whenua;
- > Risk, resilience and natural hazards; and
- > Infrastructure.

The following strategic direction objectives are considered relevant to MP4:

²⁴⁴ At the time of writing, hearings for the Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining were scheduled to occur in October 2026.



- > Waitaki's character, historic and cultural heritage, and identity is recognised and protected throughout the district;²⁴⁵
- > Promote active participation with mana whenua in all aspects of District Plan implementation as well mana whenua values, rights, and interests;²⁴⁶
- > Improve the District's resilience to natural hazards, and where possible, avoid or, where avoidance is not possible, mitigate the risks to people, communities, property, and infrastructure;²⁴⁷ and
- > Use the Waitaki district's energy resources efficiently and implement a reduced reliance on non-renewable sources of energy.²⁴⁸

The strategic direction objectives and policies are similar to those sections detailed in Section 12.3.14. These matters have been considered below in the relevant sub-headings; however, due to the status of the Proposed WDP and its early progression through the statutory process stages, the policy directives have not been given extensive weighting.

Infrastructure and Transport

The following objectives are relevant to MP4:

- > Safe, efficient and resilient infrastructure is available to meet the needs of existing and planned subdivision, use and development;²⁴⁹
- > Infrastructure is established, operated, maintained, repaired, and upgraded efficiently, securely and sustainably while the adverse effects of infrastructure are avoided, remedied or mitigated, including effects on:
 - 1) the identified values and qualities of any overlay; and
 - 2) the change in risk to peoples' lives, and damage to adjoining properties from natural hazards; and
 - 3) the character of any zone.²⁵⁰

²⁴⁵ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective SD-CHI-O1.

²⁴⁶ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objectives SD-MW-O1 and SD-MW-O2.

²⁴⁷ Proposed Waitaki District Plan – Objective SD-RRNH-O1

²⁴⁸ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objectives SD-IEE-O2 and SD-IEE-O4.

²⁴⁹ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective INF-O2.

²⁵⁰ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective INF-O3.

- > Land use and development has safe and effective transport facilities provided on-site, and site access, which does not compromise the safety and efficiency of the transport network.²⁵¹

Policies TRAN-P2 and TRAN-P3 refer to on-site transport facilities and the framework which enables these facilities to occur. Policy TRAN-P4 seeks to provide for safe and efficient connections between on-site transport facilities but also gives regard to the wider transportation network. Policy TRAN-P8 focuses specifically on the upgrading and development of the transport network and provides a list of matters that should be regarded.

The Integrated Transport Assessment identifies a small number of technical non-compliances with the Operative WDP transport provisions in respect to cycle parking, unsealed parking and loading areas and vehicle crossing lengths. Noting the long-established nature of the activities on site, and its rural environment, these are assessed as not giving rise to adverse transport, safety or efficiency effects.

Earlier sections of this report detail that the development will utilise and build upon existing infrastructure networks, ensuring that infrastructure is available, reliable, and capable of supporting both current and planned activities in a safe, efficient, and resilient manner.

Infrastructure associated with the expansion will be designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with established standards and best practice to ensure it performs efficiently and sustainably. Potential adverse effects, including those on surrounding land uses, environmental values, and natural hazard risk, will be appropriately managed through design, operational controls, and mitigation measures.

Conditions are proposed in **Part D** of this substantive application which set out how OGNZL seek to avoid, remedy and mitigate any infrastructure and transport effects.

Natural Hazards

Objective NH-01 and Policy NH-P5 refer to the understanding and mitigation of natural hazards and their impact on people, property and the environment. Policy NH-P5 seeks to ensure a thorough risk assessment is undertaken that appropriately assesses the listed considerations.

As described previously, EGL and PSM have undertaken technical assessments of natural hazards relevant to MP4, including flooding, seismic hazards, and slope stability. These assessments have informed the design of mine infrastructure and the identification of

²⁵¹ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective TRAN-O1.



mitigation measures to ensure the development does not increase natural hazard risk to surrounding properties.

The proposed measures focus on long-term stability and safety through appropriate design, construction, water management, and consideration of extreme weather and closure conditions. Ongoing monitoring, inspection, and adaptive management are also proposed to identify and respond to potential risks over time. Accordingly, MP4 demonstrates that natural hazard risks have been appropriately assessed and managed, consistent with Objective NH-01 and Policy NH-P5.

Noise

The following noise objectives and policies are relevant to MP4:

- > Ensure noise generation is compatible with the purpose, character, and amenity of each zone by establishing and applying appropriate zone-based noise limits;²⁵²
- > Manage reverse sensitivity by requiring sensitive activities to be appropriately located, designed, and insulated to minimise exposure to noise and reduce conflicts with existing noise-generating activities;²⁵³
- > Enable construction and temporary activities while managing their noise effects in a manner that minimises impacts on the surrounding environment, taking into account duration, timing, and context;²⁵⁴
- > Recognise and provide for the operation of existing lawfully established noise-generating activities, particularly in areas where higher noise levels are anticipated;²⁵⁵ and
- > Require new noise-generating activities to comply with standards or assess and manage their effects, including impacts on people, surrounding activities, and the receiving environment.²⁵⁶

An acoustic assessment has been undertaken by Acoustic Engineering (2026), confirming that the primary noise sources associated with MP4 include mining plant and equipment, excavation and haulage, drilling and blasting, hydraulic mining processes, and associated workshop and earthworks activities. These activities are characteristic of an established,

²⁵² Proposed Waitaki District Plan – NOISE-O1 and NOISE-P1.

²⁵³ Proposed Waitaki District Plan – NOISE-O2 and NOISE-P2 and NOISE-P3.

²⁵⁴ Proposed Waitaki District Plan – NOISE-O3 and NOISE-P5.

²⁵⁵ Proposed Waitaki District Plan – NOISE-P3.

²⁵⁶ Proposed Waitaki District Plan – NOISE-P6.

and lawfully established mining operation and are therefore consistent with the anticipated noise environment within the Macraes Mining Area.

In accordance with Policies NOISE-O3 and NOISE-P5, construction and earthworks activities, will be managed in accordance with best practice, taking into account duration, timing, and locality. These effects are short-term and typical of construction within rural environments and are therefore considered acceptable when appropriately managed.

Policy NOISE-P3 recognises the importance of enabling established lawful activities, particularly those such as mining that inherently generate higher noise levels. MP4 represents an extension of an existing operation rather than a new activity, and noise associated with the existing mining activities are anticipated within this environment. Even if it is not considered an established lawful activity, potential impacts on the surrounding environment and sensitive receivers will be managed through appropriate conditions and the Noise Management Plan (NOISE-P6).

Blasting and vibration effects have been assessed separately and are predicted to be appropriately controlled, with airblast and related effects considered insignificant. This indicates that such activities can be undertaken without giving rise to significant adverse effects on the receiving environment.

For the reasons above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the noise objectives and policies of the Proposed WDP.

Earthworks

Most of this chapter has been withdrawn under the Amendment Act, however the following objective and policy remain, and are relevant to MP4.

- > Any earthworks are undertaken in a manner that maintains or enhances amenity values, while appropriately managing adverse effects on community health and safety, land stability, infrastructure, stormwater management efficiency, water quality, and soil quality;²⁵⁷
- > Manage any earthworks to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the following:²⁵⁸
 - > the stability of land, buildings and structures at or beyond the boundary of the site; and
 - > the visual amenity values of the site; and

²⁵⁷ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective EW-O3.

²⁵⁸ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy EW-P7.



- > natural landforms; and
- > local amenity values; and
- > erosion and sediment loss from the site; and
- > natural hazard risk; and
- > the stormwater management systems; and
- > dust, lighting, odour, vibration, noise and traffic beyond the boundaries of the site;
and
- > soil quality.

The MP4 project has been designed to ensure earthworks avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on the stability of land, buildings and structures at or beyond the boundary of the site and that visual amenity values, natural landforms and local amenity values are maintained. Natural hazard risks will be managed, and dust, lighting, odour, vibration, noise and traffic will not cause adverse effects beyond the boundaries of the site. Consent conditions are proposed (**Part D** of this substantive application) to manage these activity effects.

