

Project Martha / Correnso (CEPA) Combined Community Meeting

Thursday 13 March 2025

The following is a record of the Project Martha and CEPA/SUPA combined community meeting held at 5.30pm on 13 March 2025. Where possible, we have tried to capture individual contributions at the meeting, but these do not purport to be verbatim notes.

Welcome

Tim Clarke introduced himself as the independent facilitator and advised that this is the eighth combined CEPA, SUPA and Martha underground resource consent meeting. Tim offered Lou's apology as independent meeting secretary and explained that (as usual) the meeting is being recorded to ensure we can provide accurate and complete minutes.

Tim reminded attendees to indicate to him first that they have a question, say their name and that any "clarification questions" during the meeting will be answered at the time they are raised. Any questions or challenges that we need to discuss in detail or put some research into will be listed on the "parking lot" (flip chart) for discussion at the end of this meeting or provision of a post-meeting answer.

Tim said: I was disappointed in myself for raising my voice at the last meeting on 12 September 2024 when the meeting volume increased and arguments arose because people were talking across each other. I felt the need to intervene and raised my voice but we all agreed at the end of that meeting that it's better if we can just ask the question, answer the question and keep things calm. Do you have suggestions about making sure that we are having a careful, exploratory conversation? Are we okay to self-police that? If somebody is speaking and you want to speak then please wait and wave at me, I will remember to ensure you get the next turn to speak. (Nods of agreement).

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and their reason for coming to the meeting (see attendance list at the end of these minutes).

Notification of meeting (question)

Glenis Gentil said: We've tried now for quite a number of years to get the meetings called "public meetings" which is what they are but it's always headed, still, "community meeting". People think that means what you used to say which was that the meeting is for affected parties.

There was general discussion about the changes already made and the inclusion of the phrase "public meeting" in an agreed meeting notice.

Glenis said: It's basically what it says in the headline.

Tim said: I'll put it on the parking lot for discussion later and we can decide what we do.

Purpose of meeting

Kyle Welton said: Welcome back. As always, we'll start with a reminder of the purpose of these meetings, or the scope, which is defined in our resource consent conditions for Project Martha, the Martha underground – our current operating mine – and Correnso which is at the tail-end of its operation. These conditions (slide 2 and slide 3 below) are largely the same but in both sets of conditions, essentially the scope of the meeting is to provide an overview of mining activities from the preceding six months including the environmental monitoring results and any community or social performance things that might fit within those parameters.

Correnso/SUPA

Purpose of meeting

Under Condition 62 of the Correnso consents we are required to hold community meetings every six months. The consent states that the purpose of the meeting is to:

- a) Present information from the preceding six months on the following:
 - i. A description of the mining activities provided for under this consent that have been undertaken;
 - ii. A summary of relevant environmental results;
 - iii. Progress with the IRP property purchase programme;
 - iv. Progress on any matters raised at the preceding meeting;
- b) Receive feedback from the meeting attendees on the consent holder's activities and progress on the matters listed above.

Project Martha

Purpose of meeting

Under Condition 99 of the Project Martha consents we are required to hold community meetings quarterly during the first year of mining activities provided for under this consent, and six-monthly thereafter.

- a) Present information from the preceding six months on the following:
 - i. A description of the mining activities provided for under this consent that have been undertaken;
 - ii. A summary of relevant environmental results;
 - iii. Progress on any matters raised at the preceding meeting;
- b) Receive feedback from the meeting attendees on the consent holder's activities and progress on the matters listed above.

Meeting agenda

Kyle said: In terms of the meeting flow, as always, we've tried our best to answer all of the points from the previous meeting in the minutes. There's one outstanding point which we will talk to that we haven't quite closed out yet. Patrick will stand up and give us a bit of an update on mining, we're going to talk to where we've been and where we're going, Mark Burrows would normally present the environment work but Mark's ill today so he's an apology and we've got Shane from the environment team presenting that and then a combination of Jeannine, myself and others will close out with the social and community and as part of that we will give a brief overview of where our substantial projects are up to.

Community Meeting

Outline

- ▶ **POINTS FROM LAST MEETING**
- ▶ **MINING UPDATE**
- ▶ **ENVIRONMENT**
- ▶ **SOCIAL & COMMUNITY**

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Points from last meeting

Points from last Correnso & Project Martha Meetings:

- Meet the Expert – Air Quality is planned for 2025 and will be advertised the same as previous sessions

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Kyle said: One point that we haven't closed out from the previous meeting is we promised to hold a "meet the expert" session on air quality which we have done previously but we haven't done it. Since the last meeting we've held one on tailing storage facilities, one on vibration and visual and landscape. As you can appreciate, we're trying to cycle it through for you in a useful order. We have yet to confirm an air quality session but, once we do, it will be advertised in the usual ways through Facebook, the newspaper and the rest. Apologies from us that we haven't got to that one yet but we will.

Tim said: Are people generally seeing those notifications of the other expert meetings and information meetings?

Kyle said: We also put it in the HD Post and on Mining Matters which gets delivered to all the residents out that side of town.

Katherine Lucas said: Will you be doing one on hydrology?

Kyle said: On our list we've got to circle back to noise. We've got to do air quality and we haven't done a hydrology one so it's probably time we did that. We appreciate that feedback.

Tim said: Do we make that an action point? Do you have an expected timeframe in relation to the other expert sessions?

Kyle said: I think we've got noise next and then air quality. Within three months we will have done the air quality one. Hydrology depends on Chris Simpson who's our consultant and his availability. We will get back to you on that.

Post-meeting answer:

- Noise Effects – "Ask the expert" meeting scheduled for 22 May 2025 (notice of meeting attached).
- "Ask the expert" meetings about "Air Quality" and then "Hydrology" to follow when experts' availability has been confirmed and will be advertised via Oceana's usual channels.

Tim said: Any questions about any other post-meeting answers from the last meeting? The team worked hard to get the answers into the minutes so that people could read them close to the meeting rather than wait until now.

Glenis said: Donna sent me an air quality report after the last meeting and I did have some questions about that. So, when's the best time to ask?

Tim said: Great. Let's ask those when Shane's doing the environmental presentation.

Mining update

Mining - March Works



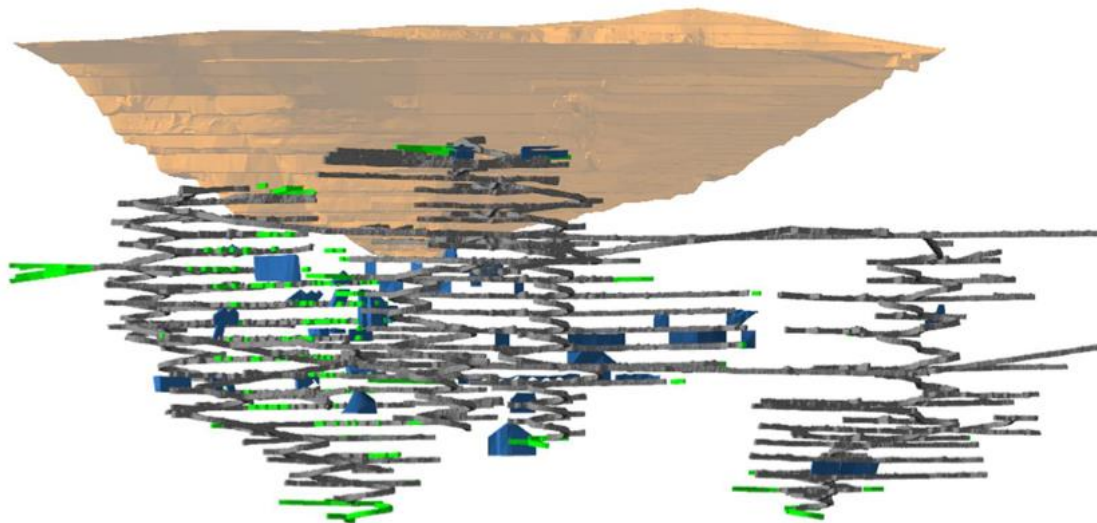
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Patrick Slagter said: It's been pretty busy in the last six months. We're primarily mining in five main mine areas. The major ones are the Edward area which is around this area, the Empire West area, we're starting to do some more activity around some stoping but primarily development within the Empire area, Rex is largely drawing to a close, it will take us a few more years to finish off the very upper levels at Rex and I'll show you an image of what that looks like shortly and then on the southern side of Empire we have the Royal East. We finished the Royal some time ago so that's no longer mined and Royal East is also coming to a close quite rapidly as well. So, as we look forward our main mine areas will be those principal mine areas of Edward, Empire West and then Empire proper which is probably coming in toward production in 2026 and then through to the back of the mine life as the other ones will sort of be used out.

Project Martha as of September 2024



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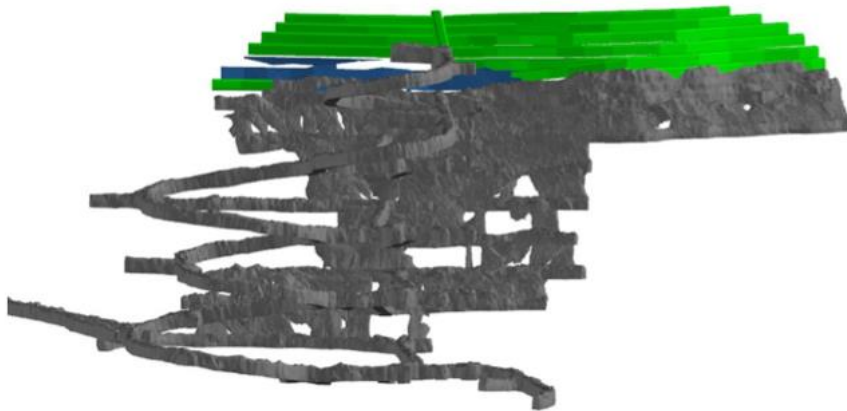
Patrick said: So, just in plan, and this plan looks from the Southern side of the pit, this is a look ahead of what we're planning for likely the next six months of activity. You can see up in Rex, Rex is around 100m to 110m below surface, upper Rex there, we are largely just doing jumbo flat backing so no traditional avoca stope or level-to-level stoping but just driving using one of our drilling machines that allows us to control both the size of the blast, the size of the excavation and most importantly managing vibration by restricting the length of rounds and we will talk a little more about that later.

