

**Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited -
Coronation North Project Element**

**Summary of Submissions, Submissions
and Minutes of Pre-hearing Meeting**

**Otago Regional Council Application
Numbers - RM16.138.01 – RM16.138.19**

**Dunedin City Council Application
Numbers - LUC-2016-230 and LUC-
2013-225/A**

**Waitaki District Council Application
Numbers – 201.2016.779 and
201.2013.360-1**

**Summary of Submissions and
submissions – Pages 1 to 58**

**Minutes of Pre-hearing Meeting –
Pages 59 to 63**

Summary of Submissions and submissions

Summary of Submissions

Application # RM16.138

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited - Oceana (New Zealand) Ltd various sites

Status	Number of Submissions
Neutral	3
Opposed	4
Support	1
Support With Conditions	1
Total Number of Submissions:	9

To Be Heard	Number of Submissions
No	3
Yes	6
Total:	9

Submitter No	Submitter	Add1	Add2	Add3	Add4	Add5	Add6	Submissions Summary	Received Date	To Be Heard	Status
1	C A Howard & E M Howard	406 Horseflat Road	Macraes	RD3		Palmerston	9483	Concerns over noise particular at night, water quality, increased dust and visual pollution. Identified concerns with road use and associated safety.	18/08/2016	No	Neutral
2	Department of Conservation	PO Box 5244				Dunedin	9058	Considers that the application does not adequately avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed activity. However, with further information and discussions with the applicant etc., the Director-General's concerns may be able to be addressed by the imposition of appropriate conditions on any resource consents which may be granted.	19/08/2016	Yes	Opposed
3	Heritage New Zealand	Attn: Jane O'Dea,, Heritage Adviser (Planning)	PO Box 5467			Dunedin	9058	The submission noted the heritage values that will be potentially affected. It is asked that the consent shall not be granted until such time as appropriate measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate effects on historic heritage values have been identified and adopted by the applicant. It is also asked that the Accidental Discovery Protocol be included as a condition of consent. The Accidental Discovery Protocol was attached to the submission.	19/08/2016	Yes	Opposed
4	Kai Tahu ki Otago Limited	PO Box 446				Dunedin	9054	Submission lodged on behalf Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnanga ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou.	19/08/2016	Yes	Neutral

								The submission asked that the Consent Authority give effect to the objectives and policies of the Kāi Tahu ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005. It is also asked that if the consents are to be granted they should be subject to conditions that achieve: - Mitigation of the effects on water quality in the lower catchments. -Protection of in-stream habitat for native fisheries, including non-migratory galaxiid species. - The engagement of Manawhenua in the development of environmental offsets that provide for the restoration and enhancement of riparian margins and indigenous biodiversity. - CIA review conditions and dispute resolution process (as amended). - Emergency plans that effectively provide for protection of the quality of the natural environment in the event of failure of the waste rock stacks or Freshwater Dam.			
5	N J Roy	Moonlight	RD 3			Palmerston	9483	Concerns over roading closures, post mining roading realignment and potential dust emissions. Notes that the Assessment of Environmental Effects and Appendices are not entirely faultless and may be bias towards the applicant. Asked that the applications be granted in with appropriate	19/08/2016	Yes	Support With Conditions

								conditions of consent.			
6	D B Kinney	RD 3				Ranfurly	9397	Concerns that the leachate will impact on their current water takes. This includes stock and domestic water. The application does not mention the potential impact on groundwater and surface water users. There are also concerns around noise created from mining operations in particular at night. It is asked that potential effect on their domestic and stock water be assessed and that appropriate conditions of consent be implemented. It is asked that the consent authority and the applicant consider possible solutions to the affect of noise levels on their family.	19/08/2016	No	Neutral
7	M A O'Neill & V C O'Neill	Hyde	RD 3			Ranfurly	9397	Support the applications, state that Oceana are good neighbours and support the Macraes community. Expect that roading is maintained to a high and acceptable standard.	19/08/2016	No	Support
8	M & K O'Connell	47 Hyde Street				Macraes		Lives in close proximity to the mine and has concerns over ongoing effects from noise and dust. Ask that a fair decision is made with appropriate conditions.	19/08/2016	Yes	Opposed
9	Macraes Community Inc	c/- John William Harvie	754 Nenthorn Road	RD 3	Palmerston		9483	John William Harvie submitted on behalf of Macraes Community Incorporated. Raised concerns over road use, noise effects, rehabilitation plan, weed control and water quality. Asked that appropriate	19/08/2016	Yes	Opposed

							upgrades to roading be made, strict guidelines on rehabilitation plan, hours of work, control gorse and broom and insure that the dams are built.			
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Submission No: _____

Submission Form 13

File No: RM16.138

This is a Submission on publicly notified resource consent applications pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991.