MP4 is consistent with Objective EW-O3 and Policy EW-P7.

Earthworks – Mining

The Macraes Operation is predominantly within the Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining Zone, and there are objectives and policies in the Proposed WDC that are relevant to MP4. Those that are relevant are:

- > The economic and social benefits of accessing the district’s mineral resources are recognised and enabled, while ensuring that any actual or potential adverse environmental effects are avoided, remedied, or mitigated;²⁵⁹
- > Recognise the existing mining area authorised under previous consents and manage new mining activities to maintain indigenous biodiversity values and avoid, remedy and mitigate effects on noise, vibration, access, lighting and amenity values in the adjoining zones;²⁶⁰
- > Allow for mining activities in the Potential Mining Area provided they avoid nuisance effects on adjacent zones, avoid places containing historic heritage items, compromise

²⁵⁹ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Objective SPZMM-01.

²⁶⁰ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy SPZMM – P1.

the values of any sensitive environment and avoid any adverse effects on the health and safety of the community;²⁶¹

- > Require any new mining activity to demonstrate how the site will be rehabilitated with particular regard to the following matters;²⁶²
 - > Objectives, measures and timescales for rehabilitation;
 - > How the landforms will be shaped and revegetated consistent with the natural character of the locality prior to disturbance;
 - > How the previous vegetation type being removed by land disturbance will be replaced;
 - > How the direct transfer of soil and associated vegetation from areas being disturbed to areas being rehabilitated will be undertaken, where the opportunity arises;
 - > How topsoil for growing conditions will be provided where direct transfer is not possible;
 - > How vegetation will be established, whether by direct planting, or from the broadcasting of seed;
 - > How the vegetation cover will be maintained, including, as necessary, the use of fertilisers and other inputs as well as providing weed and pest control; and
 - > Measures to ensure that exposed overburden containing soil or fines is covered or revegetated as soon as practicable, to prevent the generation of dust, soil erosion and sediment transport.
- > Recognise the need to investigate the gold resource through exploration in the Potential Mining Area, while ensuring that any actual or potential adverse effects on amenity values are avoided, remedied or mitigated, disturbed ground is appropriated rehabilitated, and effects are managed in accordance with policy SPZMM-P2;²⁶³
- > Enabling primary production, rural industry, recreational activities, conservation activities, small-scale commercial activities, visitor accommodation and residential activities within the Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining where these are consistent

²⁶¹ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy SPZMM – P2.

²⁶² Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy SPZMM – P3.

²⁶³ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy SPZMM – P4.



with the purpose, character and qualities of the adjoining zone and minimise the potential for reverse sensitivity effects.²⁶⁴

MP4 is consistent with the intent of the Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining Zone, which recognises the importance of ongoing mining activities while requiring adverse effects to be appropriately managed. The proposal will enable continued extraction of the gold resource at the Macraes Operation, extending the economic and social benefits of the operation, including ongoing employment, business activity, export revenue, and support for local communities.

MP4 is located within an established mining environment and has been designed to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects on adjacent land uses and environmental values through a comprehensive package of management measures addressing water quality, ecology, noise, vibration, traffic, lighting, dust, heritage, and geotechnical matters. Technical assessments demonstrate that these effects can be appropriately managed through design measures, operational controls, monitoring, and adaptive management.

The proposal includes extensive biodiversity management, restoration, and compensation measures to address residual ecological effects, including landscape-scale pest control, habitat restoration, wetland enhancement, and protection of indigenous biodiversity values.

Consistent with Policy SPZMM-P3, rehabilitation and closure planning are integral to MP4. The project includes progressive rehabilitation, topsoil management, revegetation, erosion and sediment controls, weed and pest management, long-term monitoring, and financial assurance through a rehabilitation bond to ensure stable and self-sustaining post-mining landforms are achieved.

Overall, MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies of the Macraes Mining Zone by enabling the continued use of mineral resources within an established mining area while appropriately managing environmental effects and providing for long-term rehabilitation outcomes.

Summary

Although the Proposed WDP remains subject to ongoing statutory processes and holds limited weighting, MP4 demonstrates general alignment with the relevant objectives and policies. The proposal supports the continued operation of an established mining activity while providing for the economic and social benefits of mineral extraction and incorporating comprehensive measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects. Where some

²⁶⁴ Proposed Waitaki District Plan - Policy SPZMM – P5.

residual effects remain, particularly in relation to biodiversity and amenity values, these are addressed through mitigation, monitoring, rehabilitation, and compensation measures, together with the proposed consent conditions. Accordingly, MP4 is considered to be consistent with the relevant provisions of the notified Proposed WDP.

12.3.16 Dunedin City Council Second Generation District Plan (2GP)

DCC commenced a full District Plan review in 2015 and the 2GP was made fully operative on 17 June 2026, superseding the Dunedin City District Plan (2006). Accordingly, no further assessment of the Dunedin City District Plan (2006) has been undertaken. The objectives and policies relevant MP4 are assessed in sub-headings below.

Dunedin is Environmentally Sustainable and Resilient

This section sets out the objectives and policies listed under the Strategic Direction chapter of the 2GP, with the specific focus on Dunedin being an environmentally sustainable and resilient city.

The objectives and policies in this section of the 2GP relate to managing land use (among other things) to avoid, remedy or mitigate risk from natural hazards. The strategic policy direction set for resilient Dunedin includes:

- > Minimising natural hazard risk to people, community and property to low risk;²⁶⁵
- > Managing land use (among other things) based on sensitivities of activities and risk from natural hazards on people, communities and properties;²⁶⁶
- > Considering the likelihood and consequence of natural hazard risks;²⁶⁷
- > Taking a precautionary approach where there may be incomplete or uncertain information regarding natural hazards;²⁶⁸ and
- > Managing stormwater controls and encouraging low impact stormwater design.

The RPS assessment (Section 12.3.10 of this report) prepared for natural hazards aligns with the 2GP strategic direction for a resilient Dunedin. MP4 is designed to avoid increasing natural hazard risk to surrounding properties and to match land use with risk levels. Technical assessments and mitigation measures support a conservative, precautionary

²⁶⁵ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Objective 2.2.1

²⁶⁶ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.1.1.

²⁶⁷ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.2.1.

²⁶⁸ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.1.2.



approach. Stormwater management, monitoring, and adaptive management minimise risk and provide long-term stability and safety.

The remainder of the section is specific to indigenous biodiversity and vegetation. Those that are relevant to MP4 are:

- > That indigenous biodiversity and vegetation are protected throughout Dunedin;²⁶⁹
- > The inclusion of a criteria on how to identify areas of significant indigenous vegetation and/or significant habitats;²⁷⁰
- > The consideration of rule criteria to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of indigenous biodiversity in the rural environment;²⁷¹
- > The encouragement of conservation activities in all zones;²⁷² and
- > The ability to consider biodiversity offsetting as a positive effect and under what circumstances.²⁷³

Extensive ecological investigations have been undertaken for MP4 to identify indigenous vegetation, significant habitats, wetlands, waterbodies, threatened species habitat, and other biodiversity values potentially affected by the proposal. These assessments have informed the design of MP4 and the application of the effects management hierarchy. Through this process, areas of significant indigenous biodiversity have been identified, with avoidance measures incorporated where practicable, and mitigation, rehabilitation, and compensation measures proposed where adverse effects cannot be avoided. In this respect, the proposal is consistent with the provisions that seek to identify and appropriately manage significant indigenous vegetation and significant habitats.

While MP4 will result in the loss and modification of some indigenous vegetation and habitat as a consequence of mining activities, the proposal includes a comprehensive biodiversity management package designed to maintain and enhance indigenous biodiversity values over the long term. This includes progressive rehabilitation, restoration of wetlands and freshwater habitats, indigenous revegetation, riparian enhancement, pest management programmes, the establishment of protected ecological areas, and the implementation of predator-exclusion fencing. These measures are expected to provide substantial ecological

²⁶⁹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Objective 2.2.3.

