

# **Project Martha / Correnso (CEPA) Combined Community Meeting**

**Thursday 12 September 2024**

The following is a record of the Project Martha and CEPA/SUPA combined community meeting held at 5.30pm on 12 September 2024. Where possible, we have tried to capture individual contributions at the meeting, but these do not purport to be verbatim notes.

## **Welcome**

Tim Clarke said: It's Thursday 12 September 2024 and this is our seventh combined CEPA and Martha community engagement meeting. Welcome everybody, it is good to see the numbers attending the meeting tonight. The first half of the meeting will be focussed on providing information around the CEPA and Martha operations and in the second half if there are other issues that you would like to discuss then we can do that. If you have a clarification question about what is being said at the time that is best asked and answered there and then, we will do that. If you have a question about what Oceana is doing more generally and your thoughts on that we will record that on the list of issues to be discussed in part two of the meeting.

*[Tim explained his role as the independent facilitator to ensure that everyone gets an opportunity to speak, that questions get asked and answered and to ensure that the meeting covers the issues and subjects that people want to hear about.]*

Tim said: The meeting (as usual) is being recorded to help us prepare the minutes and a copy of the recording is available for people to listen to if they would like to. If people have questions, it helps if they let each other finish speaking and indicate when they would like to ask a question and I will facilitate that. When you have a question and it is your turn to speak, please start with your name first.

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

Justin Johns said: This is the first meeting that I have attended. I am the General Manager at Waihi Gold. I have worked for Oceana for 15 years - at Reefton, McCrae's, Hale and then here at Waihi. I'm really interested to hear feedback this evening and meet the people that we work within and around on a daily basis.

Mayor Toby Adams said: This is my first time coming along. I usually just get the feedback from someone else so it is always good to hear first-hand what is going on and what concerns there are, if any.

## **Purpose of meeting**

Kyle Welten said: We always start with a reminder of what these meetings are about. They are a condition of our consent for the Correnso underground mine and also Project Martha.

These are largely the same but two different projects with two sets of resource consent conditions.

The purpose of the meeting is that it is a public meeting and it is an opportunity for us to provide a description of the mining activity that has happened in the preceding 6 months. We talk about some of the environmental monitoring results, which Mark will present for us. IRP does not really exist anymore but we will talk about that as well (Independent Review Panel for property purchases) and progress on any matters raised at the meeting prior.

They are very similar but two different sets of conditions so when matters are raised that couldn't be answered at the meeting prior we try our best to answer them at the following meeting.

That's the purpose of the meeting.

## 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.

### Community Meeting

#### Outline

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

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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

OCEANA GOLD

## Points from last meeting

### Points from last Correnso & Project Martha Meetings:

#### Pre meeting questions

- **Air Quality – Mark to consider installing air monitoring stations in the CBD, to establish a baseline of current air quality prior to any mining recommencing in the open pit.**

There are 10 monitors around Martha Pit. There is an AQ monitor in the Waihi CBD – at the courthouse, also one at Martha Pit entrance. We do not have compliance issues so do not see the necessity of installing another monitor.

- **Water Quality – Mark to provide monitoring results to David Wellington**

Results provided



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Kyle said: We generally start with points from the previous meeting that we didn't answer or had to go away and find out more detail for you.

Mark Burrows said: Both the points from the last meeting were environmental questions.

The first one was to consider installing an air monitoring station in the CBD. Previous slides didn't actually show where all our air monitors are around Martha Pit so I've put that image there to show you. We do have one in the CBD which is the courthouse down here. In total we've got 10 air quality monitors around Martha Pit and we're not really having any compliance issues so we don't see the necessity of putting another monitor in. If there was going to be a dust issue then I think this network would be picking it up. Also, the Waikato Regional Council is quite content with the number of monitors we have in Waihi.

Tim said: Can I just flesh that out for a second? I think that question came from Brian and Glenis and others, suggesting that it might be useful to have baseline data for the changes that are being proposed. Is the company confident with what the monitors measure now and that they will show if changes occur?

Mark said: This network has been established for well over a decade so that's a great amount of baseline information, particularly as the pit isn't operating at the moment.