Within the Edward ore body we're really spread from top to bottom. Our upper level is 5 level and we're anywhere from 5 level down to our current terminal depth of excavation to date which is around 23 level. We will continue some more decline work in there. The green represents all of the lateral development that we plan to do and the blue represents some of the stoping that we have planned, for the economic extraction we have planned as well as some of the historic fill. We've got some historic filling planned toward upper Edward which will include the levels between Edward five and Edward eight which we are currently working on and will start to mine shortly as well.

Empire West is made up of levels between seven and we're currently down to 18 level which is the base of it there. We don't have a lot of development planned in the decline at that stage, we're putting our efforts elsewhere in the mine and don't need that development. There's quite a lot of activity in there planning around a couple of hundred thousand tonnes to come out of that over the 12-month period, so quite a reasonable amount of material coming out and quite a reasonable amount of fill going back into the operation as well. The other area that we'll concentrate on in the next six months is bringing Empire from development into production as well. So, that's the main focus of the coming six months and it will continue to be our focus against the balance of mine life. Rex will last another two to three years. It's reasonably slow because our round lengths are short to manage vibration.

Project Rex

- Level 10 through 2 stoped and backfilled
- Currently developing 1 level
- Vibration being maintained through decking



Patrick said: With Project Rex, this is all we have left. All the grey has been mined out. We've stoped out traditionally, done avoca stoping so just level to level with rock fill in there. We will extract the material, replace it with rock fill then we'll go up on the level above and we just work our way from the bottom of the operation to the top of the operation and we'll access that through an incline. Up the top of the operation, because we're getting nearer the surface and it becomes more difficult to meet the vibration consent conditions, we use a cut and fill method. We use our development drills to enable us to just drill short rounds with much smaller holes and so mitigate the impact of vibration to surface and to the neighbours. We've got a couple of areas that we will focus on. Our current access into this area is up through the middle here and we'll focus on this area. Within the coming six months we're only getting a relatively small amount of this material out so this will last us another two to three years before we complete that mining.

Brian Gentil said: So, the access, is that the perpendicular green thing?

Patrick said: No, the access is an incline ramp. I probably should have coloured it differently here but it's all in grey so it just makes its way up, essentially just cork-screws its way at a gradient of 1 in 7. The upright you can see is a 1 in 7 ramp so effectively it's just a ramp going up. It stands back about 60m and it allows us to then ramp. In order to do the sequence ... this is our top level that we'll get to with our incline and then we use this ramping access to get from one level to the level above or the level above that and once I get there then I'll drive laterally along the ore body.

Glenis said: Who are the near neighbours for Rex that you need to be careful not to affect? Where are they? What street and houses? Which area?

Patrick said: Kenny Street. We are situated under Kenny Street, we're very close to the Baptist Church, we're very close to the football field, the rugby field, in around that vicinity, along that strike. Most of our focused mineralisation will be down this end. There's not a lot to the north.

Brian said: Just while you've got that up Patrick, how many kilometres of underground have you got now? Is that all of it that we can see there?

Patrick said: Yes, that's the extent of the modern work underground. It's not the extent of historical workings underground, they're quite significant as well. That image includes Correnso, it includes Trio and then back over this side back in the green poster over here would be the Favona and Moonlight and then access out at Baxter Road but that is the entirety of our operation.

Erich Schmidt said: Only that is more than one level.

Patrick said: Yes, that's multiple levels. Our upper level is 5 level in Edward and that lower level at this point in time is 23 level and then nominally about 18m spread between levels. They do vary and we tighten the

levels up as we come up to the upper levels of the mine so that we can again manage vibration because our vibration is very sensitive to hole length and charge length.

Brian said: How many kilometres have you got underground?

Patrick said: Our total development that we have mined underground would be up around 35km of development in the modern mining. We have around another 40km to mine within the current mine plan.

Kyle said: Is that including Trio and Favona?

Patrick said: No, not including Trio in that, we would be upwards of nearly 80km to 100kms. If that's a question you'd like answered we certainly have a survey for that and I can let you know how much development we have done in entirety. The underground started in very late 2004, around November and December, and it continues through until today.

Erich said: Yes.

Post-meeting answer:

Oceana indicates there is 115km of development tunnelling.

Row Labels	Sum of EOM Total Reported
Favona	68,111
Christina	371
Correnso	15,193
Daybreak	7,096
Dobson	2,305
Empire	3,760
Favona	14,026
Gladstone	2,531
Louis	1,571
Moonlight	4,821
Trio	16,436
Martha	47,526
Daybreak	365
Edward	18,295
Empire	7,461
Empire West	10,253
Rex	4,946
Royal	130
Royal East	2,661
Royal West	3,417
Grand Total	115,637

Katherine said: What's your lowest RL?

Patrick said: Our lowest RL at the present time is around 630, remembering that our surface RL is 1120 and we are 650RL. The RL datum is 1000m above sea level.

Tim said: So, is that about 570 from top to bottom?

Patrick said: Yes.

Brian said: What's RL?

Katherine said: Instead of sea level RL is reduced level so that they don't have to work with negative numbers.

Patrick said: Yes, it is reduced level relative to a datum and is quite commonly used in surveying so it depends where you establish your datum.

Brian said: How close to the surface are you of any of your mines currently working?

Patrick said: The closest to the surface is Rex which is normally around about 100m to 110m below surface.

Andrew Wharry said: At the last meeting you were talking about 80m for the Rex.

Patrick said: Yeah, we've another 20m of development to do above that so each of those loops are 5m high so our terminal depth will be about another 20m above where we are now.

Erich said: Only your consent conditions don't say anywhere "80m". The consent condition said 120 but I know it gets changed. It's easy, you talk to the Council and then it gets changed so you don't have to comply....

Kyle said: I think we went through that at the last meeting. In the Rex area there is provision for us to mine closer to the surface if we can provide other additional information to show it is safe such as new piezometers.

Leigh Robcke said: There's a provision in the consent, I can't quite find it right now but it's here somewhere, whereby there was provision to come up higher if it was geotechnically achievable within the requirements of ground stability and increased monitoring so that's what our geotech engineer recommended was acceptable. The HDC independent geotech engineer comes out from Australia once a year to check where the boundaries are and it's all performing well. There was a geological model that was provided that showed that there was plenty of room.

Erich said: So, I'm right. It is not in the consent condition, you changed it later. This is correct.

Leigh said: It is correct but the consent provides the ability to do that as long as the council's experts are satisfied.

Glenis said: How long after the original consent being granted did that condition get changed?

Leigh said: Project Martha was consented at the end of 2018 and this was approved probably 2023, somewhere around there. I'd have to check the exact dates but there's all the record, lots of technical documents and emails and everything else.

Glenis said: So, how do people that might be affected by a consent change know that it's been changed? Are there any systems or mechanisms in place to ensure that somebody who may be affected will know that that change is coming?

Leigh said: I think those consent conditions were part of the application. I'd have to go back and have a look but the consent conditions were publicly notified as part of the application. It wasn't sprung on people.

Kyle said: That provision was in the original consent that we can make that change once the required information has been provided. I think we can make this a post-meeting answer.

Post-meeting answer:

Leigh Robcke said: It is correct there was a set of proposed Hauraki District Council conditions lodged with the Project Martha resource consent application, as Appendix O. There were also proposed Waikato Regional Council conditions and combined HDC/WRC conditions. Proposed condition 69 b (HDC proposed conditions), under the heading "Surface Stability", was as follows:

No stoping in the Rex Orebody shall occur above a depth of at least 40m below the top of the andesite, unless investigations reported to the Council demonstrate to its satisfaction that a lesser depth will ensure surface stability;

Through the assessment and hearing process the proposed conditions were amended and, under the heading "Underground and Surface Stability" condition 71 c became:

No stoping in the Rex Orebody shall occur above a depth of at least 40m below the top of the andesite, unless investigations reported to the Council demonstrate to its satisfaction that a lesser depth will ensure surface stability. Any such investigation report is to include, at least, results from groundwater monitoring above the Rex workings, results from extensometers installed from the surface above the Rex workings, and surface settlement results from markers in the area above the Rex Orebody;

It is also worth noting that both the consent application, which was publicly notified, and the subsequent resource consent contained an aerial photo/map that clearly shows the extent of land potentially subject to underground mining activity, including in the Rex area. To view the full consent conditions and map of the Project Martha Project Area, click on the link below:

Environment

Environment - Vibration

	Consented Compliance Limit	Q4 Results - Correnso	Q4 Results - Martha Underground
Development 95%*	5 mm/s	0.85 mm/s	2.78 mm/s
Development Average*	2 mm/s	0.73 mm/s	0.66 mm/s
Production 95%*	5 mm/s	No blasts	3.90 mm/s
Production Average*	3 mm/s	No blasts	1.30 mm/s