²⁷⁰ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.3.2.

²⁷¹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.3.2.

²⁷² Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 2.2.3.4.

²⁷³ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 2.2.3.6.



benefits within the Macraes ED and contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of indigenous biodiversity within the rural environment.

The proposal also strongly aligns with the policy direction encouraging conservation activities. Significant investment is proposed in long-term ecological restoration, habitat enhancement, pest control, species management, monitoring, and adaptive management programmes. These initiatives extend beyond the direct management of mining effects and will contribute to broader biodiversity outcomes at a landscape scale.

Finally, MP4 incorporates a substantial biodiversity compensation package that has been specifically developed to address residual adverse effects that remain after the application of avoidance, minimisation, rehabilitation, and mitigation measures. The proposed compensation measures are directed toward achieving measurable biodiversity gains, including enhancement and protection of indigenous ecosystems and threatened species habitat. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with the policy framework that recognises biodiversity compensation as a positive effect where it is appropriately designed and delivers enduring biodiversity outcomes.

Further to the matters above, Policy 2.2.6.1 seeks to protect people from noise, light, and offensive emissions. Other relevant policies address risk management for activities, including the storage and use of hazardous substances, as well as requirements under the NES-CS.²⁷⁴

Nuisance effects, offensive emissions and matters relating to hazardous substances have been discussed throughout this report and carefully considered by a suite of technical assessments included in **Part B** of this substantive application. To summarise:

- > Operational noise effects will be appropriately mitigated to an extent considered acceptable through the implementation of a noise protection bund, restrictions on hours where blasting can occur (restricted to hours between 9am and 5.30pm) and compliance with the relevant noise, vibration and airblast regulations will be adhered to where possible (as detailed in **Part D** of this substantive application);
- > Effects due to light exposure from MP4 will not generate adverse effects on night sky views, sky glow, amenity, motorists or have any health effects on sensitive receivers near the Macraes Operation;

²⁷⁴ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policies 2.2.6.2 and 2.2.6.3.



- > Dust effects were consistently assessed as negligible due to substantial distances between sources and sensitive receptors, infrequent wind conditions capable of transporting dust, and very ineffective source–receptor pathways;
- > MP4 does not include the emission of offensive emissions, and all discharges are within the permitted amount to ensure there are no adverse effects on human health or amenity; and
- > All storage, use and transportation of hazardous substances are carefully controlled to reduce any adverse contamination or environmental effects due to spillage.

Therefore, it is considered MP4 is consistent with the objectives and policies detailed above.

Dunedin is Economically and Socially Prosperous

Policy 2.3.1.8 recognises the economic and social importance of access to mineral resources through:

- a) Using scheduled activities rules for quarries and sand mines that are reliant on these rules from the Dunedin City District Plan (2006) or, as appropriate, for quarries that might otherwise need to establish or rely on existing use rights, with appropriate controls including, but not limited to, maximum annual extraction limits based on existing operations; and
- b) Rules that provide for mineral prospecting, mineral exploration and new or expanded mining activities in rural zones while managing adverse effects on the environment; and
- c) Policies and assessment rules that encourage the consideration of the functional and operational needs of mining activities, including the need for mining to locate where resources are available, and that encourage consideration of the transport benefit of locating mining close to where the product of mining is required.

The economic benefits of MP4 have been detailed throughout these application documents and are significant enough to be considered under the FTAA. While this is a strategic direction policy, it is noted that the matters listed under the policy are relevant to MP4. A more detailed assessment on these matters is undertaken in the following sections of this report.



Dunedin is a Memorable City with a Distinctive Built and Natural Character

An objective of the 2GP is that the character and visual amenity of Dunedin's rural environment is maintained or enhanced.²⁷⁵ Policy 2.4.6.1 elaborates further to list the important landscape character and visual amenity values of different rural environments. These include (but are not limited to) landform and naturalness, nature, scale and design of buildings and presence of indigenous vegetation and habitats for indigenous fauna.

MP4 aligns with Objective 2.4.6 and Policy 2.4.6.1 of the 2GP by recognising and managing the character and visual amenity values of the rural environment within the context of the existing Macraes mining landscape. As described throughout this application, the Macraes Operation is a long-established and highly modified mining environment where mining landforms, infrastructure, and associated activities are already the dominant components of landscape character. While MP4 will result in further modification of landforms, waterways, and visual character, these effects occur largely within or adjacent to existing mining footprints and therefore represent an extension and intensification of an established character, rather than the introduction of a new or incompatible landscape element. In this regard, the proposal maintains consistency with the existing scale, pattern, and visual context of the operational mining environment.

Furthermore, the proposed rehabilitation and management measures will assist in maintaining and enhancing visual amenity values over the life of MP4 and at closure. Progressive rehabilitation and recontouring of landforms, revegetation with pasture, tussock, and native riparian species, and the reinstatement and ecological enhancement of affected watercourses will reduce the long-term visibility of disturbed areas and contribute to the re-establishment of vegetation and habitat values. Sediment and water management systems will support the ongoing functioning of natural processes, while lighting controls will minimise adverse night-time visual effects. Collectively, these measures will ensure that the important landscape character attributes identified in Policy 2.4.6.1, including landform, naturalness, indigenous vegetation, ecological values, and visual amenity, are appropriately managed and progressively enhanced as mining activities are completed and rehabilitated.

Dunedin is a City that Gives Effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, Protects Kāi Tahu values, Culture and Traditions, and Enables Kāi Tahu to Express Kaitiakitaka

Chapter 2 of the 2GP sets the strategic direction that Dunedin is a city that gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. This is supported by an objective 2.5.1 which outlines

²⁷⁵ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Objective 2.4.6.



that Kāi Tahu can exercise kaitiakitaka over resources within their takiwā. This is supported by a range of policies, these include:

- > Give sufficient weight in decision making to Kāi Tahu values and associations through identifying these values, and issues of significance to mana whenua;²⁷⁶
- > Provide for effective and meaningful engagement with mana whenua at appropriate stages of the resource management process;²⁷⁷ and
- > Identify wāhi tūpuna and protect them from identified threats through rules.²⁷⁸

As described throughout this report, OGNZL has undertaken ongoing engagement with Ngāi Tahu and Aukaha during the development of MP4 and remains committed to continued engagement throughout the Project. This engagement provides opportunities for mana whenua participation in the resource management process and the identification of matters of cultural significance. As mentioned throughout this report, feedback received from Kā Rūnaka has also informed the proposed management framework and consent conditions, including provisions for the long-term protection of ecological values and the future management and control of protected areas by Kā Rūnaka. OGNZL has further committed to ongoing engagement regarding cultural inductions, mahika kai enhancement initiatives, and opportunities to strengthen its relationship with Kā Rūnaka. These measures support the exercise of kaitiakitaka and recognise Kāi Tahu values and associations with the area.

While no listed or scheduled Māori archaeological sites have been identified within the Macraes Operation area, OGNZL recognises that unidentified wāhi tūpuna, archaeological sites, and associated cultural values may nevertheless be present. An updated TIA is currently being prepared and will inform future stages of the Project. Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the 2GP relating to mana whenua participation and the recognition and protection of wāhi tūpuna.

Transport

Objective 6.2.1 seeks that transport infrastructure supports safe and efficient movement while minimising any amenity / character effects on the rural environment. The supporting policies are specific to the construction, operation, maintenance and repair of roads; however, the haul roads proposed as part of MP4 are not considered new roads under the 2GP.

²⁷⁶ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 2.5.1.1.

²⁷⁷ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 2.5.1.2.

²⁷⁸ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 2.5.3.1.



Objective 2.2.2, 6.2.3 and associated policies relate to enabling accessible transportation that can be accessed through different modes of transport. The Macraes Operation is located approximately 1 hour outside of Dunedin City and is not suitable for different modes of transportation. OGNZL recognise the intent of these policy objectives, however, they are not considered relevant to MP4.