Glenis Gentil said: When was that data collected?

Mark said: The TSP, which is the suspended dust, is every week. Even during Covid we still put them in every week. The deposited dust is every month so that captures rainfall and settled dust. We've been doing this monitoring for decades.

Catherine Harker said: If the surface mining resumes you will get a big increase to readings you'd be getting now.

Mark said: We do try and minimise any dust and catch as much as possible when we are operational - with sprinklers, with water trucks and tar-sealing to reduce the dust.

Catherine said: That's a big pit.

Tim said: Let's note that question for later, "Will the proposed expansion create increased dust?"

Andrew Wharry said: That's not really correct what you said. You are operating in the pit.

Mark said: The stockpile on the bottom? Yes, correct, right at the bottom. True, that's right, the backfilling of the waste rock or the dumping of the waste rock. We have an air quality slide coming up with our results so that shows whether we're complying with our limits or not.

Brian Gentil said: I just want to understand where the old house is.

Mark said: Just down this road, down here.

Brian said: We've got Kenny Street with the courthouse, we've got Moresby Avenue but nothing up the main shopping centre, Seddon Street. Not from the bottom to the top which is what we discussed last time.

Donna Fisher said: The courthouse monitor is right behind the main street.

Mark said: That's the main shopping street there and there's the monitor. It's less than one block back.

Brian said: So, am I correct? There is nothing in the main shopping centre or tourist hub.

Mark said: There's nothing on Seddon Street.

Erich Schmidt said: When you operate the vent there in the pit, you change the weather pattern in the town.

Mark said: How so?

Erich said: With all the fog. Everywhere. You've got it everywhere. The whole hill is covered.

Mark said: The pit used to do that before we were venting in there because it would capture the warm air. You can see the vent emissions, it's like steam, warm air.

Mike Hayden said: Mark, you're testing just for dust? Not for exhaust fumes or anything like that?

Mark said: Yes, just total dust.

Mike said: Have you had any complaints from any of the shops in the CBD over dust coming through onto their tables or anything like that?

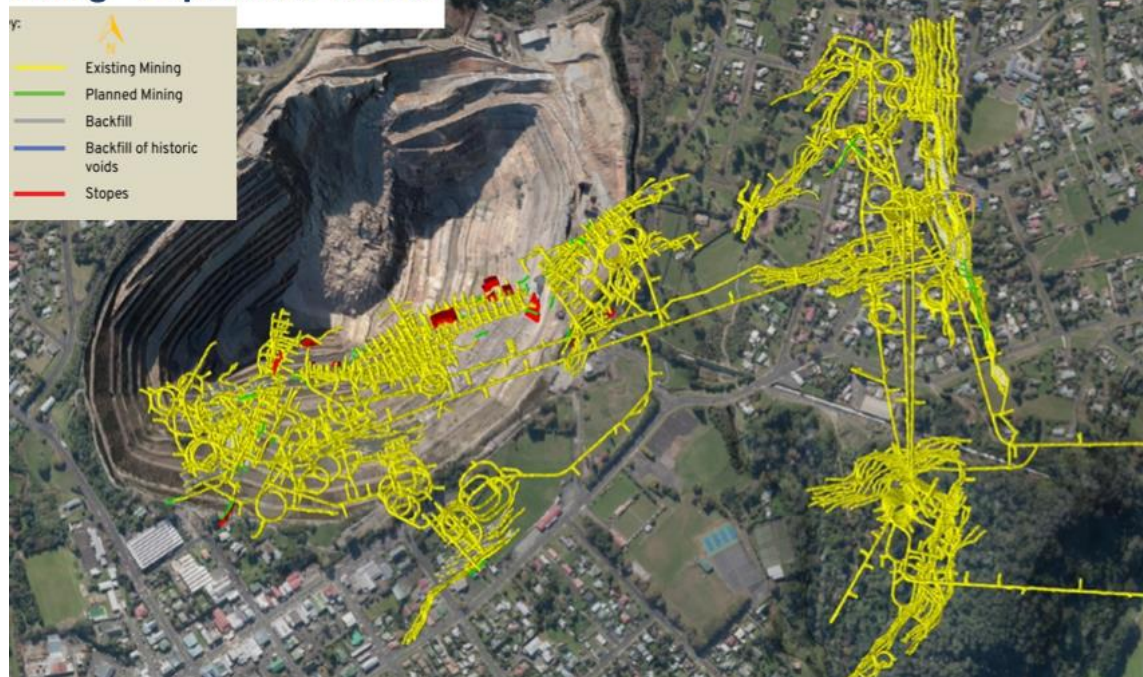
Donna said: No dust complaints.