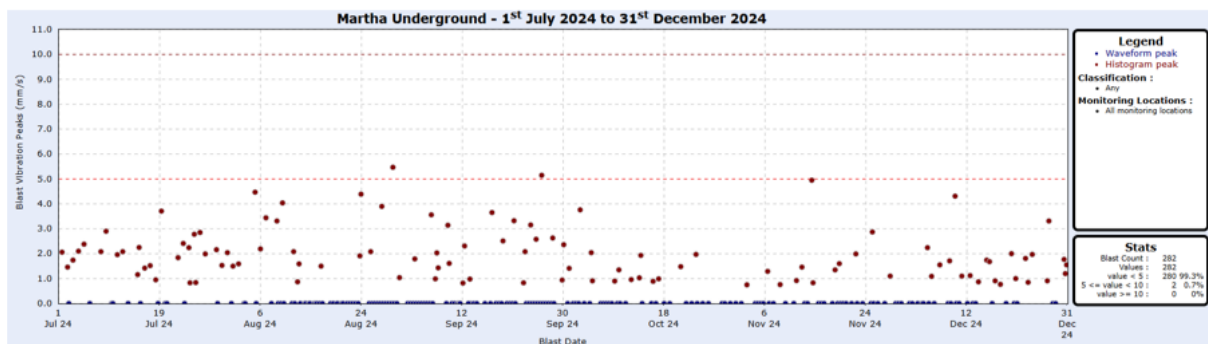
* Six month rolling limit; data is presented as at the end of the quarter

Martha Underground:

- Two high-level vibration events during H2
- Fifteen blast events fired outside preferred blast windows

Correnso:

- No high-level vibration events during H2
- One blast event fired outside preferred blast windows



Shane Reynolds said: This is the summary of the results of our vibration monitoring for the second half of 2024. You can see in the first column our resource consent limits for both Correnso and Martha. This says Q4 results but the thing to bear in mind is this is a 6-month rolling average so it's at the end of 2024 but it's for the July to December period.

There hasn't really been much blasting in Correnso compared to Martha over that time so that's why our numbers are quite low here – 0.855mm/s for development and 0.735mm/s development average – well below our consent limits. For Martha 2.78mm/s versus our limit of 5mm/s, for development the 95% percentile and this average is at an individual monitor so 0.66mm/s, that's the highest average at an individual monitor out of our network of 18 permanent vibration monitors.

For production, which generally we get more vibration from than development, we've got 3.95mm/s for our 95% percentile against our limit of 5mm/s and 1.35mm/s was the highest average at an individual monitor.

You can see there at the bottom it's just a scatter-plot of the vibration recorded from every blast in that 6-month period. We did have two high-level vibration events in that period, you can see them there, just over 5mm/s but bear in mind that our consent limit is a 95% so as long as 95% of our blasts are below 5mm/s we can have the odd one that goes above. When that happens, we investigate it and submit a report to the council to explain why that happened.

We do have preferred blast windows, 7 to 8 in the morning, 1.30 to 2.30 in the afternoon and then 7 to 8 at night, so as much as possible we fire within those windows. Occasionally, for whatever reason, things change and that can't happen. We did have, in Martha, 15 blast events that were fired outside. Outside could be a minute, generally it's a minute to maybe 15 minutes outside of that window and only one for Correnso.

Brian said: I've got a question. When it's outside that preferred window, is it ever earlier or is it always later?

Shane said: It's generally later. I think I saw one that was one minute before the window but generally it's later. Patrick may be able to elaborate but I guess the blast is planned for a certain time, within that window, and then for whatever reason it can't happen and it gets delayed five or 10 minutes.

Glenis said: How many blasts are you allowed over the limit?

Shane said: It works on this percentile so it depends how many blasts we have. It's just basically 5% of our blasts can be above 5mm/s and if we exceed that we are not compliant with the consent.

Glenis said: When do you calculate that? Is it every six months?

Shane said: No, it's constantly updated in our system so the vibration data from all the permanent vibration monitors goes into a central database and this 6-month rolling average is calculated constantly. So, every quarter we submit a report to Hauraki District Council and we tell them what it is at the end of the quarter but we are monitoring constantly. It's an algorithm within the system that calculates that.

Glenis said: Is there ever a case with your consent where you could really get a slap from the council because of the blast outside the limits? Or, if it fits within the 95 percentile does that mean it doesn't matter? Do you know what causes it to go over?

Shane said: I guess in theory with that we could have a very high-level blast but every blast is designed so it produces a vibration of less than 5mm/s so that we know we can stay under this.

Glenis said: Do you know what causes it to go over?

Shane said: These two would be due to over-confinement. So, as I understand it, when the blast happens in the drill-hole, if it's over-confined ... my very simplistic explanation is rather than injecting it into a void, it causes more vibration through the ground compared to one that's not over-confined. Is that okay in layman's terms?

Tim said: Leigh, to answer the second part of Glenis' question, what happens when there is something that comes to the attention of council?

Leigh said: I can't really say a lot because the instances of exceedances are so low. I think that would probably be a fairly average 3-monthly graph. I think before I was in the job, which is roughly 7-½ years ago, there were some instances where there were increased complaints and also exceedances and some of it was around what's called an anomalous result. So, there was something that wasn't quite right, no-one really understand it, something to do with the ground conditions. So, in those situations, I've only been involved in one, the company worked closely with the council to try and resolve it and they did.

Brian said: I just wanted to ask where the vibration monitors are compared to where the blast happens. If you're at 120 or 520 ...

Shane said: All the monitors are on the surface, the vibration monitors are at the surface. I don't think I have an image of them but they are sort of around the pit and then they're concentrated above the workings so there's some out at Waihi East, down Gladstone Road there's a line of them and then there's a few along Kenny Street and in the CBD area. There's one just across the road here by the school.

Brian said: Do they automatically report or do they have to go and manually check them?

Shane said: They automatically report.

Josh Smith said: On the Waihi Gold website there's a map of where all the monitors are and if you select them then it's got the log of the blast and the results are on it as well, so you can see where they are. You can click on it and see the results.

Erich said: When the website works.

Tim said: Has there been an occasion where it hasn't worked?

Erich said: Friday 7 March at 11.30am you couldn't get a result ... until I think Monday 10 o'clock in the morning or something like this. I can give you the exact date. It was dead.

Tim said: Is Oceana aware that there was an access issue?

Jeannine Wiki said: Not unless someone rings us up and tells us.

Tim said: Okay, cool. So do you want to provide the exact details to Jeannine in Donna's absence?

Erich said: No, it's fixed.

Tim said: It's fixed? Can I ask you another question? Because there was a little challenge in what Jeannine said. What if you rang up at 11.55 on Friday morning and said, "Hey the website's down, can you fix it please?"

Erich said: Then they will say, "Yeah we'll look into it".

Tim said: And fix it?

Erich said: Sometimes and sometimes not.

Social and community

Amenity Effects Programme (AEP) Payments

For the July – December 2024 payment period, 127 properties qualified for an AEP payment.

These payments totalled \$67,300.02

All properties qualifying were in the Project Martha area (Martha Underground & Rex).

Since 2007 there have been 9461 payments made, totalling \$6,044,318.52

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Shane said: The amenity effects programme compensates people for the vibration experienced from blasting. It's calculated every 6 months. We've just completed that for the July to December 2024 payment period. 127 properties qualified for a payment and payments totalled about \$67,000. All the properties that qualified were in the Project Martha area. Since 2007 there have been 9,461 payments made totalling just over \$6 million.

Tim said: Yes, so that (reduction) shows you've been working hard to keep those down and there haven't been as many instances where payouts have been necessary?

Andrew said: That's about \$500 a payment. Pretty poor isn't it? Considering peoples' homes are being vibrated.

Tim said: How is it calculated? Because this has been in place for quite some time.

Kyle said: There are rates prescribed in the consent condition which are CPI adjusted on how much money per level of vibration is experienced at a property. Also, on occasions where there have been low levels of vibration but it has triggered, that number can be quite low. There is a minimum payment of \$250 regardless of how low the qualification numbers. If you qualify the minimum payment is \$250. We have other mechanisms also. I appreciate that peoples' properties are getting vibrated but also if you have concerns about the vibration (and its effects on your property) we want to know about it and will investigate it. If we are tunnelling under your property we are offering the ex-gratia of 5% payment. If we stoping under your property we are still offering to purchase as well. The last point I would make is the consent conditions were set through the approvals process to endeavour to be protective of amenity and the amenity effects programme recognises that whilst that's the case, you may from time to time experience a reduction in amenity due to vibration so that's what that's about.

Tim said: Andrew, are you within the area that qualifies?

Andrew said: No, I'm just making the point that paying people \$500 every 6 months to be using explosives under their properties is pretty insulting.

Tim said: And Kyle's other points about the other things that are available?

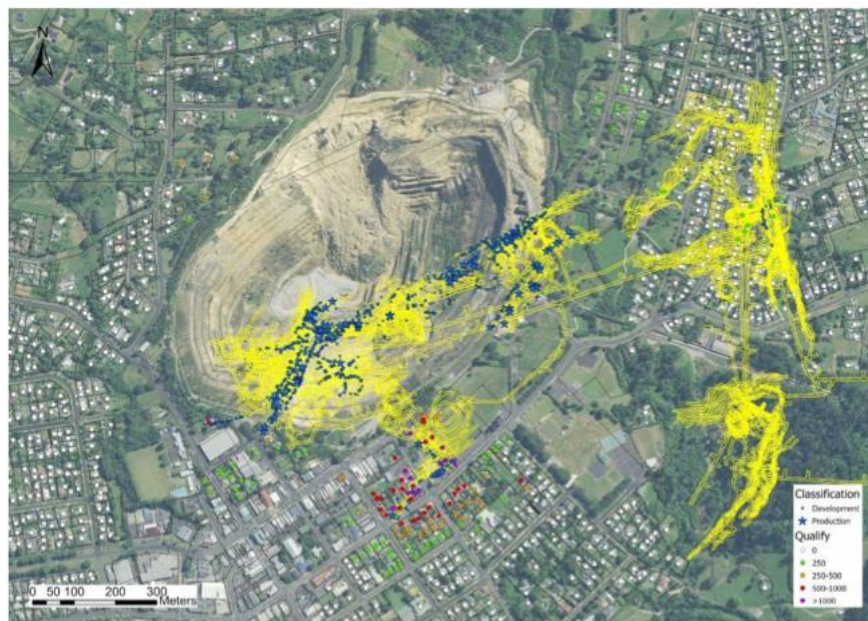
Andrew said: Well, it wouldn't be very hard to prove that the mine broke your concrete in your driveway or cracked your gib-board on your wall or in your house. I don't know how people would get on with property damage. I would hate to be in their situation.