Policies relevant to MP4 include:

- > Require ancillary signs to be located and designed to avoid or, if avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigate adverse effects on the safety and efficiency of the transport network;²⁷⁹
- > Require land use activities to provide adequate vehicle loading and maneuvering space to support their operations, and mitigate any adverse effects if avoidance is not possible;²⁸⁰ and
- > Only allow land use and development activities where adverse effects on the safety and efficiency of the transport network will be avoided or adequately mitigated and in a way that is affordable to the public.²⁸¹

As described throughout this report, any signage associated with MP4 will be required for operational, directional or safety purposes. All signage will comply with the relevant performance standards of the relevant plan (whether in the Dunedin or Waitaki District) and will not impose any adverse effects on road users.

The design of the Macraes Operation allows all vehicles to leave the site forward facing after being maneuvering safely and practically around the site, therefore aligning with Policy 6.2.3.3.

OGNZL is a ratepayer in both the Dunedin City and Waitaki District, and these costs contribute to the upgrades and maintenance of roading infrastructure across the district. Any maintenance required for public roads resulting from mining operations is undertaken by OGNZL, at their cost. Due to the low vehicle movements of the public roads, any upgrade or maintenance works will only affect a small number of road users.

For the reasons listed above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies of the transportation section of the 2GP.

²⁷⁹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 6.2.3.1.

²⁸⁰ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 6.2.3.3.

²⁸¹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 6.2.3.9.



Natural Hazard Mitigation Activities

Objective 8.2.1 relates to avoiding or mitigating natural hazard risks as far as practicable on amenity and character of the relevant zone and must be required to meet the objectives and policies of the Plan related to all relevant overlay zones.

Alignment with this objective is demonstrated earlier in this report, which demonstrates that natural hazard risks are avoided or mitigated as far as practicable. As discussed, MP4 ensures that effects on amenity and character are appropriately managed and aligns with the relevant objectives and policies of the 2GP, including those generally applying to different overlay zones. However, it is noted that there are no specific natural hazard overlays over the Macraes Operation under the 2GP.

Earthworks

Objective 8A.2.1 states that earthworks necessary for permitted or approved land use and development are enabled, while avoiding, or adequately mitigating, any adverse effects on things such as visual amenity, stability of land and surrounding properties. Policies that relate to this objective, and are relevant to MP4 include:

- > Require earthworks, and associated retaining structures, to be designed and located to avoid or minimise, as far as practicable, adverse effects on the stability of land, buildings, and structures;²⁸²
- > Require earthworks and any associated retaining structures, to be designed, located and undertaken in a way that minimises, as far as practicable, adverse effects on surrounding sites and the wider area;²⁸³ and
- > Only allow earthworks that exceed the scale thresholds (earthworks - large scale) and any associated retaining structures, where the following effects will be avoided or, if avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigated.²⁸⁴

MP4 is consistent with these provisions. Large-scale earthworks associated with the WRS and open pit in the Coronation North Mining Area have been informed by detailed geotechnical assessments and will be subject to site-specific design, construction, and monitoring requirements to ensure long-term stability. The proposal includes engagement of suitably qualified dam designers, independent peer review for High PIC structures,

²⁸² Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 8A.2.1.1.

²⁸³ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 8A.2.1.2.

²⁸⁴ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 8A.2.1.3.



compliance with the New Zealand Dam Safety Guidelines, and detailed earthworks specifications addressing stability, drainage, and seepage risks.

Earthworks have also been designed to minimise potential effects on surrounding land and infrastructure through site-specific investigations, ongoing validation during construction, engineered rockfill placement, runoff containment measures, and post-closure settlement monitoring. Updated erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented to manage earthworks-related effects, while dam safety management systems, monitoring programmes, and Emergency Action Plans will provide for the ongoing management of any residual risks.

Although not directly specified in these objectives and policies, the PSI and DSI undertaken for MP4 found that any bulk earthworks using large-scale mining methods will have negligible adverse effects on human health.

For these reasons, MP4 aligns with the relevant objectives and policies for earthworks.

Public Health and Safety

Chapter 9 refers to a broad range of matters under the public health and safety objectives and policies. Objective 9.2.2 refers to land use, development and subdivision activities and the maintenance or enhancement of people's health and safety. Policies that are relevant to MP4 include:

- > Require earthworks and scheduled mining activities to be designed to ensure adverse effects from sediment run-off from the site on any drains, channels, soakage and treatment systems or stormwater reticulation will be avoided or minimised, as far as practicable;²⁸⁵
- > Require activities to be designed and operated to avoid adverse effects from noise on the health of people or, where avoidance is not practicable, ensure any adverse effects would be insignificant;²⁸⁶
- > Only allow mining or mineral exploration where any adverse effects from air blast and vibration on people's health and safety or on surrounding properties are avoided or, if avoidance is not practicable, no more than minor;²⁸⁷

²⁸⁵ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 9.2.1.8.

²⁸⁶ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 9.2.2.1.

²⁸⁷ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 9.2.2.6.

- > Require hazardous substances to be stored and used in a way that ensures residual risks of adverse effects on the health and safety of people are managed to acceptable levels;²⁸⁸ and
- > Activities on land that has a history of land use that may have resulted in contamination are managed in accordance with the Resource Management (National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health) Regulations 2011.²⁸⁹

In relation to Policy 9.2.1.8, the proposal incorporates extensive erosion and sediment control measures, water management infrastructure and monitoring programmes to minimise sediment runoff and protect downstream drainage and water management systems. An ESCMP is provided in **Part B** of this substantive application which details how sediment and erosion will be managed to ensure that any effects will be avoided or minimised in accordance with best practice.

An acoustic assessment has been undertaken by Acoustic Engineering (2026) that carefully considers the noise effects of MP4 on surrounding landowners and occupiers. The mining activities are characteristic of an established mining operation and are consistent with the anticipated noise environment within the Macraes Operation. However, noise mitigation approaches proposed by OGNZL include operational restrictions on particular surface earthmoving activities during night-time periods, dwelling-specific mitigation measures where required (such as acoustic upgrades and / or noise bunding), ongoing noise monitoring, and adaptive management measures to ensure that noise effects on neighbouring properties are maintained at no more than minor levels. Subject to the implementation of these measures, the assessment concludes that noise effects associated with MP4 will be less than minor and consistent with the intent of Policy 9.2.2.1.

Blasting is proposed as part of MP4, and in accordance with Policy 9.2.2.6, noise and vibration effects will be carefully managed to avoid and mitigate any effects on surrounding properties. TechNick Consulting (2026) details the following management approaches are appropriate (full list is included in **Part A.08** of this report):

- > Blasting will start at further distances from sensitive sites and vibration, and air blast measurements will be recorded and reviewed to determine whether progressions towards sensitive receivers can occur within an appropriate threshold;

²⁸⁸ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 9.2.2.10.

²⁸⁹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 9.2.2.14.



- > Hours of blasting are restricted between Monday – Friday (9am – 5.30pm) and Saturday – Sunday (10am – 4.30pm) and will not occur outside of these hours;
- > A conservative safety approach has been built into all calculations related to air blasting and vibration effects to prioritise the health and safety of all people;
- > Amenity effects on the surrounding environment due to blasting and vibration have been carefully considered, conditions are imposed in **Part D** of this substantive application to avoid, remedy and mitigate these effects; and
- > Ongoing monitoring and management protocols are proposed in **Part D** of this substantive application, demonstrating a blanket approach is not suitable for MP4 and consistent management of effects is required.

Specific to the storage of hazardous substances, these matters are well described throughout this report (both in the RPS and WDC sections). However, all hazardous substances are to be stored and used in a way that ensures residual risks of adverse effects on the health and safety of people are managed to acceptable levels.

Further, all earthworks and land disturbance proposed as part of MP4 will occur in accordance with the approvals sought under this consent, the DSI and PSI prepared for this application and the NES-CS where applicable.

For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies listed under public health and safety.