Mark said: The other one is David Wellington was after the water quality results from the river so we provided him with those. So, that action point has been completed. We've had no high levels recorded in the river which we sample every week.

## Mining update

### Mining - September Works



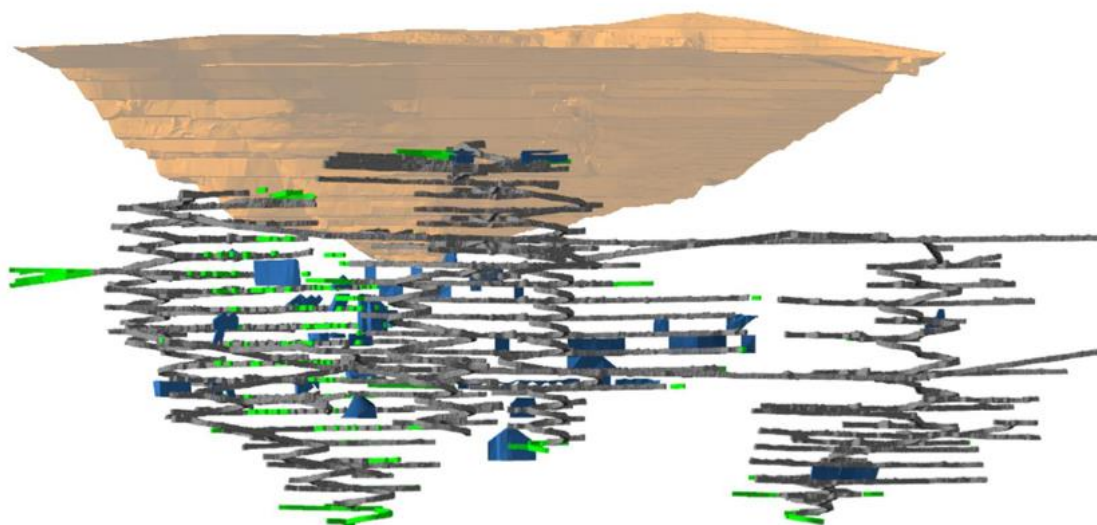
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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Dave Townsend said: Just a bit of a look at what we've been doing over the last 6 months. If you haven't seen this before, this is a plan view of the mine workings. This is the Trio mine which is finished, Correnso and then Martha Pit through here. Over the last 6 months, the majority of the work has been through this western end in Edward and through Empire West down through here and a little bit left up in Rex. So, we're still up in there. Up in Rex is mainly cut and fill, so just development drives over the top now, through here and the same works have been happening through Martha itself. The only difference really is some narrow vein mining which is development mining that we're doing back in Correnso to finish off back in there. This is essentially the same - drill and blast tunnelling - but smaller. So, these tunnels are typically 3m x 3m not 5m x 5m through there. That's kind of all we've been doing for the last 6 months. We just do the same stuff.

### Project Martha as of September 2024



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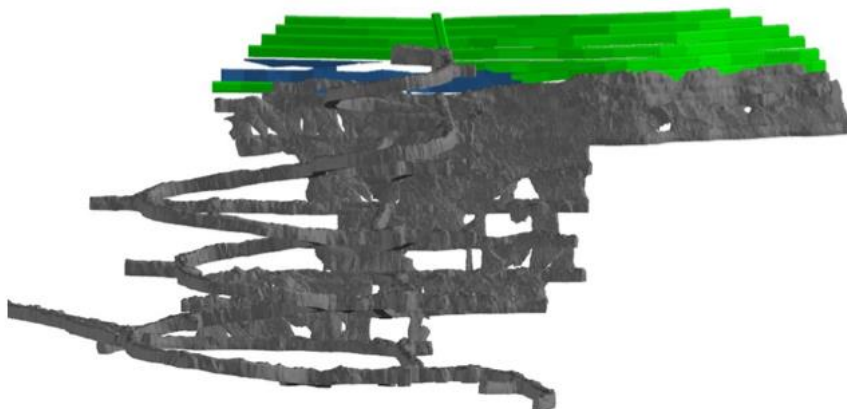
INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Dave said: Different view, so this is looking from south to north. The green areas are the tunnels and the blue is the filling that we're doing. Most of it is in Edward which is underneath this western side or through Empire West which is right in the middle of the mine. Essentially, it's the same development and stoping through those two.

