

OCEANAGOLD (NEW ZEALAND)
LIMITED

MACRAES PHASE FOUR (MP4)

WATER QUALITY

Evidence of **James Pope** Regarding
Technical Assessment of Water Quality
Effects and Proposed Conditions

INTRODUCTION

1. My name is James Pope.
2. My role in relation to Macraes Phase 4 (“**MP4**”) has been to provide expert advice in relation to mine waste geochemistry and water quality. I have had a project management, options selection, communications and peer review role. I have reviewed various consultancy reports prepared for MP4 as well as preparing my own summary report (Strata Geoscience, 2026) (“**the Report**”) which is provided within *Part B – Technical Reports* of the application.
3. This evidence has been prepared to accompany the Report and the application by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (“**OGNZL**”) for approvals required for MP4 under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”).
4. Section 4.1(h) of the FTAA Panel Conveners’ Practice and Procedure note (July 2025) says all technical experts authoring reports should include a statement regarding compliance with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses. This evidence has been prepared to fulfil this requirement, and if a hearing is not held, this evidence confirms that, relative to my area of expertise the Report provides an appropriate description of the relevant environment, the proposed activities comprising the effects of the MP4 on that environment, and the way those effects are proposed to be managed.
5. While this application is not being considered by the Environment Court, I confirm that I have read the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses contained in the Environment Court of New Zealand Practice Note 2023 and that I have complied with it when preparing the Report. Other than when I state I am relying on the advice of another person, the Report is within my area of expertise. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions that I express in my expert field of expertise, mine waste geochemistry and aquatic geochemistry. The project management role I completed to assist OGLNZ to deliver the fast track application includes areas that are not within my expert field including aquatic ecology, process engineering, and hydrogeology. I am comfortable as project manager for these disciplines and have been supported appropriately by other internal and external experts within the OGLNZ team where necessary.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

6. I have a PhD Environmental Geochemistry and a BSc Hons (Geology) and have over 23 years experience working in the geochemistry field.

7. Since January 2023 I have owned and operated Strata Geoscience Ltd. Prior to that:
 - a. I worked for almost 20 years at CRL Energy Ltd (rebranded to Verum Group Ltd ~2020). I started as a research geochemist and for the last ~ 4 years I was CEO.
 - b. I specialise in geochemistry and have provided consultancy, laboratory services and research work to many organisations.
8. This work has included, but is not limited to: Geochemistry consultancy and management of consultants at:
 - a. Peer review of Environmental Geochemistry work for Bathurst Resources Fast Trace Application
 - b. Oceana Gold, Globe. Water treatment conceptual work and management of consultants delivering water passive treatment implementation.
 - c. Francis Mining, Echo, Water treatment conceptual work and management of consultants delivering passive water treatment implementation.
 - d. Bathurst Resources, Stockton. Water treatment mineralogy.
 - e. Solid Energy, Stockton. Cement kiln dust for remediation application.
 - f. Oceana Gold Waihi. Annual peer review for Waikato Regional Council.
 - g. Bathurst Resources, Escarpment. Delivery of environmental geochemistry work for resource consent.
 - h. Stevenson Group, Te Kuha environmental geochemistry and coal resource estimate.
 - i. MBIE, Endeavour Fund Research Programmes. Delivery of the New Zealand Mine Environment Life Cycle Guide and other projects.
 - j. Mokau South Resources, expert geochemist.
9. In providing this evidence, I have considered the following matters as relevant to that topic:
 - (a) The project description provided by OGNZL as set out in Section 6 of the Substantive Application prepared by Mitchell Daysh Limited;
 - (b) The description of the existing environment as set out in Section 4 of the Substantive Application, the effects of MP4 on that environment and their significance, and the proposals to manage those effects as all set out in the assessment of effects in Section 9 of the Substantive Application;
 - (c) The technical assessments by

GHD, 2026, Macraes Phase 4 FTA Surface and Groundwater Assessment.

MWM, 2026, Environmental Geochemistry Overview Report, Macraes Phase 4 Project.

Process Flow, 2026, Macraes Phase 4 Project (MP4), Active Water Treatment Study.

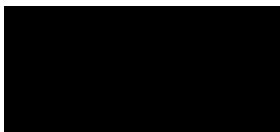
Viridis, 2026, Macraes Phase 4 Recommended Surface water Compliance Framework.

WGA, 2026, Macraes Phase IV, Water Treatment Plant Brine Disposal.

CONFIRMATION OF CONTENTS OF REPORT AND PROPOSED CONDITIONS

10. I confirm that in my opinion the Report contains an accurate and appropriate summary of work completed to support MP4. The Report is not a full summary of all work that has been completed to support changes in the approach to water and waste rock management during MP4 of the Macraes Mine. Instead, this Report highlights the strengths and size of the changes that have been made between current operations and proposed operations under MP4. In addition, the Report highlights areas where additional study and operational experience with new water management infrastructure might lead to improved environmental performance compared to modelling of future scenarios completed to date.
11. I confirm that in my opinion the contents of the Report may be relied on in decision making on the approvals sought for MP4. I confirm that the comments in my report either summarise work from other experts or are within my area of expertise.
12. I confirm that I have reviewed the consultancy reports, management documents and conditions that OGNZL proposes for the various approvals being sought as they relate to my area of expertise. I confirm that in my opinion those proposed conditions are appropriate.

James Pope



6 September 2026