Tim said: Donna's been through this in terms of the process of make the complaint ...

Kyle said: Initially we investigate and then an independent property expert comes and investigates as well.

Jeannine said: It also shows that even though it's \$500 worked out on average, it's actually less because the payments have been coming down. We haven't been increasing the blastings, the vibrations are getting less.

H2 2024 AEP



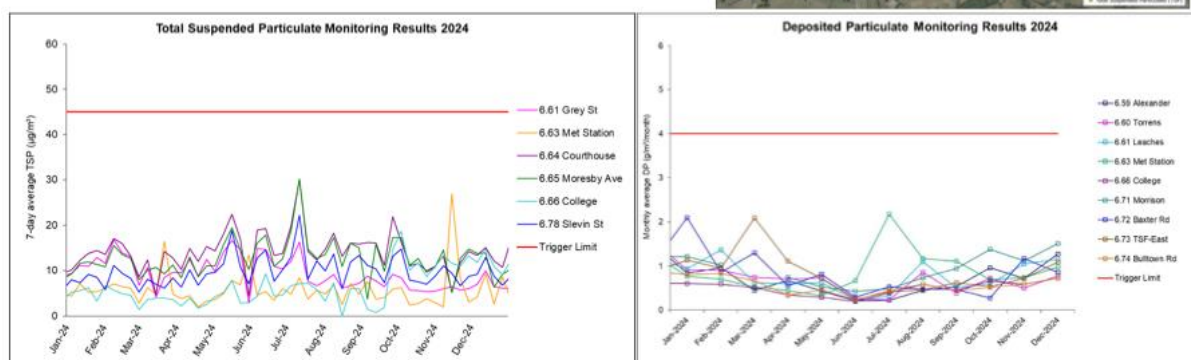
MINING GOLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE

OCEANA GOLD

Shane said: This figure just shows the development that Patrick had up before and each one of these stars is a blast location. The smaller stars are development and the larger stars are production and then the colour coding here is the banding for payments that each property received. The minimum one, like Kyle said, is \$250 so if you qualify for a payment but it's less than \$250 then it's bumped up to \$250. There's \$250 to \$500 in orange I think, \$500 to \$1,000 in red and anything over \$1,000 is in purple. Generally, as you would expect, the properties that qualify are the ones that are closer to where the blasting is occurring. There's been a lot of activity in here so most of the properties that qualified are around this area. We did a little bit of blasting in Correnso so there's a few properties up here that qualified and some on the outside of the pit which are closer.

Air Quality Results

No results exceeded the OGNZL TSP trigger limits for TSP or Deposited Particulate.



Shane said: The figure up here shows all of our permanent air quality monitoring locations. There are two types of air quality monitoring that we do. There is TSP which is total suspended particulate and that is where a pump actually draws the air through a filter paper and any particulate that's in the air will get trapped on the filter paper, it gets weighed and then that gives you a concentration. We have six sites and these are the results for the whole of 2024. You can see that our trigger level is set up there, 45 micrograms per cubic metre, and we were well below that for the whole year. The other type of monitoring that we do is deposited particulate. We've got a lot more of those sites. As opposed to what is floating around in the air, that's what actually gets deposited onto a big funnel. It gets washed in by the rain and then the same principle, we filter it, weigh it and then that gives you grams per square metre monthly. Our trigger level is 4 and you can see for the whole of 2024 we were well below that as well.

Tim said: Are the limits that are set part of the resource consent? Or are they national air quality standards?

Leigh said: Regional Council. I've got the consent here. It's usually done through an air management plan.

Shane said: I think the limits are based on Ministry for the Environment guidance and they are specified in the air quality management plan.

Glenis said: Several times we've asked about air quality and how tests are done and what is tested and have always been told, "Go ask Environment Waikato". So, I did and they basically said there is no data because there's an agreement that tests don't get done here in Waihi. The PM10 and silica monitoring, which is the inhalable sort of dust, hasn't been done here since 2011. How was the agreement reached with Waikato Regional Council to suspend the PM10 monitoring? How did that agreement come about?

Shane said: I'm pretty sure that we covered this and had a slide in the last meeting that talked about the specific monitoring that we did around the vents that included PM10 which was done probably in early 2023.

Glenis said: I saw that 2023 report but then Donna sent me this (Air Matters?) one after the previous meeting in about November 2024. It talked about measuring the PM10 dust particles and it said that it basically hadn't been done since you stopped doing the biennial monitoring. That report said because the data collected showed the emissions were safe, the mining company and Waikato Regional Council agreed that PM10 and silica monitoring could be suspended.

Shane said: I don't know the full history but if that's talking about continuous monitoring then that's probably what it's referring to as being suspended and then that was replaced by a periodic programme which was what happened in 2023. We did one-off emissions monitoring around the vents and that report was put on the website.

Josh said: Yes, it was. That was the one we were talking about earlier.

Shane said: The other thing to bear in mind is whether the pit is in operation is the main factor to consider in air quality. If it's not operating there's a huge reduction in opportunity to generate particles in the atmosphere.

Glenis said: So, will that monitoring for PM10 start again once work in the pit begins again and is there a baseline of work that's been done to see the differences between normal and operational pit?

Shane said: That will be a risk-based decision. In the meantime, the current monitoring programme (see PowerPoint slide above) is "indicator" monitoring. So if, for example, the TSP was getting close to the threshold on the graph above then we would look at putting some more advanced monitoring in. For example, we do have some real-time air monitors as well which are not resource consent compliance monitors but we have information from them as well. They are measuring TSP. We can easily convert them to PM10. So, it is likely we would do that if we were having issues. We would look to do additional monitoring.

Kyle said: With the pit not operating but the monitoring still happening, is this representative of a baseline ahead of the pit?

Glenis said: Yes, that was the question.

Shane said: I'd have to go back and look at the data from when the pit was operating to answer that.

Glenis said: So, could that be used as a baseline because it's not operating and you did testing last year?

Shane said: I guess it depends on what operations are going to be happening in the pit, if it's going to be the same type of mining operations in the pit as previously. We could go back and look at the data from the time and then that would give us a good indication of what we could expect.

Kyle said: The testing was of what was coming from the vents, including the emissions from the underground. So, that wouldn't be a baseline of dust from the pit, it's actually measuring our operating discharge from the underground via the vent.

Glenis said: I did notice that the velocity was way lower for when that testing was done last year compared to other testing that had been done in the past so that would have to have an effect too. Trying to get information about the breathable particles and what happens and how people can know that what they're breathing when, say, the pit's operating or there's blasting going in there, is it safe? That, I think, is an important thing to know about and I looked at the Environment Waikato website and they talked about basically the emissions for mining and quarrying, so you've got ... PM10 which is the breathable particles ...

Tim said: Here or in everywhere in general?

Erich said: Everywhere.

Glenis said: They've got the percentage of emissions of contaminants on chemical manufacturing at 6.8%, food processing 12.8%, quarrying and mining 48.5%.

Shane said: If quarrying and surface mining are lumped in there together in the WRC percentages then we are underground mining so it's a different operation. I think that it might be worth parking this and maybe providing you with that report again which does address what you're asking. Also, we have the "meet the expert" session coming up which is a good opportunity to have those questions you've got from that report answered by an expert.

Andrew said: The pit is in operation with the back-filling down the bottom. They're taking materials out, there's machinery out there, there's fuel down there stored. The pit is in operation but I've heard Shane say that it's not about three times.

Shane said: What I am saying is that it is not being mined.

Andrew said: But there is an operation. You've got vent shafts running out there, there's machinery down there working, the other day there was someone spraying weeds with drones. The pit is in operation.

Erich said: So, we know silica is dangerous for your lungs, we agree.

Shane said: Yes.

Erich said: Good. Your pit has got a vent. When you work underground, does the dust comes out of that vent or do you filter it?

Shane said: That's covered in the monitoring that was done in 2023 that talked about results where the levels were essentially safe or below the relevant guidelines.

Erich said: It depends when you measure. After a blast it's a different story. Not only do you get dust you also get vapour from the blast itself, that is deadly.

Shane said: I think what we need to know is here on this air quality slide (PowerPoint slide above) because the information I am presenting here is our current monitoring programme. The other questions that are being asked are about a specific monitoring programme that was done early last year and I don't have the report with me so I don't have the results and I can't talk to them.

Glenis said: The report I was sent by Donna is called the "Air quality annual monitoring report 2023".

Shane said: Yeah, that's not the report that I'm talking about. That's our report that we've summarised these results here. The monitoring that I'm talking about was done in 2024 so it wouldn't have been in that report.

Glenis said: This report, 2023, says that no PM10 monitoring has been done since 2011 and incidentally the most complaints about air quality happened in Waihi in 2011 according to this report.

Shane said: But if you look at the 2024 air quality monitoring report I'm 99% sure that it refers to the testing that was done last year on the vent shafts.

Glenis said: Yeah, but then the mine was not operational so to speak.

Shane said: Well, the testing was for the emissions from underground coming out through the vents.

Brian said: Is the 2024 version of that available now?

Kyle said: We are talking about three different reports. The one we talked about in the previous meeting was the one where we discussed the silica and the PM10 and everything else.

Brian said: Donna gave Glennis that report in November 2024.

Kyle said: Glenis has the 2023 report and the Air Matters report but Shane is still preparing the 2024 report.

