

Otago Regional Council
DIRECTIONS OF THE COMMISSIONERS

- [1] By way of a Memorandum dated 21 May 2025 (attached), counsel for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (**OGL**) advised that that it was proposing to no longer pursue the Golden Bar element as part of the Macraes Phase 4 Project (MP4), which has been set down for a Hearing commencing on 22 July 2025.
- [2] Counsel advised that in OGL's view, and in the view of its consultants, the Golden Bar element could be readily severed from the remainder of MP4 without requiring amended technical reports to be supplied.
- [3] In the meantime, OGL have requested that the three council's Section 42A Reports due on 9 June 2025 continue to assess the full application as currently lodged, including the Golden Bar element.
- [4] Counsel went on to submit that OGL reserved its position not to pursue Golden Bar at the Hearing based in part on the outcome of the Section 42A Reports.
- [5] We find this to be an unusual proposition.
- [6] It is our experience and preference that Section 42A Reports and an applicant's evidence circulated prior to a Hearing address the actual proposal for which consent will be sought. Nevertheless, we acknowledge OGL's advice that they may wish to follow a different process.
- [7] Should OGL decide to withdraw the Golden Bar element of MP4 prior to the Hearing, then the Panel, in consultation with the council's reporting officers, will at that time decide if the timeframes set in Minute 1 need to be adjusted to enable comprehensive advice to be provided to the Panel. We will also seek the views of submitters as to whether they require further time to assess the implications of the amended MP4 proposal.
- [8] Should OGL decide to withdraw the Golden Bar element of MP4 at the Hearing then the Panel, in consultation with OGL, the council's reporting officers and submitters, will decide if an adjournment is required to enable the council's reporting officers and submitters to assess the implications of the amended proposal.
- [9] One possible outcome of OGL's desired process is a deferment or adjournment of the Hearing. That is a risk that OGL seems to be willing to take.
- [10] We will issue further Minute(s) addressing this matter if and when OGL confirm the withdrawal of the Golden Bar element of MP4.



Rob van Voorthuysen
On behalf of the commissioners
22 May 2025