Natural Environment

Chapter 10 refers to matters specific to the natural environment. Objective 10.2.1 states that biodiversity values should be maintained or enhanced, including by protecting areas of significant indigenous vegetation and the significant habitats of indigenous fauna. Objective 10.2.2 ensures that biodiversity values and natural character of riparian margins are maintained or enhanced. Policies that are relevant to MP4 include:

- > Only allow land use, development and city-wide activities where biodiversity values are maintained or enhanced and indigenous clearance – large scale should only be allowed in the rural zone (outside scheduled Areas of Significant Biodiversity Value) where adverse effects or biodiversity values are avoided, or if avoidance is not practicable, no more than minor;²⁹⁰

²⁹⁰ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.1.1 and Policy 10.2.1.X.

- > Protect significant indigenous vegetation and fauna habitat by avoiding development within these areas unless there is a functional or operational need for the activity to be located there. Where effects cannot be avoided, a hierarchy of mitigation, biodiversity offsetting, and environmental compensation is required to ensure biodiversity values are maintained;²⁹¹
- > Restrict large-scale indigenous vegetation clearance in rural and rural residential zones only where adverse effects on biodiversity values are avoided or are no more than minor. Its purpose is to maintain biodiversity values and minimise ecological impacts resulting from vegetation removal;²⁹²
- > Vegetation clearance within, or within the required setback of a wetland should only be allowed where biodiversity values are maintained or enhanced or when there is no reduction in the extent of natural wetlands;²⁹³
- > All mineral exploration and prospecting activities to restore indigenous vegetation and habitats of indigenous fauna where cleared as part of the exploration or prospecting activity, or, where this is not practicable, to otherwise ensure that biodiversity values maintained or enhanced;²⁹⁴
- > Earthworks and scheduled mining activities to be located as far as practicable to ensure sediment does not enter waterbodies;²⁹⁵ and
- > Require buildings, structures, storage and use of hazardous substances, network utility activities, and earthworks - large scale to be set back from waterbodies to ensure an adequate distance.

MP4 considers a number of the Chapter 10 Natural Environment objectives and policies because it will result in the disturbance of indigenous vegetation, modification of habitats used by indigenous fauna, and have effects on wetlands and riparian environments. As such, the proposal does not fully align with all of the objectives and policies of the chapter, particularly those policies that seek to avoid adverse effects on biodiversity values and maintain or enhance indigenous vegetation and habitat values.

In relation to Policies 10.2.1.1 and 10.2.1.6, the proposal will require the clearance of indigenous vegetation associated with the expansion of mining activities. While avoidance of all adverse effects is not practicable given the location-specific nature of the mineral

²⁹¹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.1.Y.

²⁹² Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.1.6.

²⁹³ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.1.7.

²⁹⁴ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.1.10.

²⁹⁵ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 10.2.2.5.

resource and the functional need for mining to occur where the resource exists, the extent of clearance has been considered through project design and the affected biodiversity values have been assessed through the Ecological Impact Assessment. The proposal therefore gives effect to these policies to the extent practicable but cannot be said to fully achieve a policy outcome of avoidance.

Similarly, Policy 10.2.1.7 seeks to ensure wetland values are maintained or enhanced and that there is no reduction in the extent of natural wetlands. The proposal will result in direct and indirect effects on wetlands, meaning there is some inconsistency with the policy direction. However, those effects have been recognised and addressed through a substantial package of wetland restoration, enhancement, compensation and long-term management measures designed to deliver positive ecological outcomes at a catchment scale and over the longer term.

Policy 10.2.1.10 requires the restoration of indigenous vegetation and habitats affected by mineral exploration and prospecting activities, or otherwise that biodiversity values are maintained or enhanced. The proposal includes progressive rehabilitation, revegetation, habitat establishment, ecological restoration initiatives and long-term management commitments. While restoration of all affected habitats to their pre-development condition may not be achievable, the proposed measures are intended to ensure that biodiversity values are maintained or enhanced overall.

Greater alignment is achieved with Objective 10.2.2 and Policy 10.2.2.5. The proposal incorporates extensive erosion and sediment controls, water management infrastructure, monitoring programmes and operational measures intended to minimise sediment discharges and effects on waterways. Mining activities and associated earthworks have been designed to manage effects on waterbodies and riparian margins as far as practicable, recognising the constraints imposed by the location of the resource.

Overall, the proposal is not fully consistent with all aspects of Chapter 10 because some biodiversity loss, vegetation clearance and wetland effects are unavoidable. However, these effects arise from a location-specific activity with a demonstrated functional need and are addressed through a comprehensive hierarchy of avoidance, minimisation, rehabilitation, restoration, compensation and monitoring measures. When considered as a whole, the proposal is considered to generally support the objectives of maintaining biodiversity values and natural environmental functioning, while appropriately managing the adverse effects that cannot be avoided.



Natural Hazards

Further to the strategic direction considerations identified earlier in this substantive application, managing natural hazard risk and ensuring Dunedin is a resilient city is a key focus for DCC. Objective 11.2.1 seeks to ensure that land use and development is located and designed in a way that ensures that the risk from natural hazards, and from the potential effects of climate change on natural hazards, is no more than low, in the short to long term.

Policy 11.2.1.14 requires buildings, structures, storage and use of hazardous substances, network utility activities, and earthworks - large scale to be set back an adequate distance from water bodies to ensure that the risk from natural hazards, including from erosion and flooding, is avoided, or is no more than low.

Natural hazard considerations for MP4 have been integrated throughout the planning, design and assessment process, rather than being addressed as a standalone matter. Consistent with Objective 11.2.1, the location, layout and design of mining infrastructure and associated earthworks have been informed by an assessment of natural hazard risks over the life of the project, including consideration of the potential influence of climate change on those risks. The proposal has sought to avoid hazard-prone areas where practicable and, where exposure to natural hazard risks cannot be avoided, incorporates engineering, operational and management measures to ensure that hazard risk remains at an acceptable level.

In relation to Policy 11.2.1.14, mining infrastructure, water management systems, hazardous substance storage areas and earthworks have been designed with regard to their relationship to waterbodies and potential erosion, flooding and instability hazards. The proposal incorporates conservative design standards, stormwater and MWMS, geotechnical assessment, monitoring programmes and adaptive management measures to ensure that natural hazard risks are appropriately identified, managed and mitigated throughout construction, operation, closure and post-closure phases.

Heritage

Chapter 13 and the associated objectives seek the protection of scheduled heritage buildings, structures and sites, heritage values and archaeological sites.²⁹⁶ Policy 13.2.4.1 requires an archaeological authority to be obtained, if one is required, prior to undertaking earthworks on a scheduled archaeological site.

²⁹⁶ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Objectives 13.2.1, 13.2.2 and 13.2.4.



There are no scheduled heritage buildings, structures, sites or archaeological sites located within the Macraes Operation, and even more specifically in the Coronation Mining Area. The 2GP contains an archaeological alert layer over the area, that details unidentified archaeological sites that could be found during earthworks. OGNZL have undertaken consultation with iwi, and associated hapū and no unidentified Māori origin archaeological sites were noted. OGNZL are seeking an archaeological authority for the removal of heritage and archaeological sites within the Macraes Operation, where most of the sites are related to previous gold mining activities and are within the jurisdiction of the WDC.

OGNZL have proposed an Accidental Discovery Protocol condition in **Part D** of this substantive application. This condition details an established process if an archaeological site of Māori heritage, or human remains are found during earthworks or any other activities associated with MP4.

For the reasons above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the relevant heritage objectives and policies.

Mana whenua

Objective 14.2.1 seeks to maintain and enhance the relationship of mana whenua with the natural environment, including the protection of cultural values, traditions, wāhi tūpuna and mahika kai. Policy 14.2.1.1 directs that adverse effects on mahika kai values associated with wetlands and riparian areas that are wāhi tūpuna are avoided, or where avoidance is not practicable, are no more than minor.