Shane said: It's just being audited now.

Kyle said: When it is ready it will be published on the Regional Council and our website.

Glenis said: I did try and look at the Air Matters one. It was a 61-page report but it got a bit sort of ... and there were lots of things about "you can't rely on this" and "this is ..." you know.

Tim said: So, your main question, Glenis, is about the silica and whether peoples' lungs are being affected by the dust that's being emitted from either the underground or the pit and how you can be sure of that?

Glenis said: Yes. How can reliable testing be done to ensure that when we have a mine being laid back (increased) in the town centre and we have businesses, shoppers and people living very close to that, how can we ensure that appropriate testing is done to ensure that people aren't breathing poison?

Tim said: Okay and Shane I think you've answered this in one way. You're saying that this is monitored?

Shane said: That's been monitored in relation to PM10 and silica. That's the study that was done early 2024.

Tim said: Why is there still a question of safety if the report is saying that it's below the required safe level?

Glenis said: Because this 2023/2024 report was the most recent one I got sent by the company. I haven't yet received the other report that I have learned today is coming out after it's been checked and goes on to the Oceana and Regional Council websites.

Tim said: What is the air discharge expert going to talk about in that expert meeting?

Kyle said: That's a good question that we are working on. We could get the Air Matters specifically to come along to talk to that report or we could get our generic air quality expert, I think we use Richard Chiltern, to come and answer the overall questions. If it's about that specific Air Matters report maybe we're better hosting a session with the author of that report. Who would you attendees of this meeting prefer to hear from?

Glenis said: I'll go and read the Air Matters report properly and see if I can understand it better. The main question I have is how do we know that reliable testing is being done, and will be done, to ensure that if there's any more work in the pit and even with the vents that are operating that people close to the source of the dust and are "sensitive receptors" breathing in dangerous stuff they are unaware of?

Katherine said: When you do your assessment of the dust collection, you only weigh it, you don't assess what is actually being collected?

Shane said: Correct, it's a weight. So, that's where the PM10 and silica monitoring is a bit more detailed. PM10 looks at a particle size in the air, it's not telling you necessarily what it is. PM10 is dust in general, PM2.5 is the inhalable dust, what you can actually breathe into your lungs.

Post-meeting answer:

The three different reports and what they represent:

- Report #1 – The 2011 WRC Air Quality Report.
- Report #2 – Air Quality Annual Monitoring Report.
- Report #3 – Waihi Mine Ventilation Discharge. This was done at the request of the community meeting in 2015. A silica and PM10 study was carried out and this data was used for WRC approval to discontinue monitoring. All analysis has shown that silica and PM10 levels are low in Waihi.

These reports are available on request. Please let Donna know prior to the next meeting.

The monitoring was stopped in 2011 due to low levels over the 3-year monitoring period. WRC removed its monitor to reuse in another area within the Waikato region. Measuring PM10 and silica requires specialised equipment. The unit used in 2008 to 2011 belonged to WRC. For the 2015 monitoring session we leased a unit from WaterCare.

Oceana Gold routine monitoring continues and is not a specific measurement of PM10/silica but rather dust totals.

Water quality

Water Quality Results

Surface Water Quality H2 2024:

- 126 surface water samples taken
- Low pH – 4 results slightly below trigger – not mining related

Table 2: Receiving Water Quality Standards

Parameter (g/m ³ unless stated)	Receiving Water Concentration ⁽¹⁾	
	Hardness 20 g/m ³ CaCO ₃	Hardness 100 g/m ³ CaCO ₃
pH	6.5 to 9.0	6.5 to 9.0
Cyanide (CN _{free}) ⁽²⁾	0.093	0.093
Iron	1.0	1.0
Manganese	2.0	2.0
Copper	0.003	0.011
Nickel	0.040	0.160
Zinc	0.027	0.100
Silver ³	0.00025	0.00294
Total Ammonia	Refer Table 3	Refer Table 3
Antimony	0.030	0.030
Arsenic	0.190	0.190
Selenium	0.006- Refer Note (4)	0.006- Refer Note (4)
Mercury	0.000012	0.000012
Cadmium	0.0003	0.001
Chromium (VI)	0.010	0.010
Lead	0.0004	0.0025



Freshwater Biomonitoring:

- Two surveys each year conducted by consultants
- Two reports generated and sent to WRC and independently reviewed
 - 2024 report conclusion: "OGNZL was compliant with conditions of its Permit, which authorises the discharge of treated mine water to the Ohinemuri River."



INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Shane said: This shows our water quality monitoring sites along the Ohinemuri and the Ruahorehore Stream. 126 water samples were collected in the period from July to December and of those 126 results they are

analysed for a number of different parameters. Down here are the parameters and our limits. We only had four results that exceeded a trigger and that was for pH and they were at a site upstream of our operations. We do occasionally get a low pH up there for whatever reason. So, that's telling us that our treated water discharge coming from the water treatment plant is not having a detrimental water quality effect from a chemical perspective.

Then, from a biological viewpoint, we do fresh water biomonitoring surveys twice a year and that's actually happening right now. We've got freshwater ecologists out there and they're doing things like electric fishing, so they are stunning and catching fish and measuring them and determining what species they are, they are looking at algal growth, they're collecting and identifying invertebrates and they are basically establishing the health of those sites. Again, it's comparing an upstream control site with downstream sites to assess if there's any impacts. Those reports are sent to Waikato Regional Council and they are independently reviewed. The reports are basically showing that we are complying with our consent conditions for our treated water discharge.

Andrew said: The selenium, you've got a special note there for. What's that about?

Shane said: That is a great question, and I don't know off the top of my head. We will answer that post-meeting.

Post-meeting answer:

Oceana Gold advised: The notation on the table is a variation of the permit. 97% compliance limit created. It now says, the selenium concentration in the receiving water shall remain below the trigger limits of 0.02 g/m³, 97% of the time on an annual basis, and 0.035 g/m³ in any single analysis, based on monitoring undertaken pursuant to condition 16 of consent 971318. In the event that these limits are exceeded the consent holder shall inform the Waikato Regional Council as soon as practical and prepare a report, to the satisfaction of Council, to demonstrate that continued discharges at concentrations exceeding the trigger limits will have no more than minor effects on the Ohinemuri River. This report shall be provided to the Council within two months of the consent holder becoming aware of the trigger exceedance.

Glenis said: On Google maps at the moment when you look at the tailing dams there's quite a bit of debris in one of them. It looks brown, muddy and quite a bit of it over one edge. Do you know what causes that?

Shane said: Yeah, it could be weed or there's a lot of birds on there because that's not being ... we're not discharging tailings into there so ...

Justin Johns said: We've got a lot of reeds growing up there at the moment so it could be that. The other thing is, over the last 12 months, rainfall's been lower than what we've seen previously so the dams are probably a little bit lower than what they normally are, or that dam is.

Glenis said: It just hasn't been in previous pictures so I thought I'd better ask.

Kyle said: It looks like a bunch of reeds on the decant that the geese are enjoying as well but we will have a look and let you know.

Post-meeting answer:

This is likely to be naturally occurring reeds that have self-seeded and are growing on the TSF. Oceana has included a recent drone shot showing these.



Nothing to report.

Dewatering & Settlement

- Overall, groundwater levels have been steady (643mm in H2 2024 *cf.* 624mm in H1 2024)
- Waihi township piezometers have been stable
- Settlement monitoring – Nov 2024 settlement survey showed no new tilts



Rehabilitation

Golden Valley Rd Planting

- 2000 native species planted in 2024
- Prep work underway for Stage 2 – 7500 native species to be planted Autumn 2025

Rehabilitation – Pest Control

- Network of 50 DOC 200 traps and 50 bait stations to reduce populations of possums, rats, stoats, hedgehogs, ferrets. Total of 89 Predators trapped in 2024.



Shane said: This slide is showing the rehabilitation that was done in 2024. This is the Haumanga Stream at Golden Valley and there's a photo here showing where we've fenced off the riparian margins and put in 2,000 native species. This has been done in stages so I think this additional section here is going to be fenced and planted in 2025. This is the stage 1 planting that was completed in 2024 and then this is all stage 2 planting for 2025 as well. We are planning to do a lot more planting, 7,500 in autumn this year as well.

Katherine said: Question – is that up where the northern rock stack is?

Shane said: I think it's further north up here (pointing on slide) somewhere.

Katherine said: Ok, thank you.

Shane said: Also, we've been doing a lot of pest control work so you can see here this is around the TSF's, there's a network of 50 DOC 200 traps and 50 bait stations that have been put out to reduce pest numbers and in 2024 we trapped 89 predators. So, the numbers here indicate the numbers that were caught and the colour-coding refers to what the species was.

Tim said: Great, thank you Shane. It sounds like some great progressive work too in terms of the environmental improvements. Who decides what you focus on? Is there a team who plan what gets planted and what for?

Shane said: Yeah, we do. It's not something that I'm directly involved in but definitely we've got a team.

Tim said: Great, thank you Shane. No other questions in terms of the environment reporting back? Thanks team.

Community – notification of blasts

Community - Notification of Blasts

The latest blast times and locations are available daily on our website: www.waihigold.co.nz

Production blasting is scheduled between 1.30 – 2.30pm (note: a blast may occasionally be delayed under specific circumstances).

Underground Development blasts may still occur, and due to their small size, will not be notified. These are smaller than production blasts and will occur between:

7.00am – 8.00am

7.00pm – 8.00pm

1.30pm – 2.30pm

Please contact us on 0800 924 444 if you would like to receive text or email notifications.

In-home blast notification devices can also be provided to residents.