Applicant Details:

Name of Applicant: Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited
 Application Number: RM16.138.01-19
 Type and Description of Applications: }
 Location: } See Appendix One
 Legal Description: }
 NZTM 2000 Map Reference: }

Submitter Details:

(please print clearly)

Full Name/s CRAIG ANDREW HOWARD & ERIN MARIE HOWARD

Full Postal Address: _____

 Post Code: _____

(please tick your preferred Daytime contact number)

- ☐ Work Ph:
☒ Home Ph: (03) 4652483
☒ Mobile Ph: (027) 473 4685
☐ Email address: bellfieldmacraes@gmail.com

[Signature] Howard
 Signature/s of submitter/s (or person authorised
 to sign on behalf of submitter/s)

15-08-2016
 (Date)

Please tick one of the following submission types regarding the applications,

Do you:

- ☐ Support
☒ Neutral
☐ Oppose

Do you:

- ☐ Wish to be heard
☒ Not wish to be heard

in support of my/our submission.

PTO

Submission No: _____

If others make a similar submission, I/we will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

☒ Yes

☐ No

The specific parts of the applications that my submission relates to are: *(Give details)*

Submission is attached.

My/Our submission is *(the reasons for your views, use a separate sheet if necessary)*

I/We seek the following decision from the consent authority *(give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought)*

Date submissions close: 5pm Friday 19 August 2016

A copy of your submission must be served on the applicant as soon as reasonably practicable after the service of your submission on the Otago Regional Council

Address for Otago Regional Council:

Otago Regional Council, Private Bag 1954, Dunedin, 9054

Address for Applicant:

Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited, PO Box 5442, Dunedin 9058 Attention Jackie St John

Note: The applicant has also applied to the Dunedin City Council and Waitaki District Council for resource consents in respect of the above proposal. Submissions on the applications made to Dunedin City Council and Waitaki District Council must be made to each Council respectively. Submissions on all aspects of the application will be heard together as part of a joint hearing process involving representatives from Dunedin City Council, Waitaki District Council and Otago Regional Council.

Appendix One

General - Land Use Consent

RM16.138.01: To disturb, deposit and reclaim the bed of unnamed tributaries of Maori Hen Creek, Trimbels Gully, Mare Burn and Camp Creek for the purpose of constructing the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack.

Structure - Land Use Consent

RM16.138.02: To place a structure and disturb the bed of Coal Creek for the purpose of constructing the Coal Creek Freshwater Dam embankment.

Discharge to Water Permits

RM16.138.03, RM16.138.04, RM16.138.05, RM16.138.06, RM16.138.07 and RM16.138.08: To discharge silt and sediment to water while constructing the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack, to discharge contaminants and water from silt ponds to water, to discharge contaminants to water from the base and toe of the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack, and to discharge water from the Coal Creek Freshwater Dam to water.

Discharge to Land Permits

RM16.138.09 and RM16.138.10: To discharge waste rock and contaminants from waste rock to land at the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack, within the Coronation North Pit and in the Coronation Pit extension.

Surface Water Take Permits

RM16.138.11 and RM16.138.12: To take surface water for the purpose of dewatering Coronation North Pit and creating the Coronation North Pit Lake.

Groundwater Take Permits

RM16.138.13 and RM16.138.14: To take groundwater for the purpose of dewatering Coronation North Pit and creating the Coronation North Pit Lake.

Divert Water Permits

RM16.138.15 and RM16.138.16: To divert around the open known as Coronation North Pit and to divert for the purpose of creating Coal Creek Freshwater Dam.

Dam Water Permits

RM16.138.17 and RM16.138.18: To dam water in coronation North Pit for the purpose of creating the Coronation North Pit Lake and for the purpose of operating Coal Creek Freshwater Dam.

Discharge to Air Permit

RM16.138.19: To discharge contaminants from mining operations and post mining rehabilitation to air for the purpose of undertaking mining operations at Coronation North Pit, Coronation Pit extension and Coronation North Waste Rock Stack.

PTO

Submission No: _____

Location: Macraes Gold Project, approximately 8 kilometres to the north west of the intersection of Macraes Road and Red Bank Road, Macraes Flat.

Legal description: Pt Sec 2 Blk V Highlay SD, Lot 1 DP 465577, Pt Sec 2 Blk VII Highlay SD, Pt Sec 11 Blk VII Highlay SD

Map reference: At and about mid-point of the following locations:

- Coronation North Pit NZTM 2000 1394464 E 4978057
- Coronation Pit extension NZTM 2000 1396085 E 4977571
- Coal Creek Freshwater Dam NZTM 2000 1392744 E 4979436
- Coronation North Waste Rock Stack NZTM 2000 1395360 E 4978631

Craig and Erin Howard
 406 Horseflat Rd
 Macraes
 RD3
 Palmerston 9483

15-08-2016

To Whom it may concern;

It is hard to believe that it has been approximately two years since we wrote our first submission for Oceana Gold's Coronation resource consent application, unfortunately we are not surprised to be writing a second submission. Oceana Gold is a large company with many resources and employees. The problem with breaking a project down and doing it in stages, means; for a small farming family more unpaid time to review, read and write a submission for the proposed mine project. We need to determine what effect Oceana's mining activities will have on our home and standard of living. We always worry, have we read this resource consent thoroughly? Will we miss anything adverse which will affect our standard of living?