The Macraes Operation is located within the wider Taieri catchment, an area recognised as having wāhi tūpuna values. The Mare Burn and Trimbells Gully, which are tributaries of the Taieri River, are located within the Macraes Operation area. While ecological investigations undertaken by Viridis (2026a) identified limited ecological and aquatic habitat values within Trimbells Gully, OGNZL acknowledges that ecological value and cultural value are distinct considerations. The identification and assessment of effects on wāhi tūpuna, mahika kai and other cultural values is a matter for mana whenua, who are best placed to articulate the significance of these places and resources. OGNZL has therefore engaged with mana whenua throughout the development of the proposal and has sought to understand, avoid, minimise and appropriately respond to cultural effects through the measures identified in the application and associated cultural assessments.

Rural Zone

The Macraes Operation is located within the High-Country Rural Zone, therefore objectives and policies specified for the rural zone must be considered.

Objective 16.2.1 seeks that Rural zones be reserved for productive rural activities and *“activities that support the well-being of communities where these activities are most appropriately located in a rural rather than an urban environment”*. MP4 must be located where the resource is located and is most appropriately located in a rural environment.

The policy framework for the Rural Zone is to generally allow mining activities where adverse effects on surrounding properties will be avoided or, if avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigated.

There are several policies relevant to MP4, these include:

- > Require residential buildings and cemeteries to minimise, as far as practicable, the potential for reverse sensitivity by being set back an adequate distance from mining activities; ²⁹⁷
- > Require mineral exploration, and mineral prospecting to operate in a way (including hours of operation or, for mineral exploration, use of blasting) that avoids or, if avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigates noise or adverse effects on the amenity of sensitive activities on surrounding properties; ²⁹⁸
- > Require mineral exploration and mineral prospecting to restore land to at least the same standard as before the activity commenced with respect to landform and productive potential; ²⁹⁹
- > Only allow mining and landfills where there is reasonable certainty that land will be restored or rehabilitated to an acceptable standard with respect to landform and to enable a return to productive, recreational or conservation use as soon as possible; ³⁰⁰
- > Only allow mining where adverse effects from large scale development on rural character and visual amenity will be avoided or minimised as far as practicable; ³⁰¹
- > Require ancillary signs to be located and designed to maintain rural character and visual amenity; ³⁰²

²⁹⁷ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.2.1.

²⁹⁸ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.2.4.

²⁹⁹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.3.3.

³⁰⁰ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.3.4.

³⁰¹ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.3.5.

³⁰² Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.3.7.



- > Require activities to be designed and operated to ensure that any adverse effects from light spill on rural character and amenity, and the ability of people to view the night sky, will be no more than minor;³⁰³ and
- > Require scheduled mining activities to be designed, located and undertaken in a way that avoids or, if avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigates sediment run-off onto any property (among other things) and dust nuisance on amenity of surrounding sites.³⁰⁴

Policy 16.2.2.1 seeks to avoid any reverse sensitivity between new sensitive activities and landfills and mining activities. MP4 represents the continuation and expansion of an existing mining operation that has been established at Macraes for more than 30 years and does not introduce any new sensitive activities into the receiving environment. Accordingly, the proposal is consistent with the intent of the policy, as it does not create the potential for reverse sensitivity effects that could constrain the ongoing operation, maintenance or development of the Macraes mine.

More broadly, the proposal recognises the long-established nature of mining activities within the Macraes area and is a continuation of an existing land use within a known and established mining environment. As such, the proposal aligns with the policy's objective of avoiding land use conflicts and protecting the ability of established mining activities to continue operating without unreasonable constraints arising from reverse sensitivity effects.

TechNick (2026) undertook a comprehensive assessment of the actual and potential effects associated blasting and vibration proposed as part of MP4. The assessment considers effects on amenity values, neighbouring properties, heritage resources and other sensitive receivers. The evidence demonstrates that, while blasting and associated vibration effects cannot be entirely avoided, these effects can be appropriately managed through the implementation of established operational controls, monitoring programmes and adaptive management measures. OGNZL proposes a comprehensive suite of mitigation measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate adverse effects, including, but not limited to:

- > Adequate management of blasting activities in accordance with management plans;³⁰⁵

³⁰³ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan - Policy 16.2.3.9.

³⁰⁴ Dunedin City Council Second Generation Plan – Policy 16.2.3.12.

³⁰⁵ Noise, Airblast and Vibration Monitoring Plan, the Site Management Plans, the Principal Hazard Management Plan and the Open Pit Explosives Management Plan.

- > Blasting will be undertaken using industry best practice initiation methods, with blast timing designed to minimise vibration effects and avoid cumulative vibration from concurrent blasting activities;
- > Ongoing vibration monitoring will be undertaken at the nearest neighbouring residence and at other sensitive locations where appropriate, with monitoring results used to inform operational practices where required; and
- > Baseline condition surveys will be undertaken for heritage buildings within a defined proximity to blasting activities, with ongoing inspections and monitoring undertaken at agreed intervals.

These measures provide a mechanism to identify any changes in building condition over time and enable management responses to be implemented where necessary.

In accordance with Policies 16.2.3.3 and 16.2.3.4, rehabilitation and closure are fundamental components of the MP4 proposal and have been incorporated into the Project design from the outset. A comprehensive Mine Closure Plan is proposed, building on the existing rehabilitation and closure framework that applies across the Macraes Operation. The proposal includes progressive rehabilitation throughout the life of the mine and requires disturbed areas to be rehabilitated so that, in the long term, landforms are stable and self-sustaining, risks to human health are appropriately managed, and surface water and groundwater quality do not give rise to adverse effects. While rehabilitation will not necessarily restore all areas to their pre-mining condition or original landform, the proposal is designed to establish appropriate post-mining land uses and environmental outcomes that can be sustained over the long term.

Further confidence in achieving these outcomes is provided through the rehabilitation bond, which has been an established component of the Macraes Operation since 1990 and is proposed to continue for MP4. The bond is reviewed and updated regularly to reflect both new disturbance and completed rehabilitation, ensuring sufficient funds are available to complete closure, rehabilitation and post-closure management if required. Accordingly, while MP4 will result in significant land disturbance during operations, the proposal provides a high degree of certainty that affected land will be rehabilitated to an acceptable standard and returned to productive, ecological, recreational and/or conservation uses where appropriate, consistent with the intent of Policies 16.2.3.3 and 16.2.3.4.

Signage may be required for operational and safety purposes due to the nature and extent of MP4. All signage will comply with the relevant performance standards and will not generate any adverse effects on the amenity of the relevant zone or visual effects, therefore MP4 aligns with Policy 16.2.3.7.

Lighting effects on rural character and amenity, and the view of the night sky were carefully considered by Leading Design Professionals (2026) and were found to be less than minor. Explanations of how OGNZL propose to avoid, remedy and mitigate any potential light effects have been detailed in other sections above, therefore showing alignment with Policy 16.2.3.9.

Lastly, Policy 16.2.3.12 requires scheduled mining activities to be designed, located and undertaken in a manner that avoids, or where avoidance is not practicable, adequately mitigates adverse effects associated with sediment runoff and dust nuisance on surrounding properties. These matters have been the subject of detailed technical assessment as part of the MP4 application and have informed both the Project design and the proposed operational management framework.

While some generation of sediment and dust is inherent to large-scale mining activities, the proposal incorporates a comprehensive suite of avoidance, management and mitigation measures, including erosion and sediment controls, water management infrastructure, progressive rehabilitation, dust suppression measures, monitoring programmes, and adaptive management responses. These measures are supported by an ESCMP and consent conditions that provide for ongoing monitoring and corrective action where necessary (**Part D** of this substantive application). Accordingly, the proposal is considered to be consistent with the intent of Policy 16.2.3.12, as sediment runoff and dust effects have been avoided where practicable and otherwise appropriately mitigated.

For the reasons detailed above, it is considered that MP4 aligns with the objectives and policies of the rural zone.