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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Kyle said: Shane spoke about the blast windows which we always endeavour to blast within and we continue to do that. The other thing that we also continue to do is notify residents each day around where blasting will occur, should they ask us to. That goes on the website and then for those who have asked for it we also text them each morning or email them, or both. So, still offering that. If you want to be on that list and you're not currently let us know. Talking to Jeannine after the meeting is probably the best bet and we'll add you to the list. We also still have the in-home blast notification devices so when Patty's team push the button that will set off an alert so that you and your house will know the blast is going to go off about 10 seconds after that. Those are also still available for anyone who would like them.

Complaints & Concerns – July – December 2024

Project Martha

Type	Number	Period
Vibration	6	July - November
Felt & Heard	1	December
Air Quality	1	November
Total	8	

Proposed Projects

Type	Number	Period
Noise (Helicopter)	86	September - December
Total	86	

Concerns

Type	Number	Period
Property	4	September - December
Vibration	1	December
Staff Behaviour	1	October
Communication	1	November
Total	7	

Kyle said: Complaints and concerns for the period. We report these to council and Leigh puts them on his website with some information redacted, peoples' names for example. For the period in the Project Martha area, the area we operate, there were six vibration complaints and one felt and heard. We define vibration as "I felt the blast" whereas felt and heard is "I felt and heard the blast". There was one complaint about air quality which related to the development site. We had a complaint from a resident on Trig Road North about dust from the TSF. We're doing a raise on the TSF so specifically it was increased dust on the windows and we worked on that with her.

Under the heading of proposed projects, we had several helicopter complaints.

Then we have listed seven concerns where people haven't specifically given us a complaint but they want to raise a query with us. We have four related to property, one vibration and one regarding staff behaviour. This was regarding a painter on one of our company-owned rentals and they had some concerns about whether they were or weren't using scaffolding, so we looked into that. The communication was regarding the website not working.

Helicopter flights

Erich said: 86 complaints about the helicopter use is not several and is not minimal.

Kyle said: Most of these complaints were from a single resident, not all of them. We're alternating the routes that the helicopter takes. Unfortunately, the nature of our exploration and where it takes place, you can see in the aerial photograph of Wharekirauponga on the wall behind you, we have to fly everything in and out.

Andrew said: Excuse me, Kyle. Does the helicopter have to fly over private property?

Kyle said: Well, I'm not sure where else it would get between Baxter Road and Wharekirauponga.

Andrew said: Well, I'm pretty sure the mining company owns about 500 acres up Willows Road where they plan to put a mine site and I know there's a helicopter pad proposed to be part of that mine site.

Kyle said: That's right.

Andrew said: So, why is the continual use of the helicopter flying over private property when it's not really required? Because there are public roads that go up Willows Road.

Kyle said: To address this we're flying over double the height the Civil Aviation Authority allows us to. We've asked the pilot to increase altitude at take-off and landing. We've recently added the Willows Road helipad

because we currently don't have resource consent for one there so that we can alternate flights even further and fly from Willows Road.

Andrew said: What about flying up the roads?

Kyle said: I'm just trying to conceptualise flying up the road. When I say alternate routes, we fly all sorts of different routes to try and spread the effect of the noise.

Tim said: Is the Willows Road helipad in operation now Kyle?

Kyle said: No, we do periodic work at Willows Road depending on what we need to but not a consistent use of a sealed helipad, no. It's proposed as part of our over-arching Waihi North Project. We also have access to a pad at Golden Cross that we use for lifting and other things when we're doing multiple continuous movements.

Tim said: Andrew, what's the level of nuisance that comes from the helicopter?

Andrew said: Well, I've lived in Waihi all my life and Newmont were very considerate when it came to the use of helicopters. They would fly maybe once or twice a year, probably for taking photographs. But Oceana Gold have decided to use it as a means of doing their exploration work and it annoys me because I'm not the only resident in Waihi that hears that helicopter daily, or most days. You can get a couple of hours in the morning and then an hour in the afternoon and they'll do up to seven or eight trips a day, return trips.

Tim said: So, what's aggravating for you about that? I know for some people it's a trigger and some it's not.

Andrew said: Well, I've asked Oceana Gold not to fly over my property and recently they did fly over one morning at about one minute to seven, flew straight over my cow shed at 23 Wharry Road and I see the helicopter flying roughly between WKP and the mill and from my property it's probably maybe half a kilometre from my residence but in the still morning I'm sure most people in Waihi would hear the helicopter.

Tim said: And it bugs you?

Andrew said: Yeah, well I don't think it's necessary when they own property on the edge of the state forest park. They fly over their own property, they land at the mine site, they unload the material or their goods out of the helicopter, probably put it in a flat-deck ute and then they probably transport it into their mine site up to maybe a warehouse or a storage facility and the same thing with supplies, they'll be probably flying tea and coffee and toilet paper and probably other supplies out to the workforce that are doing the exploration work and I don't think a helicopter is necessary to fly over private property all the time. This is a large mining company that has decided to use a helicopter to transport workers, supplies, mainly core samples from WKP back to the mine. A normal considerate company in Waihi would use a public road to move goods. I understand the terrain and they have to fly unless they're going to put a road through the state forest park.

Tim said: And the intention is to achieve low impact access to WKP?

Kyle said: True, all underground.

Tim said: Are you annoyed that Oceana aren't doing enough to minimise the impact on you?

Andrew said: Yeah, I feel let down because I've lived in Waihi all my life. I would never go and build a house next to an airport but that's what it feels like I've just done because I have a helicopter flying near my property daily. I also think it's unnecessary to fly on a Sunday and quite often they will fly on a Sunday because they want the core samples at SGS for sampling on Monday morning.

Tim said: Is there an answer around this?

Andrew said: Well, like I said, they own a 500 acre farm up Willows Road. They intend on spending millions up there putting in a mine site and part of the proposal is a helicopter pad. That's the first thing they should construct.

Kyle said: If the consent is granted, I'm taking that feedback from Mr Wharry that potentially it's the first thing we construct and I'm certainly open to that, it makes absolute sense to me. The first step is getting the approval which we don't have at present.

Tim said: Okay. You said, Kyle, that you're varying your routes and things in terms of the pilots are twice as high as they have to be by law and you're taking alternate routes.

Kyle said: We are endeavouring to, there are certain weather conditions which mean they are bound to a route but where we can we are alternating it. There are a number of complaints here, lots are from one person but we have had complaints from other people. There are other properties we're trying to avoid too so we're trying our best to alternate where we can.

Andrew said: Kyle, does the mining company need a consent to land a helicopter?

Kyle said: I'll have to confirm the details for sure. I don't know off the top of my head but there might be a threshold of temporary activities which means x amount in a month and then over that threshold we need a resource consent. I'd have to do some investigation to see what's stopping us not using it now.

Tim said: So, can we do that research in time to go out in the minutes?

Kyle said: Yeah, I think we should.

Post-meeting answer:

As Oceana Gold understands it, approval for a helipad at Willows Road is not required at present due to the fact the activities are temporary in nature and flights from that location are infrequent. We are seeking approvals for a helipad in this location as part of our WNP Fast Track Application. In the meantime, in response to the concerns raised, we are shifting the majority of our flights, including passenger flights, to a helipad we have access to at Golden Cross.

You can find out more information about the Waihi North Project by clicking on the link below:
<https://www.waihigold.co.nz/projects/>

Tim said: Katherine, sorry I've ignored you.

Katherine said: Will the helicopters stop when you put your service tunnel in?

Kyle said: I think there will be an increase in helicopter activities if the Waihi North Project is consented for the construction period. We'll have to fly vent shafts out there; we'll have an increase in exploration activity to sure up the geotechnical and impacts on the environment. Then, once we get the tunnel in, I can foresee that it would drop off significantly.

Brian said: Just a simple one. The majority of the complaints on the helicopter you said came from one person or one place. Without giving an address was it within town or out of town?

Andrew said: It would be me Brian ... it would be me.

Kyle said: I'm trying to be respectful.

Andrew said: Yeah, I understand that. I don't blame you.

Glenis said: Do you log your flight plans for your helicopter?

Kyle said: I don't know. I mean, when we get helicopter complaints we send them to Skyworks who respond with a flight plan and where they went and the altitude they were at so they obviously have the data. We can keep working on this and see what else we can come up with that might be helpful.

Relative heights and depths

Katherine said: I've asked for this before. Can we have cross-sections showing the heights and the depths of the mining processing like the pit and the tailings storage facilities at sea-level elevations rather than the RL's including significant features in the town? I was just wondering if you could do that for, say, every 6 months and you could have a cross-section with a date on which says "At this particular date this is what the sea-level elevations were and this is the cross-sections that show the height of the pit and the depth of the pit and the lowest ..." in comparison to local features.

Kyle said: I think we have them on the website.

Jeannine said: But we haven't got the local features on it.

Kyle said: I'm trying to think of the ones we've got and I can visualise one with a pit on it but if there's nothing stopping us we could put some other reference points on it.

Katherine said: Yeah, just something so people can see what it looks like. They think you are going to fill the pit with water but you're not going to fill it with water, you're just going to stop pumping aren't you?

Kyle said: It will fill itself.

Katherine said: Well, if it's a storm you can direct from the river can't you? Other than that, you're just going to stop pumping. And then the ground water will top it up?

Jeannine said: It would speed up the filling of the lake eventually.

Kyle said: That's right, it is a hybrid of those. In high stormwater events we can pump water into the pit but you are also right, if we didn't do that it would just fill itself up.

Josh said: The cross sections we currently have are for the TSF and Martha Pit, which basically show just maximum height or depth, and we have markers for ground level and markers for sea level. Yes, we can add something to those for a reference point.

Katherine said: Yeah, maybe the Baxter Road turn-off or something that is a local identity people know so you can go, "Oh look, there's my house, here it is in relation to the bottom of the pit or the top of the tailings storage facility".