For a majority of the time Oceana has been mining in Macraes the Howard family have had a good working relationship. I think it is hard for the company to understand what the negative effects of living with mining are, as few/ if any employees live close to the area in question. I often see an Oceana Gold employee taking noise readings outside our driveway, generally in the middle of the day, often when it is windy, making the noise activity hard to hear, I have yet to see him taking a reading when the trucks are carting on the Coronation haul road. Although the resource consent application positions us 2km from the mining operations we are only 1km away from the haul road. We are most effected by the noise created on the haul road to the Coronation Pit. On cold and frosty nights when the dump trucks are carting ore we find the noise coming from the road exceedingly loud. Fortunately, we have found that the trucks seldom operate at night, and during windy conditions the noise created from the dump trucks on the road reduces to a low drone. In our previous submission we opposed the Coronation resource consent and requested that the mine operated only during the day, however this was over ruled. Instead consent conditions were written to reduce the effects of noise on our home, with thicker glass installed to our existing double glazing, and a ventilation system for which we are grateful for. I guess going forward, we would really like to see Oceana be more considerate during times when weather conditions make the noise from the mine louder and travel further, especially at night when it is very still or foggy and trucks are still carting.

Other aspects which concern us as a family will be maintaining the quality of our drinking water, especially with the waste rock seepage and sulphate concentrations forecasted to increase in the future. Other negative aspects still remain, such as visual pollution and increased dust. We disagree with the paragraph written on page 57 of the resource consent application; "In Practise, although they are public roads, Longdale Road and Horse Flat Rd will operate as though they are private accessways. They connect only private residences or agricultural activities, and so will typically be used only by those that are living or working in the immediate area rather than the general public." This statement could not be further from the truth. Our roads are used by car clubs, hunters, our local pony club, horse trekkers, our extended family members, friends, runners and our local school bus. They are not just to "private accessways" but necessary roads connecting us to our homes, community and school. I am also concerned about the effect the mine expansion will have on increased traffic on Horseflat, Matheson and Longdale Rd, especially on our school bus route to Macraes Moonlight Primary School. Although Oceana have stated that a majority of traffic will be via the existing haul road, as a driver of the school bus. I have met mine contractors and Oceana's vehicles on these roads. It would be good if Oceana could be aware of the local school bus run in their safety plans/ procedures and be mindful of the times the school bus operates, as there are many blind corners on these roads.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard" followed by a stylized, cursive flourish.

Craig & Erin Howard

From: [Herb Familton](#)
To: [Submissions](#)
Subject: FW: Oceania Gold :Coronation North Mine
Date: Thursday, 18 August 2016 1:55:42 p.m.
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Oceania Gold Corronation North Submission.pdf](#)
[OceanaGold Corrnation North cover letter - DOC-2853880.pdf](#)

That should work this time Thanks

Herb

From: Herb Familton
Sent: Thursday, 18 August 2016 1:52 p.m.
To: 'submissions@orc.govt.nz' <submissions@orc.govt.nz>;
'resconsent.submission@dcc.govt.nz' <resconsent.submission@dcc.govt.nz>;
'service@waitaki.govt.nz' <service@waitaki.govt.nz>; Jackie St John
<Jackie.StJohn@oceanagold.com>
Cc: Kirstyn Lindsay <Kirstyn.Lindsay@dcc.govt.nz>; Andrew Purves
<andrewpurves@paradise.net.nz>
Subject: Oceania Gold :Coronation North Mine

Enclosed is the DG of Conservation's submission on the above matter. Please acknowledge receipt.

Please contact the writer below if you have any questions on this submission.

Herb Familton
RMA Planner
South Island RMA Shared Services
Operations Group
Department of Conservation | *Te Papa Atawhai*
Phone: 03 371 3751 | VPN 5451 | 027 5367037
Email: hfamilton@doc.govt.nz Web: www.doc.govt.nz
Conservation leadership for our nature *Takina te hi, Tiakina, te ha o te Ao Turoa*



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DOCDM-2853880

19 August 2016

Otago Regional Council
Private Bag 1954
DUNEDIN 9054

Dunedin City Council
PO Box 5045
Moray Place
DUNEDIN 9058

Waitaki District Council
Private Bag 50058
Oamaru

Attention: Consents Managers,

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION SUBMISSION:
OCEANA GOLD CORONATION NORTH PROPOSED MINE**

I refer to the application by Oceana Gold for a range of resource consents to operate a hard rock gold mine by developing a new Coronation North Pit and waste rock stack expansion at Macraes Flat, North Otago, including:

- Construction and operation of a 63 hectare Coronation North pit;
- Extension and Operation of the existing Coronation Pit from 62 to 85 hectares;
- Construction of the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack of up to 280 million tonnes and would cover up to 230 hectares;
- Creation of Coal Creek Fresh Water Dam to hold up to 685 million litres; and
- Creation of a pit lake following completion of the mining activity.