## Project Rex

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



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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Glenis said: What is the grey?

Dave said: These are the ones we have mined. So, that's the pit as it is. The grey tunnels are the ones we have done.

Glenis said: So, they're not filled?

Dave said: Some of these are filled but we won't start filling these main accesses, until we're done as we retreat back out. Some of these, particularly these ones here, this is Royal East and that sits down in this area, underneath here. If you look at the side view on there, we put these tunnels in, we've taken this out and this is backfilled. So, if that helps people understand these pictures, we can do that, just to show the tunnelling and the major works that are happening in that reporting period. But, we do progressively backfill these tunnels as we come back out.

Tim said: Would it be helpful for you to use a third or a fourth colour in terms of the ones that you've finished with and backfilled?

Dave said: Yes, we could do that.

Catherine said: What does development mean?

Dave said: Development is making the tunnels and then production is when we take out the bits between the tunnels. Normally the ore, or the vein, is more or less vertical. We put tunnels in and stack them up, then we take out the bit between and then backfill that. We call that production or development stoping.

Brian said: What's the depth you're working at, at the moment?

Dave said: If the pit was full, that's about 1100RL. We're at about 600RL. We're about 500RL vertically, if the pit was full. We go down about another 60m or 70m odd for the total mine plan.

Brian said: So, most of the work you're currently doing is down the bottom?

Dave said: It's spread all over the place. If the pit was full, these bits are sort of 500 vertically and these bits are probably about 170m or 180m, depending on where you are. We mine all those areas, all at once. So, the vertical extent will be somewhere between those.

Brian said: So, the blasts we feel could be the ones at the bottom or they could be the ones at the top, or a mixture, because you put all the blasts together?

Dave said: Correct. Normally we will fire these ones and they won't register there because they are deep and because of where they are located out in this area where there are not a lot of residential houses. About 12 to 18 months ago we were up higher in this area. So, these residents and these monitors would have felt them. But because it moves so fast, it depends on where they are but yes ... at the moment there are about 80 odd different tunnels that we work at any one time so it does move around quite a lot.

Jane Murray said: With the green, you said that's where you're mining at the moment?

Dave said: Correct.

Jane said: Is that what's causing all the cracking up on the corner of Martha and Haszard Street on the footpath where it's opening up?

Dave said: The cracks that have been there for a while?

Jane said: Moresby and Martha. On the corner of the pit.

Dave said: No, our development won't be causing those. The modelling done when we did Martha will show that the pit will move over time and you will see cracks. The data we've looked at shows the rate they're moving and we do expect that to happen. When you create a hole in rock it will naturally try to close back up. The same thing happens with the pit. The pit will move over time. It will move this way, it will move that way, it will move this way, it will move that way, kind of move all around. It will move and those cracks might start at 2cm or 3cm and they move to 10cm. The geotechs modelled that before it happened. We supply them a plan of the mine, what we're going to do, the sequence and the rate. They put those in a computer model with all the other geology stuff and forecast what will happen. When we see changes, we ask whether they align with what the geotechs assumed. If they are different, or at a faster rate, then we have another look at what's happening. At the moment, they are moving. There are a couple of areas that move but they are within the expected tolerance of what we expect to happen.

Jane said: The cracks are actually a hazard really on Haszard Street. It's on the footpath. They're getting quite big. Somebody's marked them so I guess you can step over them. Are they going to get bigger?

Dave said: I don't know off the top of my head. I will have a look.