Summary

MP4 is considered to be broadly consistent with the objectives and policies of the 2GP. The proposal supports the Plan's strategic direction by enabling the continued extraction of a location-specific mineral resource while appropriately managing natural hazard, biodiversity, cultural, amenity, transport, public health, and environmental effects through a comprehensive suite of mitigation, monitoring, rehabilitation, and adaptive management measures.

While some adverse effects on indigenous vegetation, habitats, and wetlands are unavoidable, these have been addressed through the effects management hierarchy, including avoidance where practicable, rehabilitation, restoration, and biodiversity compensation. When considered as a whole, MP4 achieves an appropriate balance between environmental protection and the significant economic and social benefits of



mining and is therefore considered to be consistent with the overall intent and outcomes sought by the 2GP.

12.3.17 Iwi Management Plans

It is understood that there is only one iwi management plan applicable to the Macraes Operation which is referenced as the NRMP. The NRMP is the principal planning document for Kāi Tahu ki Otago, which is the collective term used to describe the four Papatipu Rūnaka and associated whānau and rūpū of the Otago Region. The four Papatipu Rūnaka are:

- > Te Rūnanga o Moeraki;
- > Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki;
- > Te Runanga o Ōtākou; and
- > Hokonui Rūnanga

The NRMP provides information, direction and a framework to achieve a greater understanding of the natural resource values, concerns and issues of Kāi Tahu ki Otago and provides a basis from which Kāi Tahu ki Otago participate in the management of Otago's resources.

Part 3 of the NRMP sets out the issues, objectives and policies for Kāi Tahu ki Otago for both the Otago region as a whole and the specific catchments within the Otago region. The objectives and policies most relevant to the application have been considered below.

12.3.17.1.1 Overall Objectives for the Otago Region

Chapter 5 outlines the issues, objectives and policies for the entire Otago region. The overall objectives of the chapter are detailed in section 5.2 and these are:

- > The rakātirataka and kaitiakitaka of Kāi Tahu ki Otago is recognised and supported;
- > Ki Uta Ki Tai management of natural resources is adopted within the Otago region;
- > The mana of Kāi Tahu ki Otago is upheld through the management of natural, physical and historic resources in the Otago region;
- > Kāi Tahu ki Otago have effective participation in all resource management activities within the Otago region; and
- > The respective roles and responsibilities of mana whenua within the Otago region are recognised and provided for through the other objectives and policies of the NRMP.



Chapter 5 also includes an extensive list of objectives and policies for the Otago region relating to wai māori, wāhi tapu, mahika kai and biodiversity, cultural landscapes and air and atmosphere. The key relevant objectives and policies for MP4 for each of these topics are discussed in the sub-sections below.

12.3.17.1.2 Wai Māori General Objectives and Policies

The key relevant objectives and associated policies relating to wai māori seek that the spiritual and cultural significance of water to Kāi Tahu ki Otago is recognised in all water management, the waters of the Otago Catchment are healthy and support Kāi Tahu ki Otago customs, and the discharge of contaminants to water is reduced.³⁰⁶

Other relevant policies include:

- > Require an assessment of instream values for all activities affecting water;³⁰⁷
- > Protect and restore the mauri of all water;³⁰⁸
- > Require the preparation of a CIA for all proposals to dam a watercourse;³⁰⁹ and
- > Only allow water takes for the amount of water required for the activity specified in the application.³¹⁰

The proposal is supported by comprehensive assessments of groundwater, surface water, water quality, aquatic ecology and freshwater values. These assessments include consideration of instream values, the effects of water takes, discharges, dewatering, stream modifications, groundwater drawdown, contaminant transport, pit lake development and long-term water management. The application also includes detailed assessments of aquatic ecological values within the receiving environment and the waterways directly affected by the Project.

The proposal includes a substantial suite of measures intended to avoid, minimise, remedy or mitigate adverse effects on freshwater resources, including source controls, seepage capture systems, active and passive treatment measures, flow augmentation dams, stream enhancement and compensation works, ecological restoration, water quality monitoring and adaptive management. The proposed water quality framework is intended to provide a higher level of environmental protection than the existing consented regime and seeks to progressively improve freshwater outcomes over the life of the Project and into closure.

³⁰⁶ NRMP – Objectives 5.3.3(i), 5.3.3(ii) & 5.3.3(iv) and Policy 5.3.4(2).

³⁰⁷ NRMP – Policy 5.3.4.1.

³⁰⁸ NRMP – Policy 5.3.4.4.

³⁰⁹ NRMP – Policy 5.3.4.19.

³¹⁰ NRMP – Policy 5.3.4.22.



These matters are addressed in the proposed consent conditions in **Part D** of this substantive application.

The application also includes proposals for the Camp Creek and Coal Creek augmentation dams. Existing CIA material has identified concerns regarding water management, contaminants, discharges and effects on the mauri of waterways. OGNZL acknowledges that matters relating to the spiritual and cultural significance of water, including the mauri of waterbodies and the effects of activities on wai Māori values, are matters on which Kāi Tahu ki Otago are best placed to provide evidence. Engagement with rūnaka is ongoing and will continue to inform consideration of these matters through the assessment process.

For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 is not inconsistent with the wai objectives and policies.

12.3.17.1.3 Wāhi Tapu General Objectives and Policies

The key relevant objectives and policies relating to wāhi tapu seek that all wāhi tapu are protected from inappropriate activities, consultation is undertaken with Kāi Tahu ki Otago for activities that have the potential to affect wāhi tapu, a Kāi Tahu ki Otago mandated archaeologist survey an area before any earth disturbance work commences and the use of accidental discovery protocols for any earth disturbance work.³¹¹

The application has been informed by archaeological, heritage and 2025 CIA and includes ongoing engagement with Kāi Tahu. The archaeological assessment did not identify any known pre-European Māori archaeological sites within the footprint of the proposed MP4 works.

OGNZL acknowledges that wāhi tapu and associated cultural values are matters on which Kāi Tahu ki Otago are best placed to provide evidence. Engagement with rūnaka is ongoing and will continue to inform consideration of any potential effects on wāhi tapu, wāhi tūpuna and broader cultural values associated with the Project area.

While no known Māori archaeological sites have been identified within the Project footprint, the application proposes an Accidental Discovery Protocol in **Part D** of this substantive application to manage the discovery of any previously unidentified archaeological material, kōiwi, or sites of cultural significance during earthworks. Further, the application also provides for ongoing engagement with mana whenua throughout the Project.

³¹¹ NRMP – Objectives 5.4.2(i) & 5.4.2(ii) and Policies 5.4.4.1, 5.4.4.4 & 5.4.4.5.



For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 is not inconsistent with the wāhi tapu objectives and policies.

12.3.17.1.4 Mahika Kai and Biodiversity General Objectives and Policies

The relevant objectives and policies relating to mahika kai and biodiversity generally seek that mahika kai resources are healthy and abundant, the habitats and wider needs mahika species are protected, remaining indigenous fish habitat is protected and Kāi Tahu ki Otago are involved in the management of mahika kai.³¹²

The proposal also includes significant restoration, and enhancement works within Murphys Creek and the North Branch Waikouaiti River, together with wider biodiversity enhancement initiatives, which are intended to provide ecological benefits beyond the areas directly affected by mining activities. The aquatic assessment concludes that, following implementation of the proposed mitigation and compensation measures, residual effects on freshwater ecological values are generally expected to be low, with no net loss and potentially a net gain in aquatic ecological values.

Mahika kai values, including the health and abundance of mahika kai species and the cultural significance of freshwater habitats, are matters on which Kāi Tahu ki Otago are best placed to provide evidence. OGNZL's engagement with rūnaka is ongoing, and consideration of the extent to which the proposal protects and provides for mahika kai values will continue to be informed through that process and through the TIA which is being prepared by Kā Rūnaka.

For these reasons, it is considered that MP4 is not inconsistent with the mahika kai and biodiversity objectives and policies.