Post-meeting answer:

We've updated our existing cross-sections to include well known points of reference in the township; specifically the Seddon Street roundabout and the Pumphouse. The updated graphics can be found here:

WNP Project Element Size Comparisons:

<https://www.waihigold.co.nz/waihi-north-project/documentation/>

MOP:

<https://www.marthaopenpit.info/martha-open-pit.html>

Water in the pit and subsidence

Tim said: Katherine, you sent me an email about another question you had. The question was, if there was water in the pit and there was another subsidence like the North Wall situation, what would happen?

Katherine said: Yeah, I did too.

Kyle said: The answer is it's a hypothetical situation that I don't know the answer to. We would have to find out. Unless there's a suitably qualified mining engineer in the room I think we might have to park it. Just to clarify, it's probably more than a mining engineer, it's a hydrologist who monitors water flow and can answer that.

Leigh said: There was a "Seiche Analysis, Martha Pit Closure (2014)" report that was prepared and that looks at the probability of something like that – where the water would go in relation to the level of the lake. So, there is some work that has been done on that.

Katherine said: With an expansion to the pit and a layback will it go further?

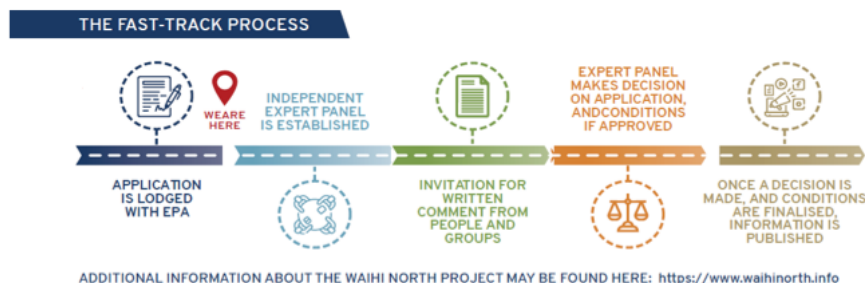
Kyle said: We will talk about the Martha Mineral Zone shortly. We haven't progressed studies for an expanded pit to that level yet but I think we'll have to.

Post-meeting answer:

See note above about the "Ask the expert" hydrology session yet to take place.

The Waihi North Project Update

- OceanaGold has now formally lodged an application under the Fast-track Approvals Act for the proposed Waihi North Project.
- Once it is confirmed that our application is complete, an expert panel will be established to act as an independent decision-making body. The panel will have a range of functions and powers available to them as part of considering the application, including the ability to commission reports or further advice. They must also invite written comment on the application from people and groups listed in the Act.
- Based on the timeframes listed in the Act, the Company expects that it could receive all approvals (subject to any appeals) under the Fast-track process by the end of 2025.



Kyle said: The Waihi North Project was listed in the list of 149 projects eligible to apply under the Fast-track Approvals Act. That bill became law and last week we applied under that Act for the Waihi North Project. The next step is the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The EPA will consider the application in all of its 11,000 pages and consider whether or not it's complete for processing and that everything that needs to be in there to process it is there. After that, an independent expert panel will be established and the decision-making process will sort of roll on from there. Based on the timeframes listed in the Fast-track Approvals Act, we could receive approvals through that process as early as the end of the year but it could be longer as well.

Glenis said: Who will that panel be?

Kyle said: I don't know. There's a panel convener who appoints the panel and that panel is the independent decision-making body.

Katherine said: Thank you. Looking ahead, the gold company's going to be here for a very long time. We can assume that can't we?

Kyle said: Hopefully.

Community investment

Katherine said: So, in view of that, I know you guys give donations and the calculation of the donations is huge and goes into the millions. But, we all know what happened when the mine closed in 1952 and I feel that the donations that you give are to individual people or groups or what-have-you. It would be to Waihi's advantage, instead of that, to give something that can give Waihi some sort of infrastructure for when you go. Because you're here for such a long time and there's an accumulation of what you're earning and I know that there's the employment and what-have-you, but when that goes, it's gone. We're already a very low demographic and something to help Waihi's infrastructure, something stable and important.

Jeannine said: What do you suggest?

Bhavesh said: Katherine, I can probably help with that. The Waihi Community Forum, particularly Anne Marie and I, has been lobbying for a long time about royalties and the return of royalties to the district. Both of us have made trips to Wellington with various politicians over time and the reason why we are pushing for the return of royalties is for that exact reason. As part of the Otago goldrush they built Otago University which came out of royalties and that kept an industry going post-mining. Our vision at the Forum is that if royalties, or a portion of royalties, were returned together with other investment we would want to have something that stayed here and provided employment opportunities.

Erich said: Yeah, that is the biggest problem. How much tax and royalty you pay for the Waihi Mine?

Kyle said: I couldn't tell you off the top of my head. I'd have to dig into some data.

Erich said: \$2,836,000 a year, that's it, in 2023 and it is printed in US dollar and I converted this today to this amount. So, earlier you were saying every time we pay over \$7 million. That's wrong. Oceana pays in total for all of New Zealand \$7 million, not just for Waihi.

Tim said: So, Katherine's points about the benefits to Waihi, Bhavesh is saying that there's been some lobbying already about royalties that would benefit Waihi when or if mining ceased to continue. Kit?

Kit said: Coming back to Katherine's question. For those of you who have been here a while, you'll remember that the Gold Discovery Centre actually came into existence when Newmont thought they were leaving town. They contributed along with New Zealand Trade & Enterprise to that facility and originally that was \$20 million but then the global financial crisis happened and it became much smaller than that. But, there's no doubt that the then owners of this mine contributed significantly to that. However, I've spent a lot of my last 5 years in Reefton, which is just the most gorgeous town in the world as long as you don't mind getting cold. I've been in Reefton because we have shut down a mine there and we have spent a considerable amount of money and a considerable amount of time and put a considerable amount of effort into making sure that that town has not only just survived but done well post-Oceana Gold. As it turns out, there's a whole load more gold there and other people are coming in. But, let me give you an example of the things that we did. We set up a system where we had a socio-economic development officer that Oceana Gold paid for and that person then spent 3-½ years encouraging and enticing new businesses to town. She did things like making sure that there were more doctors. It turns out that you couldn't get your internet fixed in Reefton so she made sure someone did that. It turns out there was no accountant in Reefton so she made sure that someone turned up and on top of that the company then contributed to the information centre to make sure that that was then fit for purpose post-mining. But, the big one we've just finished is the completion of the visitor experience up at the Globe Progress Mine and the completion of the multi-fitness track from town up to the mine site. So, yeah, we get it and my mantra is always "You're only as good as the last mine you close".

Tim said: So, when I'm hearing you talk about that Kit, I hear that Oceana has a social conscience around that. Is there an obligation to do that in Reefton and would there be an obligation to do that here in Waihi?

Kit said: No, there wasn't a requirement to do it but how do you come into a community if you can't show that the community you left behind is in a better state than when you first arrived? There's a whole load of variables in Reefton at the present time and there's a whole lot of other mines and explorers that are there so it's become a little bit different but at the beginning it looked like there wasn't going to be anything else. So, it was our incumbent task to make sure that we left the place better than when we found it.

Jeannine said: What's the population of Reefton?

Kit said: It's about 5,000 I think. I'm really proud of what the company's done in Reefton.

Glenis said: Didn't taxpayers by way of the government also contribute about \$6 million to the Discovery Centre?

Kit said: NZTE, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise, yes absolutely, that's why I said NZTE but it was Newmont and NZTE and the Hauraki District Council.

Brian said: Kit, down in the South Island where you are, where is the mine in relation to the town?

Kit said: It's about 10km away.

Brian said: Okay, so slightly different to the mine in the town.

Kit said: Absolutely, but the intention and the contribution and the ongoing work in the area is just the same and it will be at Macraes which is also way out of town. So, geographically different but in terms of the intention of the company, it would remain the same.

Brian said: I'm just concerned obviously, I mean I'm not anti-mining, I'm pro-Waihi, but I have gone along to all the hearings etc and I'm of the mindset, and I've said it as a district councillor, that we are going to change from "Waihi a town with a mine in it" to "Waihi a mine with a town in it" and that will change the whole outlook.

Kit said: For those of you who've been here a long time, you may remember the main street project which was significantly paid for by the mining company. The restoration of the memorial hall and the Poppet Head was

the mining company. Gilmore Lake is the mining company. The pit rim walkway is the mining company as well. So, we're there and we are contributing, it's just sometimes people forget that those things were put there by the mine with mining company money. The events centre was also significantly contributed to by the then mining company, Newmont.

Katherine said: I was just going to ask, when they closed in Reefton, how many jobs were lost?

Kit said: That's where it got a bit different. A lot of people were coming in from Greymouth and Westport. So, what happened was it was the businesses that lost business rather than the town losing staff. But, what's happened now is they're bursting at the seams and they haven't got enough houses.

Tim said: Katherine, Jeannine asked earlier, have you got some thoughts about a contribution?

Katherine said: I was thinking about things like the cost of electricity is going up so maybe something that provides infrastructure like maybe a solar farm. I was thinking it could be something that is a simple thing to achieve because like the guys who work in the mine, they're the most expert people we've got in Waihi. So, they know this stuff, I don't know it. They know what their expertise is, they know what they do. I am on the trust with the Hauraki Re-Use Centre and something like a green-waste compostable unit would be amazing so people could take their green-waste and then get compost back. Just something for infrastructure.

Jeannine said: Come back to us with some ideas.

Glenis said: What's the new development that is planned? Obviously, you're going to need more power because as it is the plant closes down over Christmas when the Coromandel fills up with visitors. So, with all the work that's gone on over on Beach Road with all the new power coming and the Waikino from the sub-station there into town, is that to do with what's going to be happening in the future and the company's need for power? Because Katherine's right, the power's going up yet again 25% or something and if there's some way that when the mining company leaves they can leave a legacy of power to the people here ...

Brian said: Or even before you leave.