Tim said: What management processes are there around making sure that those aren't trip hazards?

Jane said: Yeah, or is it going to slip? Is it going to be a sinkhole?

Dave said: We understand the rock type, what type of rock this is. The geologists map the faults in the wall and piece it all together. We know that it's not going to suddenly just sink away into nothing. We know that. It's through all those data investigations, drill-holes and rock sampling that we know it's not going to suddenly give way.

Erich said: You want a bet? Can you guarantee this for the next 10 years?

Dave said: Well, we've modelled it and ... as much as we can guarantee anything, yes.

Terry King said: I think what he's saying is there's a large chunk of rock there and you're not going to fall into it. It would take 100 years to break up, or something like that. Is that the answer you want?

Erich said: No, I need a 100% guarantee.

Tim said: I'm back to Dave and saying, you're monitoring this and you're comparing it to what you expected?

Dave said: Correct.

Andrew said: Are the cracks caused by the mining like the drilling and blasting? What's going to happen with the damaged concrete? Is it going to be repaired?



Tim said: So, that's two issues:

- Concern that there is a trip hazard on the path and we need to make sure it is looked at and fixed.
- How do you know with confidence what's going to happen next (will it slip)?

Kyle said: I think there's an action there for us to have a look at our monitoring data. We've got monitoring points along there for settlement, so does HDC. They might be in a slightly different place but we need to get together and compare them and have a look at what's happening before we go into whose responsibility it is and why it's happened.

Tim said: Part of that is looking at what is happening to the footpath and part of that is the overall reliability of the monitoring.

**Post-meeting answer:**

*In response to the cracks at the top of Martha and Haszard Streets, settlement data was reviewed by an independent HDC geotechnical engineer and no concerns were raised. The independent engineer visited and inspected the Waihi site between 18 and 21 November for the annual review.*

Katherine Lucas said: Did you see cracks like that where that (on the North Wall) slip was? What was your indication that that slip was going to slip?

Dave said: We had lots of notice. These were known faults. Rock has got fractures through it, lines through it ... the North Wall was a fault coming this way and another fault coming this way. We knew it was there and we had monitoring behind the wall and knew that we had water behind it so we knew that was moving. Also, typically, big rocks like that won't give way like that, you'll see it moving over time. The monitoring of that wall is the same as the radar that sits on the North Wall now and constantly monitors the South Wall.

Catherine said: For those who have been in Waihi for a fair time, most of us were pretty surprised when a bunch of houses went down a hole. Was there any warning of that happening?

Kyle said: I believe it was the 2001 event that was linked to historic mining, not to our activity.

Catherine said: Does anyone keep an eye on the historic mining and these old things as to how safe they are for the townsfolk of Waihi?

Mayor Toby said: Council does. The council does a lot of monitoring.

Catherine said: That's good to know.

Mayor Toby said: We're always looking and making sure, on settlement and any indications of movement, particularly after that house went into the hole.

Kit Wilson said: I was here in 2001 when the house went into the hole and also when the slip happened in 2015. The 2015 one, we basically predicted when that slip would happen and our prediction was accurate to within 24 hours. We had the staff out of the pit for a year before that. We knew what was happening, we basically knew when it would happen, we knew what would fall and we were 24 hours out.

Back to 2001. The reason that happened was the old timbers left big stopes and they didn't backfill them and what happened was that the roofs of those caves fell and then became the floor and so over time that migrated to the surface until it was underneath the houses and all that was there was some weak andesite and clay and topsoil and the houses fell into the hole. Since then, as you're aware, the whole of Slevin Park has been essentially evacuated because there is the belief that it has the potential to happen in those areas again.

Catherine said: There is slumping almost continually each year somewhere. A big tomo will come through here or part of the sports grounds or whatever.

Kit said: A lot of that hasn't got anything to do with mining and I could explain that to you later if you like and add the details of that.

Catherine said: I'm a person that is resident in the area and the effects of mining on this area, to me, have increased and I'm just wondering whether one day they will stop.

Tim said: So, Catherine, is your concern about how carefully the company is monitoring so that sort of thing doesn't happen?



Kit said: The short answer is we still monitor.