Please find enclosed a submission by the Director-General of Conservation (Director-General) in respect of this application. Note that it addresses all effects and concerns across the range of resource consent activities and Regional / District Council functions and jurisdictions.

The submission opposes the application as notified as the Director-General considers that it does not adequately avoid, remedy, or mitigate the adverse effects of the proposed activity. However, with further information and discussions with the applicant etc., the Director-General's concerns may be able to be addressed by the imposition of appropriate conditions on any resource consents which may be granted.

To progress this matter and ensure the efficient process of the Councils' hearing, the Director-General seeks a pre-hearing meeting be held with the applicant to discuss the Director-General's

Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai

Christchurch Shared Services

Private Bag 4715, Christchurch Mail Centre, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

www.doc.govt.nz

concerns and how these could be addressed should resource consents be granted. I understand the applicant would support such an approach, although this will need to be confirmed by Oceana Gold.

The general concerns of the Director-General include:

The project will result in the loss of much of the narrow leaved snow tussock grassland recommended area for protection (RAP) 4: (Trimbells Gully) identified under the Macraes Ecological District survey report (1997) for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. As a RAP, at the time of the survey this was one of the best remaining areas of native vegetation in the Macraes ED. Although subsequently having suffered some modification (particularly loss in tussock stature), the core values remain and there is a good ability for recovery with appropriate management.

This Coronation North proposal will result in the loss of natural values, both terrestrial and freshwater. The Director-General notes that a “net environmental gain” referred to the Impact Management Plan (IMP) for the Coronation North Proposal is Oceana Gold’s Environmental Policy and the Director-General supports such an approach for this project. The adverse environmental effects of the Coronation North Project need to be appropriately avoided, remedied, mitigated, compensated for, or offset. The New Zealand Government has produced “Guidance on Good Practise Biodiversity Offsetting in New Zealand” (August 2014), which is relevant in this case.

Section 5 of the IMP attempts to set a financial value on biodiversity by using land values. Such an approach is not supported by the Director-General. A preferred approach would be to quantify all biodiversity losses, and then to design a protective mechanism and other management that replaces the area or species lost to provide ecological additionality and security in perpetuity for these ecosystems and species. If Councils are minded to grant these consents, the Director-General recommends a three pronged approach as follows;

- 1) Protection of an equivalent or greater area of habitat (ideally of greater ecological value to what will be lost, and certainly at least of equal value to what will be lost), and
- 2) Management to enhance species or ecosystems of importance locally, and
- 3) Salvage/transfer of important threatened species.

An averted loss offset, such as those established by conservation covenanting as provided for under the previous OGL Coronation project in 2013, may be an appropriate approach, together with management as discussed above, to remove or reduce threats and to confer additional biodiversity benefits. However, this approach as currently configured does not account for freshwater biodiversity loss.

Overall, the Director-General is of the view that further assessment of an averted loss offset, with management where practicable, is generally (but not always) preferable to salvage and translocation of individual species.

Discussions and a site visit with OGL and DOC staff have identified some potential areas known as “Island Block” and “Sailors Cutting” for such an offset and further discussion with OGL and DCC ecologists are required to assess such an approach and confirm their suitability. This assessment process ideally will require some caucusing discussions to achieve success, and in the Director-General’s view these discussions preferably should occur prior to any hearing on this matter, by way of pre-hearing meeting or similar, to better inform the Commissioners for the hearing.

Please contact Herb Familton in the first instance at hfamilton@doc.govt.nz or (027) 5367037 if you wish to discuss any of the matters raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Herb Familton', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Herb Familton
RMA Planner
For Director-General

cc

Oceana Gold (NZ) Limited
PO Box 5442
DUNEDIN 9058
Attn: Jackie St John

Encl: Director-General's Submission: Oceana Gold Coronation North Mine

Resource Management Act 1991

To:

Waitaki District Council (WDC)
Dunedin City Council (DCC)
Otago Regional Council (ORC)

Name of submitter: Lewis Vernon Sanson, Director-General

Submission by the Director-General of Conservation

Pursuant to section 96(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, (RMA) I, Michael Tubbs, Operations Manager, Coastal Otago, acting upon a delegation from the Director-General of Conservation (D-G), make this submission.

This is a submission on an application from: Oceania Gold (New Zealand) Ltd (OGL) application numbers RM16.138 (ORC) LUC-2016-230 and LUC-2013-225/A (DCC) and 201.2016.779 and 201.2013.260-1 (WDC) for resource consents for landuse, water take, water discharge, water diversion, water damming and air discharges to enable extension of the existing hard rock gold mining operation at Macraes gold mine, Macraes Flat, North Otago ("the Coronation North Project"). The elements of the Coronation North Project are described in OGL's Assessment of Environmental Effects dated (AEE) (April 2016) and Impact Management Plan (IMP) dated (June 2016). The activities include:

- Construction and operation of Coronation North pit;
- Extension and Operation of Coronation Pit;
- Construction of the Coronation North Waste Rock Stack;
- Creation of Coal Creek Fresh Water Dam; and
- Creation of a pit lake following completion of the mining activity:

My submission relates to the **whole application**.