Tim said: Great ideas and let's keep contributing those, maybe not in this discussion right now. Bhavesh, I was wondering, in terms of the role of the Waihi Community Forum, do you also have a role in terms of gathering ideas, suggestions, questions?

Bhavesh said: Very much so. So, the stuff you talk about regarding power, we've done a lot of work in years gone past looking at putting wind turbines up around the mill and feeding that power back into the town. It didn't work out for a number of reasons when we investigated. Solar panels on people's houses is one that we did do and we funded that through the Forum for a while. We are always looking for those sorts of things, absolutely.

Tim said: Is there a process for making suggestions or a person they can contact with their ideas?

Bhavesh said: Anybody who wants to feed that in, just feed it back to me or feed it back to our administrator or through the website or however you want to do it.

Peter Lush said: Electricity is reliant on water. If we have a dry summer we've got no power. So, what do they do then? Crank up the old Huntly power station that's supposed to work on coal but they use gas and start digging coal out again I suppose?

Tim said: Bhavesh, let's grab the contact details for Waihi Community Forum or your administrator and put them in the minutes for those with more ideas.

Post-meeting answer:

Waihi Community Forum contact details:

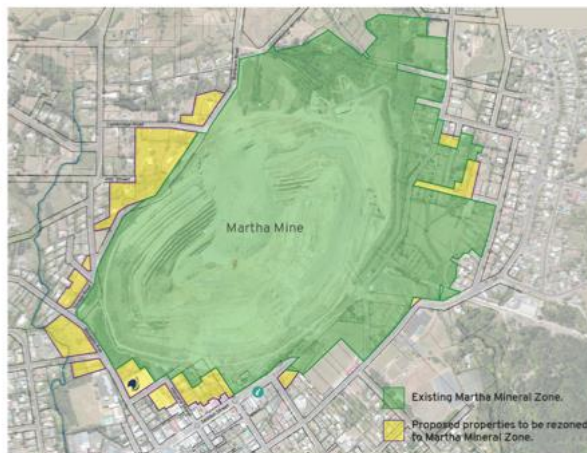
Administrator, Paula Blackman, email wcfinformation@gmail.com (or Bhavesh Ranchhod, email bhavesh@ranchhodco.co.nz).

Proposed Change to the Martha Mineral Zone Update

The proposed expansion of the Martha Pit, as part of the Martha Open Pit Project, would first require a change to the District Plan to increase the boundary to include all the land parcels necessary to support the expansion (this is inclusive of areas required for rehabilitation). No privately owned land will be rezoned as part of the plan change application.

- A hearing to consider and make recommendations on what is being proposed by the company, and requests made in submissions/further submissions, was held on 10-12 December 2024.
- Closing submissions responding to matters raised during the hearing were held on the 11 February 2025.
- The hearing committee indicated that they would make a recommend decision to the Council in March 2025, with the decision being released soon after.

<https://www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/council/plans-strategies/auraki-district-plan/dp-changes-6>



Kyle said: I think we have been talking about the change to the Martha Mineral Zone since about 2020. Last year or the year before, we applied and the hearing was held last year to change the Martha Mineral Zone as defined in the District Plan to increase the area where surface mining at the pit could occur subject to all the other necessary approvals being granted as well. The hearing was held in December 2024, closed out in February 2025 and at this point in time we're still waiting on the decision. Once that decision is granted, the company will have to consider what that decision is before they make some next-step plans in terms of a pit expansion, whether it is something we do and if so when we do it. At present, all of the energy is on the Waihi North Project so if the zone change showed up tomorrow there wouldn't be anything happening in the immediate future but it's something we can certainly have in the longer life mine plan for Waihi.

Underground operations

Katherine said: I had a friend who went underground in a mine somewhere and someone was telling her about the bidders that were operated from the plant rather than underground. She said five bidders could be driven by one man from a computer above ground. Is that true and could that happen here?

Kit said: It already does Katherine (not five).

Katherine said: So, what about people losing their jobs?

Kit said: That doesn't happen, no. I mean, you still need someone to drive the machine and you still need people to maintain the machine and the machines often still have to be moved to places manually.

Erich said: There was in the newspaper again a big article about a reporter being underground with a film crew. Why can they go underground and we can't? Why is it? Because it is advertising for you.

Andrew said: Someone called Madison.

Kit said: Yes, Madison Reidy of the New Zealand Herald went underground, and no, she didn't have a sound guy or a director, she was by herself.

Erich said: And the camera guy?

Kit said: Yes, two of them and we also took them into the open pit and to the tailings area and we also flew her up to Wharekurauponga.

Tim said: Erich's question was if the reporter can go under then why not Erich?

Jeannine said: You've been under Erich.

Erich said: Yeah, once, yeah. Only that's not the question.

Helga Schmidt said: Other people were also asking why they cannot go underground.

Erich said: And the college guys, there was a group underground.

Kyle said: Yeah, I think there's a group of college guys going underground (yes another group). We are trying to do some of the things Katherine's asking us to do around leaving a positive legacy. The purpose of taking them underground is that we get lots of young people saying to us "I want to work in mining but I don't know what mining means", so we're working closely with the college to get them "some skills to go underground and be working for us". Part of that is exposing them to that environment to see if it's something they would like to do. I don't know that there's many but there'd be a few green hats who get under there and say, "This isn't for me". So, we'd rather get them there, show them what it's all about and give them the experience so they can go away and think, "Is this something I want to pursue as a career?" That's why we take the college kids underground.

Glenis said: Could you use an area in an underground mine that's no longer being mined where you can provide a tourism experience where people could go for a real underground experience?

Kyle said: Potentially. The trouble is our entrance to the underground is the entrance to all of the underground and it would be a massive undertaking. If there's an area that isn't mined often the power isn't there anymore and the vent for the air isn't there anymore and it's dark and really warm and humid.

Kit said: We did have a real underground experience planned for the \$20 million version of the Discovery Centre. The other possibility now, and it's nowhere near as good, is a new video next door which has been made.

Glenis said: Somebody might pay you though to actually create an underground experience to show people a mine and what an underground experience is like. People might pay and that might support a business.

Tim said: There's another idea for Bhavesh and Anne Marie.

Kyle said: To Kit's point, we do open the education centre and in January for two weeks we had 100-odd people through. The next best thing to going underground is our underground simulator which shows you what it could be like if you were there, but not quite.

Wording of the meeting notice

Kit said: Tim, before we finish can we knock off number one? Can't we just call it a "public community meeting"?

Josh said: I suspect we ended up calling it a community meeting because that is what it is called in the consent conditions.

Glenis said: Can you understand where I'm coming from? My thing was, what say I'm from Invercargill and I'm thinking of buying up here and I see "community meeting" advertised somewhere? Or I'm here on holiday and I'm thinking, "Well, that's not me because I live in Invercargill". Whereas, if I know it's a public meeting I might think, "I might go there because I might want to buy a property there".

Helga said: Why not community/public meeting?

Tim said: I think what Glenis is saying is that she wants it to be called a "Public / Community meeting". Glenis will that do it?

Glenis said: I don't know. I've got to think about it.

Post-meeting answer:

Oceana Gold has reviewed the feedback and is confident that the current wording, which was previously agreed upon by regular attendees of these meetings, is inclusive and clearly conveys the intended purpose of the meeting, as well as emphasizing that everyone is welcome to attend.

Meeting process

Tim said: Firstly, I have very much appreciated the tone and tenor in this meeting, it's been really helpful, thank you everybody. We've talked about the stuff we needed to, we've asked the questions we had and we have been able to work our way through some issues and I really loved the ideas at the end about what else might be able to be done. Thank you! Any other comments about the meeting?

Justin said: No, I think I just resonate your tone. It was a much better meeting and much more considered compared to the last one and some good conversation.

Kyle said: I would say everything that everyone else said. It was nice to have some constructive conversation, thanks everyone, and also get some good feedback on ideas that we can improve on.

Paula Trubshaw said: Yeah I would just say the same. This is my first meeting and I really enjoyed it and got a lot out of it. So, thanks everyone.

Tim said: There will be post-meeting answers that come out in the minutes and people are welcome to contact the community engagement team in the meantime. Otherwise we will see you again in six months' time for a public community meeting.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm.

**Next meeting: Thursday 11 September 2025 at 5.30pm
(Combined CEPA/SUPA and Martha meeting)**

Attendance register:		
Kyle Welten	Paula Trubshaw	Glenis Gentil
Patrick Slagter	Shane Reynolds	Brian Gentil
Kit Wilson	Katherine Lucas	Andrew Wharry
Josh Smith	Peter Lush	Bhavesh Ranchhod
Jeannine Wiki	Leigh Robcke	Erich Schmidt
Justin Johns	Tim Clarke	Helga Schmidt
Apologies:		
Donna Fisher	Louise Fielden	Mark Burrows

ASK THE EXPERTS ABOUT...

Noise Effects – Waihi North Project

As part of the Waihi North Project, there are a number of activities that may generate noise, for example; construction activities, helicopter movements, drilling and blasting operations, excavation, conveying, and the transport of rock and ore.

We have engaged Marshall Day Acoustics to complete an independent Noise Assessment to determine the project's effects. This assessment uses recognised New Zealand experts to identify the best measures to effectively monitor and manage noise impacts.

The assessment indicates that with appropriate noise management measures being applied; the construction and operational noise levels would comply with parameters set out in the Hauraki District Plan.

On the 22nd of May between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm, Steve Peakall from Marshall Day Acoustics will be available in our Project Information Office to answer any questions you might have about the noise effects of the Waihi North Project.

A NUMBER OF TIMES ARE AVAILABLE, BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL

Bookings can be made via 0800 924 444, waihi.info@oceanagold.com or by visiting the Project Information Office. 86 Seddon Street, Waihi.

For further information, visit www.waihinorth.info



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