Mayor Toby said: In 2001, I actually went in the house and pulled the kids out so that's how well I know that house. Regional council and local councils across New Zealand monitor land across the whole area, not just Waihi. We've got the Hauraki Plains which are sinking. We're always measuring land, taking photos and all sorts of stuff, just seeing where land is moving so we're aware of that. That happens all the time.

Glenis said: When does the narrative change from saying something that has happened was caused by historic mining to it was caused by something happening now? Everything that's happened so far has always been blamed on historic mining and it is very convenient to say that but the public doesn't have proof that that's the case.

Tim said: I'm going to put this on our discussion items list so that we can keep the flow with the presentation of the current situation but we will come back to it Glenis, thank you.

Andrew said: Dave, how far below the ground is the top of the Rex mine?

Dave said: Right now, it's about 120 I think, off the top of my head. This level is about 90m odd below.

Andrew said: So, the top of the Rex is about 90m below the ground?

Dave said: The planned top, yes. In the consent for Rex, we had a boundary through here where the council said we couldn't go over that boundary because we may affect the water on the top unless we did some extra studies. So, we've done those studies and essentially that top water table is already dewatered so we're not going to affect that. We're planning to go up here. We may not go this high if we can't manage the vibration. That's why this now is a slower mining method because it's got less impact of vibration. I can't do these big holes like I did down here because of the vibration.

Erich said: So, that means the council went against the consent conditions and gave you the opportunity to mine to 90m.

Kyle said: The conditions in the consent have provisions for us to come back (to them) and describe those studies that the council gave its approval on.

Erich said: Yeah, I know, I know. We have to realise this for the next election.

Kyle said: My point was just clarity that it wasn't a surprise thing. It was always within the consents that there'd be a provision for us to demonstrate with additional studies and come back and do this without negative effect.

Erich said: You can, yes.

Kyle said: And that's correct.

Andrew said: So, the original consent condition was 130?

Erich said: 120.

Dave said: No, it is different in different places. It was given by a geological boundary. There's two different rock types here - an andesite and then an ignimbrite. The ignimbrite lets water run through it a lot quicker than the andesite so it's a lot tighter and the water table doesn't run through it. The exact height through there, I'd have to have a look, but the council said until you have more knowledge of this, and we get more understanding and piezometer data, you can't go any closer than 40m. Once we've mined through there, we get more information and do more studies, we put extra piezos through here and extensometers so it measures how far this ground reacts. To look at whether we are affecting the surface from down here? There's a string of extensometers through here that measure that. Once you've got enough information there, you can get geotech engineers and hydrogeologists to study that and what we've done and if it is going to affect it. We can go back to the council and get their experts to see whether they agree and then we can change that. This particular one, you don't have a lot of information when you start mining and that's why the consent says you've got to stay well away from it until you have more information. The original consent was defined by a distance below the upper andesite layer.

Andrew said: So, the original consents from Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council aren't set in concrete, they're adjustable?

Dave said: Like any land use consent, you have to follow it unless you ask for a variation. This one was there but it says if we want to vary it, we have to come back and provide the evidence to do it.

Kyle said: Yes, there is a specific provision in that consent, everything that Dave just described, saying they need more information before they could grant us approval to do that. We can come back to them when we have that additional information.

Glenis said: Was that in the original application so that the public knew?

Kyle said: I don't know.

Erich said: 120m was the original. I was in the meeting. I was sitting there for 14 days. So 120m was original and then the council said, "Okay, you do this, do this and we approve this".

Tim said: Erich, do you know whether that provision was written into the consent as well?

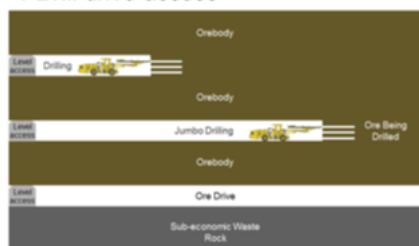
Erich said: I'm not absolutely sure, I can have a look.

Mark said: I believe it's something like 40m below the upper andesite layer. It's not actually 120m or 180m because the andesite is at different levels in different places.