My submission is:

I **oppose** the application as notified.

The reasons for my submission are that:

The application as notified does not sustain the life supporting capacity of water and ecosystems under section 5(2) of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA); and

The application as notified does not recognise and provide for RMA section 6(a) and (c) national importance matters; and

The application as notified does not have particular regard to RMA section 7 (c), (d), (f) and (g) matters; and

The application as notified does not have regard to National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2014 (NPSFM) Objectives A1, A2, B1 and B4, and Policies B1, B7, C1, and CA3; and

The project as currently configured is inconsistent with Objectives 6.4.3-6.4.5 (Water) and 10.4.1-10.4.3 (Biota) and Policies 6.5.6-6.5.9 (Water) and 10.5.2 (Biota) of the Operative Otago Regional Policy Statement (RPS); and the Proposed Otago RPS 2015 (proposed RPS) Objectives 2.1 and 2.2, and Policies 2.1.1, 2.1.2, 2.1.6, 2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.12, 2.2.13, 4.4.3, 4.5.2, 4.5.5, 4.5.7, and 4.5.8; and

The project as notified is inconsistent with Objectives 8.3.2 (Beds and Margins), 10.3.1 (Wetlands), 5.3.6 (Natural and Human Use Values of Lakes and Rivers) and Policies 8.4.2, 8.5.1, 8.6.1, 8.6.2, 8.7.1 (Beds and Margins), 10.4.6 (Wetlands), and 5.4.8 (Natural and Human Use values of Lakes and Rivers) of the Regional Plan: Water for Otago; and

The project as notified is inconsistent with Objectives 16.5.1, 16.7.1, 16.9.2 1-2 (Rural) 8.4.2 (Subdivision, Development and Financial Contributions) and Policies 16.5.2-7, 16.7.2 1-5, 16.9.3 1-11 (Rural) 8.4.3 1-3 (Subdivision, Development and Financial Contributions) of the Waitaki District Plan; and

The project as notified is inconsistent with the Dunedin City Operative District Plan – Sustainability Objectives 4.2.4 and 4.2.5 and Indigenous Flora and Fauna Objectives 16.2.1 and 16.2.2 and Policies 16.3.1, 16.3.2, 16.3.3, 16.3.4, 16.3.5 16.3.6; and the Proposed Dunedin City District Plan – Natural Environment Objectives 10.2.1, and 10.2.2 and Policies 10.2.1.1, 10.2.1.3, 10.2.1.4, 10.2.1.7, 10.2.1.8, 10.2.2.1, 10.2.2.3, 10.2.2.4.

The general effects of concern to the D-G of the applications include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Effects on native fish and aquatic life: water take, diversion and discharge consents

Taieri flathead galaxias (*Galaxias depressiceps*: threatened: nationally vulnerable) long fin eels, short fin eels, and koura are present in the project area. The application states that the Department of Conservation (DOC) is monitoring these species in this area. However, any conditions associated with the effects of this proposal should properly be addressed by OGL. The area currently has good water quality and is an excellent habitat for the Taieri flathead galaxias, however;

- a) Overall, in the D-G's assessment the adverse effects on freshwater ecosystems stated in the applications as notified do not reflect the values lost by the modification of approximately 6 km of freshwater habitat.
- b) Insufficient knowledge is available on the distribution of the Taieri flathead galaxias in the affected area to adequately understand the likely effects of the Coronation North Project on the galaxias and on the other freshwater species mentioned above; and
- c) All practicable measures need be taken in order to reduce sediment and contaminant discharges (particularly turbidity, sulphates, iron and arsenates) from the new mining operations and/or construction operations from entering the waterbodies in the vicinity of the Coronation North Project to avoid adverse effects on aquatic ecosystems. The effects of such contaminants on freshwater fauna in particular need to be assessed to ensure they are above acceptable ANZECC water quality levels, particularly in low flow periods; and
- d) The effects of the proposal on the Mareburn are unclear and further information and monitoring by OGL is required in order to assess the potential impacts on the Mareburn catchment; and
- e) Ongoing aquatic monitoring needs to be undertaken to verify the predictions of the AEE, and establishing appropriate trigger contamination levels, and management responses, including ones that require the building of the Mareburn dam, and

- f) The IMP recommendations on installation of three trout barriers need to be assessed by freshwater experts, and will also require trout removal. The design standard, cost, location, maintenance and ongoing management requirements of these barriers are not detailed. Ongoing maintenance and monitoring requirements, set as conditions of consent, are required to address adverse effects; and
- g) Controls may need to be imposed in order to protect native fish so that trout are excluded upstream from new culverts; and
- h) While the Coal Creek dam is put forward as mitigation for the loss of crayfish/ koura habitat, the area the Dam refers to is its maximum operating level, so the additional benefit to koura may not be as large as claimed; and
- i) Consent conditions need to ensure that any new dam operator (brought about by a subsequent sale of OGL land) can operate the Coal Creek and Mare burn Dams to mitigate water quality issues on an ongoing basis in the long term. The D-G is of the opinion that a variable dam discharge to resemble natural flow conditions is preferable to a flat line discharge; and
- j) Overall, based on the Ryder (2016) reports, more detail on adequate freshwater mitigation is required to reach a similar level to the terrestrial mitigation measures. The adverse effects of this project on the freshwater ecosystems and species of the Mare burn in particular, are considered to be potentially significant.