12.3.17.1.5 Cultural Landscapes General Objectives and Policies

Objective 5.6.3(ii) of the NRMP seeks to protect significant cultural landscapes from inappropriate use and development, with the associated mining related policies seeking to:

- > Discourage mining and quarrying activities within landscapes of cultural significance or highly visible landscapes;³¹³ and
- > Require all applications for mining and quarrying to include:
 - i) Site rehabilitation plans that include the planting of indigenous species and address long term concerns;

³¹² NRMP – Objectives 5.5.3(i) & 5.5.3(ii) and Policies 5.5.4.4 & 5.5.4.8.

³¹³ NRMP – Policy 5.6.4.16.



- ii) Measures to visually screen the work site;
 - iii) Measures to prevent or reduce vibration, dust, noise, soil and water contamination;
 - iv) The restriction of the hours during which explosives may be used; and
- > Measures to contain all waste discharges from the mining operation.³¹⁴

As mentioned throughout this report, MP4 takes place in an existing mining environment. This is a significant consideration when assessing consistency with these provisions, as the proposal largely represents the continuation and extension of mining activities within a landscape that has been shaped by mining for several decades. While additional land disturbance and visible mining infrastructure are proposed, extensive landscape and visual assessments have informed the design of MP4, including the location of key infrastructure and rehabilitation proposals.

The application includes comprehensive rehabilitation and closure planning, measures to manage visual effects, controls to manage dust, noise, vibration, and water quality effects, restrictions relating to blasting activities, and an integrated water management system to contain and manage mine water and other discharges. Indigenous revegetation and ecological restoration form a key component of the rehabilitation strategy. Accordingly, while the proposal involves mining activity within a culturally significant landscape, the adverse effects have been appropriately identified and managed, and the proposal is considered consistent with Policies 5.6.4.16 and 5.6.4.17.

With respect to earth disturbance, the relevant policies seek to require all earthworks, excavation, filling or disposal of excavated material to avoid adverse impacts on significant natural landforms and areas of indigenous vegetation and avoid, remedy or mitigate land instability and other adverse effects.³¹⁵

MP4 includes substantial earthworks associated with mining, waste rock storage, tailings management facilities, haul roads, and related infrastructure. The Project has been designed to avoid and minimise adverse effects on significant natural features and indigenous biodiversity where practicable, with extensive ecological surveys informing project design and mitigation measures. Potential effects associated with land instability, erosion, sediment generation, and water contamination have been assessed through a range of technical investigations and are addressed through proposed management plans,

³¹⁴ NRMP – Policy 5.6.4.17.

³¹⁵ NRMP – Policy 5.6.4.19.

engineering controls, erosion and sediment control measures, water management systems, progressive rehabilitation, and ongoing monitoring.

Although some modification of landforms and vegetation is unavoidable due to the nature of the activity, the proposal incorporates measures to avoid, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects and to restore environmental values over time through rehabilitation and enhancement programmes. As such, the proposal is considered consistent with Policy 5.6.4.19.

With respect to roading considerations, the relevant policies seek to:

- > Require an accidental discovery protocol for all road realignments and widening;
- > Avoid sediment runoff during earthworks and road construction to avoid contamination of waterways; and
- > Require indigenous re-vegetation with locally sourced species for all disturbed areas.³¹⁶

The proposal includes road construction, upgrades, and realignments associated with the operation of MP4. The application incorporates erosion and sediment control measures, including the implementation of the ESCMP, have been designed to minimise sediment runoff and prevent contamination of waterways during construction and operation.

Disturbed areas associated with roading activities will be progressively rehabilitated and revegetated using appropriate indigenous species where practicable, consistent with the wider ecological restoration and rehabilitation strategy proposed for MP4. These measures will ensure that cultural, landscape, and freshwater values are appropriately managed and protected. Accordingly, the proposal is considered consistent with Policies 5.6.4.20 and 5.6.4.21.

12.3.17.1.6 Air and Atmosphere

The key relevant objectives and policies of the NRMP relating to air and atmosphere seek that:

- > The life supporting capacity and mauri of air is maintained for future generations;³¹⁷ and
- > Earthworks and discharges to air consider the impact of dust and contaminants on health, mahika kai, cultural landscapes, indigenous flora and fauna and wāhi tapu.

³¹⁶ NRMP – Policies 5.6.4.20 - 21.

³¹⁷ NRMP – Objective 5.7.2(iii) and Policy 5.7.3.1.



Air quality effects associated with MP4 have been comprehensively assessed by Tonkin & Taylor (2026a). The assessment concludes that dust effects from mining activities, haul roads, waste rock stacks, tailings storage facilities, and earthworks across the Coronation, Central and Golden Bar mining areas will be negligible. This conclusion reflects the substantial separation distances between emission sources and sensitive receptors, the low frequency of meteorological conditions capable of transporting dust towards those receptors, and the implementation of established dust management measures, including water suppression, speed controls, and stabilisation of exposed surfaces. The assessment also concludes that concentrations of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), respirable crystalline silica, and arsenic at sensitive receptors will remain well below relevant health-based guidelines, resulting in negligible effects on human health.

The assessment further demonstrates that stack emissions from the Processing Plant, including sulphur dioxide, mercury, and trace metals, will comply with applicable air quality standards and guidelines by a substantial margin. Dispersion modelling predicts extremely low ground-level concentrations at all sensitive receptors, with no adverse effects anticipated on human health, amenity values, indigenous flora and fauna, or other environmental receptors. Ongoing management measures, including operational controls and periodic stack emission testing, will provide assurance that these outcomes are maintained throughout the life of the Project.

Given the negligible predicted dust and air quality effects, together with the extensive mitigation, monitoring, and management framework proposed, MP4 is not expected to adversely affect the life-supporting capacity or mauri of air, nor result in adverse effects on health, mahika kai, cultural landscapes, indigenous biodiversity, or wāhi tapu values. Accordingly, the proposal is considered consistent with the relevant objectives and policies of the NRMP relating to air quality and the sustainable management of the atmosphere.

12.3.18 Treaty Settlements

Clause 5 (i) of Schedule 5 of the FTAA requires the applicant to include information about any Treaty settlements³¹⁸ that apply in the area covered by the consent application, including

- > Identification of the relevant provisions in those Treaty settlements; and
- > A summary of any redress provided by those settlements that affects natural and physical resources relevant to the Project or Project Land.

³¹⁸ Under section 4 (Interpretation) of the Act, a treaty settlement means a Treaty Settlement Act or Treaty Settlement Deed.

The following sections addresses the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act being the Treaty settlement relevant to the MP4 area.

12.3.18.1 Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998

The Ngāi Tahu Deed of Settlement was signed on 21 November 1997, and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act was passed on 29 September 1998. Under the Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu Act 1996, the legislation affirms important aspects of Ngāi Tahu Whānui tikaka, including that Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu is recognised for all purposes as the representative of Ngāi Tahu Whānui. Ngāi Tahu Whānui is defined as the collective of individuals who descend from the primary Kāi Tahu hapū of Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoe, and Ngāi Tahu, including Kāti Kuri, Kāti Irakehu, Kāti Huirapa, Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and Kāi Te Ruahikihiki.

MP4 is not inconsistent with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act given that:

- > There are no statutory acknowledgements over the MP4 area;
- > Lizards are not a taonga species identified under the NTCSA; and
- > There are no nohoanga adjacent to the MP4 area and the project design and proposed consent conditions (**Part D** of this substantive application) mean that nohoanga and Mahika Kai in downstream catchments will not be adversely affected.

OGNZL recognise that Ngāi Tahu may have cultural associations with the area beyond what is specific in the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act, Deed of Settlement and other existing arrangements. Ongoing engagement with Ngāi Tahu, through Kā Rūnaka, in respect of their views and engagement will continue through the resource management process and as set out in Section 8.3 of **Part A.08** of this report, they are proposing to provide a Treaty Settlement Impact Assessment to the EPA prior to the Panel Convener Conference.

12.4 SUMMARY

In summary, the information provided in the preceding sections satisfies the information requirements for approvals required under the RMA, in accordance with Schedule 5 of the FTAA.