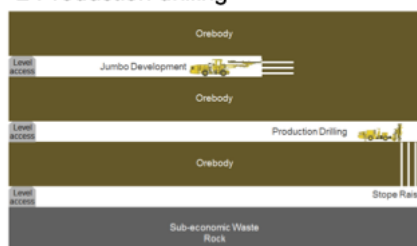
Dave said: The same provision saying "40m below" is in the Correnso consent as well.

## Modified Avoca Technique

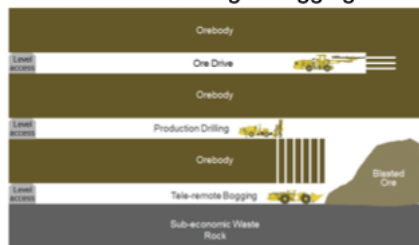
### 1 Drill drive access



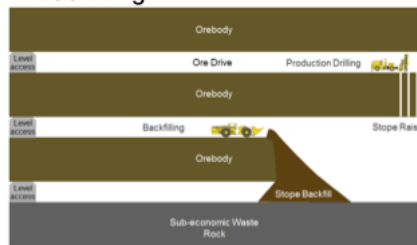
### 2 Production drilling



### 3 Production blasting & bogging

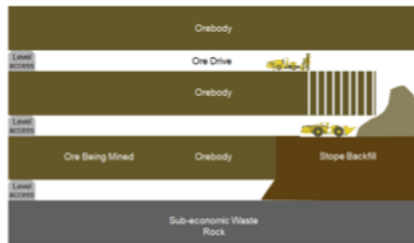


### 4 Backfilling

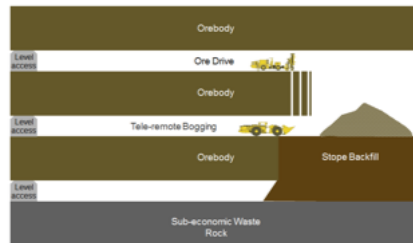


# Modified Avoca Technique

5 Blasting & bogging over backfill



6 Progressive blasting/bogging



7 Multi-level production/backfill



Dave said: These are the slides about the mining methods. I guess, to keep it moving, if people want to ask questions I can talk about it after and we can provide them.

Tim said: We pop these up each time, because they might be helpful to somebody who hasn't seen them before. Is it helpful for people to have a look at the way Oceana is mining at the moment and backfilling etc?

Terry said: Yeah it is, it's good for me. I've never been to one of these meetings before.

Tim said: Dave, would you like to provide a brief explanation then?

Dave said: Essentially, we mine quartz that's got gold in it. Normally it's somewhere between 1m and 3m wide, it's normally sub-vertical. We mine down next to it and then we mine across it. We follow the vein and go across it. We stack these tunnels up - that's called development. We stack them up typically anywhere ... so this distance is say 10m to 15m, we mine along to the end of the ore body, then we take out the gold between them, we drill holes between them, we put explosives in that and fire it then once we've got a hole we remove the ore out and then we backfill it with waste rock to fill the hole back up again. Because we mine bottom-up, we always fill the holes and work off (on top of) our own fill. Essentially, we mine along it, blow up the bits between, take the bit out between and then fill it back up with waste rock. So, you end up with this sort of retreating front as you come back through.

Tim said: The other bit that I found interesting was talking about these bidders that you use that are driving on top of the compacted stuff that you're backfilling on. So, is that driving backwards and forwards ...

Dave said: Yeah, it does compact a little bit and because we work on it and water does sit a little bit so yes there are still bits next to a solid rock where you end up with little voids between the solid rocks.