2. Effects on indigenous vegetation: landuse consents

- a) The ecological descriptions of the plant communities present in the EIA and their assessment of importance in Coronation North Ecological Impact Assessment-vegetation, Avifauna and Herpetofauna report (2016) are generally supported by the DOC Botanical technical assessment. However, the red tussock grassland association could have been mapped as a separate vegetation type. One general deficiency of the report is that it does not adequately discuss these vegetation types within a wider local context (i.e. the Macraes Ecological District) or within a regional/national context which is important when considering mitigation and offsetting conditions in terms of vegetation significance and rarity; and
- b) In addition, appropriate management steps are required so that the replanting and rehabilitation works are undertaken in a manner which improves the post mining environment. Such steps may include additional management for native fish, bird, plant, wetland, invertebrate, and lizard habitat; and
- c) The detail on the creation of offset areas and/or offset protection of other areas is not clear in the AEE and needs to be more fully and clearly specified. Without this clarification it is difficult to assess the adequacy or value of the package being offered by the Applicant in terms of indigenous vegetation.
- d) Ecological assessment is not comprehensive and, for example, does not cover the extension of the Coronation Pit, Haul road extensions (within the application area), Trimbells Creek North Branch, Trimbells Gully (RAP) North and the Highlay Peak area for instance (outside the application area – however, they may be offered as part of a mitigation package).

3. Effects on wetlands and threatened plants: water take, diversion and discharge consents

The Macraes Ecological District contains the highest diversity of threatened plants in New Zealand. The development of the pit and the resulting rock stack will affect threatened plants and damage and destroy significant ephemeral wetlands. Ephemeral wetlands are a nationally rare ecosystem with a “critically endangered” status, and 39 threatened and at risk plants are present in the locality. For example, *Celmisia hookeri* (threatened and at risk) is known to occupy the steep gully slopes while *Tetrachondra* (at risk and declining) inhabits the associated ephemeral wetland. Other wetland herbs such as *Gratiola* and *Isolepis basilaris* are likely to be present on the site. The most significant plant species that will be impacted are *Simplicia laxa* (status – Threatened: Nationally Critical), *Anogramma leptophylla* (Threatened: Nationally Vulnerable), *Carex inopinata* (Threatened: Nationally Vulnerable), *Ranunculus ternatifolius* and *Pachycladon cheesemanii* (Threatened: Nationally Vulnerable).

- a) Further wetland and plant surveys should be undertaken on land owned by OGL and appropriate mitigation measures undertaken in the project area prior to project earthworks commencing.
- b) The AEE lacks detail on the creation of new wetlands and/ or offset protection of areas including wetlands. Without this detail it is difficult to assess the adequacy or value of any package being offered by OGL in terms of wetlands and threatened plants. High concentrations of threatened plants are adversely affected by the proposed waste rock stack in Trimbells Creek, Coal Creek, Deepdale Creek, and Highlay Creek

4. Effects on lizards and invertebrates: landuse consents

- a) The D-G is concerned about the effects of the proposal on lizards. In particular, affected populations of McCanns and southern grass skinks and the Otago large geckos. Overall, the DOC technical assessment is that several thousand (possibly tens of thousands) of lizards are likely to be lost as a result of this project.
- b) Any proposal to offset losses of those species’ habitat as a result of the project needs to include improvement of the receiving habitat, to improve the chance of population increase of existing species and ensure that any translocations are successful.
- c) The presence of rarer lizard species, including *Oligosoma Chlaronoton* and *O. Inconspicuum* which are likely to be found in rocky bluffs and vegetated gullies, has also not been quantified nor mapped. The results of the two-day survey of *O. Chlaronoton* do not provide any detail on the methodology or scope, and as it is unlikely the effort was adequate to conclude absence, the conclusions that these species are not present on the site cannot be verified until this data is made available.
- d) The AEE does not adequately describe the effects on invertebrates. The D-G seeks that more assessment of these values is undertaken and appropriate measures and conditions applied to avoid, remedy and mitigate the adverse effects on native invertebrate species. As a minimum, conditions ought to be imposed for the rehabilitation and management of the waste rock stack area in order to ensure suitable alternative habitat is provided.
- e) Perimeter drains around the waste rock stack may exclude lizards from an area that otherwise potentially may have longer term value as lizard habitat, and these should be designed to facilitate lizard access.
- f) Overall, the D-G would expect that as a minimum a lizard package that is set to achieve gains of equivalent numbers and species to those that are lost in the mine development, consistent with OGL environmental policy and NZ Biodiversity offsetting guidelines.

5. Effects on Birds: landuse consents

No assessment of the project area's potential for breeding NZ Falcon or pipit habitat has been made, and conditions should include reconstruction survey and avoidance during nesting. The possibility of restoration with grey scrub, which is NZ falcon foraging habitat, could be assessed.

I seek the following decisions from the consent authorities:

The Director-General of Conservation seeks that the above matters are adequately addressed as follows:

- a) Further information is obtained on the effects of this proposal on native species and ecosystems and their distributions as outlined in this submission; and that information is comprehensive, scientifically robust, and directly pertinent to the concerns raised in this submission; and
- b) If the resource consent is granted appropriate conditions (including monitoring) are imposed to avoid, remedy, and mitigate the adverse effects of this proposal, and where this is not possible, adverse effects are appropriately compensated for or offset, so that there is no net loss, and preferably a net gain in biodiversity; and
- c) If the resource consent is granted, appropriate conditions are imposed to require the applicant to take opportunities to avoid or reduce adverse effects by amending locations of rock stacks, stockpiles, dams, roads, office sites, or any other landuse disturbance or stockpiling where feasible, to protect high value natural features and reduce adverse effects, and

That the consent authorities note additional authorisations are required from the Director-General of Conservation for killing, disturbing or moving wildlife species (such as lizards) under the Wildlife Act 1953, and possibly from the Minister of Conservation for fish and aquatic life translocations under the Conservation Act 1987. Also, the Director-General's consent to suitable fish passage is required when damming and culverting under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983.

I do wish to be heard in support of this submission.

Dated at Alexandra this 19th day of August 2016.



Michael Tubbs
Operations Manager
Central Otago
Alexandra

Acting pursuant to a delegation from the Director-General of Conservation¹

Address for service:
RMA Shared Services
Operations Group
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 4715
Christchurch Mail Centre 8140
Attn: Herb Familton (hfamilton@doc.govt.nz) (027 5367037)

¹ A copy of the Instrument of Delegation may be inspected at the Director-General's office at Nokia House, 27-39 Manners Street, Wellington 6011)
Oceania Gold Ltd Macraes Mine Coronation North project: DOC submission DOC-2850172



19 August 2016

Dunedin City Council, Waitaki District Council & Otago Regional Council

By email:

resconsent.submission@dcc.govt.nz,

submissions@orc.govt.nz,

service@waitaki.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

**SUBMISSION OF HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA TO RESOURCE CONSENT APPLICATION
BY OCEANA GOLD (NEW ZEALAND) LTD**

To: Dunedin City Council, Waitaki District Council & Otago Regional Council

Name of submitter: Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

1. Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga is an autonomous Crown Entity with statutory responsibility under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (HNZPTA) for the identification, protection, preservation and conservation of New Zealand's historical and cultural heritage. Heritage New Zealand is New Zealand's lead historic heritage agency.
2. This is a submission on an application from Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Ltd for a resource consent for an extension to the existing consented Coronation project, called the Coronation North Project ("the Project") as described in the application and public notices published by the Dunedin City & Waitaki District Councils, and Otago Regional Council. The relevant Council reference numbers for the applications are as follows: Dunedin City Council - LUC-2016-230 and LUC-2013-225/A; Waitaki District Council reference - 201.2016.779; Otago Regional Council – RM16.138.
3. The specific parts of the application that this Heritage New Zealand submission relates to are:
 - Those aspects of the proposal that will impact or have the potential to impact on heritage values.
4. Heritage New Zealand's submission is:
 - That effects on historic heritage values as a result of the proposed Coronation North expansion should be appropriately avoided, remedied or mitigated.
5. The reasons for Heritage New Zealand's position are as follows:
 - 5.1 The effects of the proposed mining expansion on pre and post-1900 archaeological heritage values are thoroughly traversed in the Coronation North Macraes Archaeological Assessment, May 2016, prepared by Benjamin Teele of Origin Consultants; and section 9.7.2 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects.

The archaeological assessment identifies archaeologically and historically significant gold mining heritage sites in the expansion area dating from the 19th century through to the early 20th century.

The remains illustrate the layers of gold mining history present in this area from the initial gold rush to the 1920's, and have been broadly assessed as being in good condition. The Coronation North expansion will or may damage or destroy many of the sites identified in the Teele (2016) assessment. The extent of damage/destruction is dependent largely on the size of the inundation dam required for the expansion.

By way of a brief summary, the following aspects of the proposal would affect heritage values:

Coronation North Waste Rock Stack (WRS) –

- Upper Mareburn Race (New Zealand Archaeological Association reference 142/86): The creation of the new Coronation North WRS will destroy segments of this race in Maori Hen Creek and the southern tributary of Trimbells Gully, including stone revetments and abutments where the race crosses the gullies.

Coal Creek freshwater dam –

- Inundation, damage and destruction of early alluvial mining features (142/221);
- Inundation, damage and destruction of portions of the post-1900 hard-rock mining operations associated with the New Zealand Gold and Tungsten Mine (NZAA ref. 142/97 & 142/98)

- 5.2 Based on the above mentioned impacts of the proposal, Heritage New Zealand submits that consent to the application should not be granted unless and until such time as the applicant can demonstrate that adverse effects on heritage values will be adequately avoided, remedied or mitigated.
- 5.3 Where appropriate, recording prior to modification or destruction will be required under the conditions of any archaeological authority granted under the HNZPTA 2014 (for pre-1900 archaeological sites). However best practice mitigation should not be confined to undertaking a process of recording heritage sites prior to destruction.
- 5.4 Heritage New Zealand considers that where loss of heritage will occur, mitigation considerations must include long term protection of affected sites or other comparable heritage values. It should be noted that several such covenants/agreements between the applicant and Heritage New Zealand are already in place and providing long term protection for specific sites.
- 5.5 In relation to the above points, Heritage New Zealand would like to acknowledge the consultation undertaken by the applicant to date. Heritage New Zealand looks forward to continuing discussions with the applicant, with a view to agreeing appropriate mitigation for the proposed effects on heritage values.
- 5.6 The Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) outlines several management measures which Heritage New Zealand supports, these being:
 - Within 6 months of receiving Coronation North consents Oceana Gold will provide a revised Heritage Management Plan (AEE section 13.2.2).
 - The five sites that are present within the project area but will not be affected by works will be clearly identified in project documentation and, where practicable, identified in

the field so that they will not be physically impacted during the works (AEE section 12.9.3).

- An archaeological procedure will be developed that outlines the steps that will be taken for the management of any underground archaeological features that may be revealed during work (AEE section 12.9.3).
- Before any work that might impact on archaeological features commences a plan and photographic record of the sites will be completed (AEE section 12.9.3).

In relation to the fourth bullet point above, it should be noted that for pre-1900 archaeological features protected under the HNZPTA, any archaeological authority granted will set out appropriate site recording which may or may not align with that put forward by the applicant.

- 5.7 On a separate matter, the archaeological assessment clearly identifies the known sites that would be affected by the proposals. Nevertheless, Heritage New Zealand would like to emphasise that previously unknown archaeological material can be discovered even in areas which have previously been heavily disturbed, such as through farming practices. The provisions of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 would apply in such situations. Heritage New Zealand requests that the attached Accidental Discovery Protocol (or similar ADP agreed to by the parties) be included as a condition should the consents be granted.

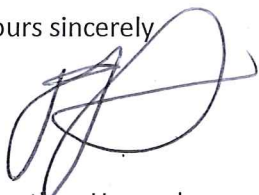
6. Heritage New Zealand seeks the following decision:

- That consent shall not be granted until such time as appropriate measures to avoid, remedy or mitigate effects on historic heritage values have been identified and adopted by the applicant.
- That should consent be granted that the Accidental Discovery Protocol attached be included as a condition on any consents for the proposed activities issued by the DCC, WDC and ORC.

7. Heritage New Zealand wishes to be heard in support of this submission.

8. If others make a similar submission, Heritage New Zealand will consider presenting a joint case with them at the hearing.

Yours sincerely



pp Jonathan Howard
Area Manager Otago & Southland

Attachment 1: Accidental Discovery Protocol



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Archaeological Discovery Protocol

Under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act (2014) an archaeological site is defined as any place in New Zealand that was associated with human activity that occurred before 1900 and provides or may provide, through investigation by archaeological methods, evidence relating to the history of New Zealand. For pre-contact Maori sites this evidence may be in the form of bones, shells, charcoal, stones etc. In later sites of European/Chinese origin, artefacts such as bottle glass, crockery etc. may be found, or evidence of old foundations, wells, drains or similar structures. Burials/koiwi tangata may be found from any historic period.

In the event that an unidentified archaeological site is located during works, the following applies;

1. Work shall cease immediately at that place and within 20m around the site.
2. The contractor must shut down all machinery, secure the area, and advise the Site Manager.
3. The Site Manager shall secure the site and notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
4. If the site is of Maori origin, the Site Manager shall notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative of the discovery and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken, as long as all statutory requirements under legislation are met (*Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act, Protected Objects Act*).
5. If human remains (koiwi tangata) are uncovered the Site Manager shall advise the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist, NZ Police and the appropriate iwi groups or kaitiaki representative and the above process under 4 shall apply. Remains are not to be moved until such time as iwi and Heritage New Zealand have responded.
6. Works affecting the archaeological site and any human remains (koiwi tangata) shall not resume until Heritage New Zealand gives written approval for work to continue. Further assessment by an archaeologist may be required.
7. Where iwi so request, any information recorded as the result of the find such as a description of location and content, is to be provided for their records.
8. Heritage New Zealand will determine if an archaeological authority under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* is required for works to continue.

It is an offence under S87 of the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* to modify or destroy an archaeological site without an authority from Heritage New Zealand irrespective of

whether the works are permitted or a consent has been issued under the Resource Management Act.

Heritage New Zealand Regional archaeologist contact details:

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