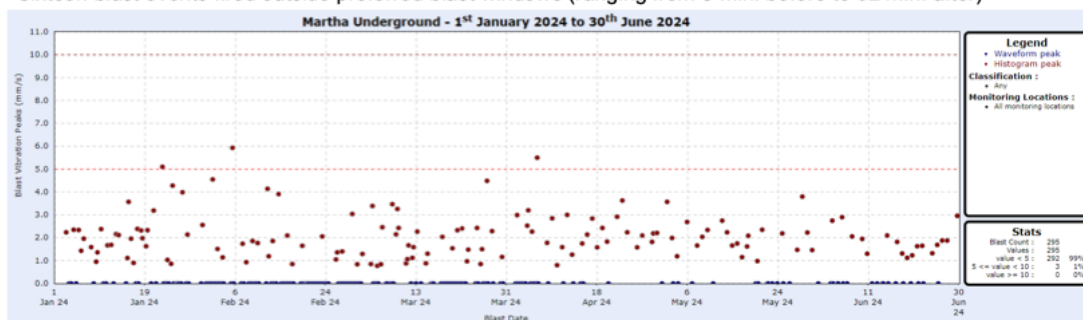
## Environment - Vibration

### Project Martha

- Rolling 6-month performance:
  - 95 percentile:
    - Development 2.75 mm/s (limit 5 mm/s)
    - Production: 3.27 mm/s (limit 5 mm/s)
  - Highest average (for individual monitors):
    - Development 0.89 mm/s (Pensioner Flats)
    - Production: 1.30 mm/s (Rex West)

Three high-level vibration events during H1 2024

Sixteen blast events fired outside preferred blast windows (ranging from 3 min. before to 92 min. after)



### Correnso

- No blasts in Correnso for H1 2024

Mark said: I have some of our key environmental monitoring data for the January to June 6-month period. This is how the vibration has been recording over the last 6 months. We had 3 high blasts through that period but under our consent conditions we have this rolling average. You can see for the developments, as Dave was saying the small tunnels, the 95 percentile is 2.75 and a limit of 5. For production, which are the bigger blasts, we've got the 95 percentile average at 3.2 and a limit of 5. So, we are compliant with the limits. We also have another condition about the highest results at an individual monitor, this is for development, the pensioner flats got the highest at .89 and the production at Rex West is 1.3.

Brian said: Which pensioner flats?

Mark said: Opposite the poppet head at the top of Seddon Street in the garden there but we just call it pensioner flats because it's near them. 16 of the blasts were outside the preferred blast window, ranging from 3 minutes before the preferred blast time to 92 minutes after. In the first half of the year, we didn't have any blasts in Correnso but we are now starting to do some small ones in there.

Glenis said: What happened with the 92 minutes after?

Dave said: Predominantly because of water. Some of our explosives will be put in the holes and if they're wet the emulsion will just disintegrate. They're in an area that we start charging or a machine breaks down and it becomes unsafe to send the guys in there later to do it because the ground underneath is not supported and there's only so long we want people standing on top of that and going up and down. Usually, most of those ones happen because a machine breaks down and it takes people time to get there and then we can't leave it to sit until the next blast window because we don't want people in those areas for that long.

Tim said: Do you know specifically about the one that was 92 minutes after? What was the reason?

Dave said: No, I don't know. We could go back and have a look if that was helpful to do so.

### Post-meeting answer:

*It was a stope blast in Empire West on 9 level. The blast was late due to machine failure and for safety reasons we don't let the shot sleep overnight.*

Tim said: Erich, would you like to know what the particular reason was for that 92 minute one?

Erich said: I got a list, a log by content, this doesn't give me anything about 92 minutes.

Tim said: Erich, my question was - do you want to know why that 92 minute one was late?



Erich said: Yes.

Glenis said: Is a 92 minute delay allowed by the consent?

Mark said: Yes, because the consent doesn't define that we must blast between those windows. We just aim to blast between those windows.

Erich said: Yeah, and then you have to ask the council for permission to do a late blast.

Mark said: No. We notify them because we don't mean to do that. We notify people in the community too.

Donna said: Yes, that's right, we do. If the blast is going to be delayed and you're on the list for a notification, I will notify you that it's late.

Mark said: It's not a non-compliance of our consent conditions for us to be outside (the blast times).

Donna said: It's best endeavour to blast between that blast window.

Tim said: Meaning you also need to do so safely. It is a balancing act for Oceana.

## Social and community

### Amenity Effects Programme (AEP)

## Amenity Effects Programme (AEP) Payments

For the January – June 2024 payment period, 155 properties qualified for an AEP payment.

These payments totalled \$102,130.67

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

Since 2007 there have been 9334 payments made, totalling \$5,977,018.50

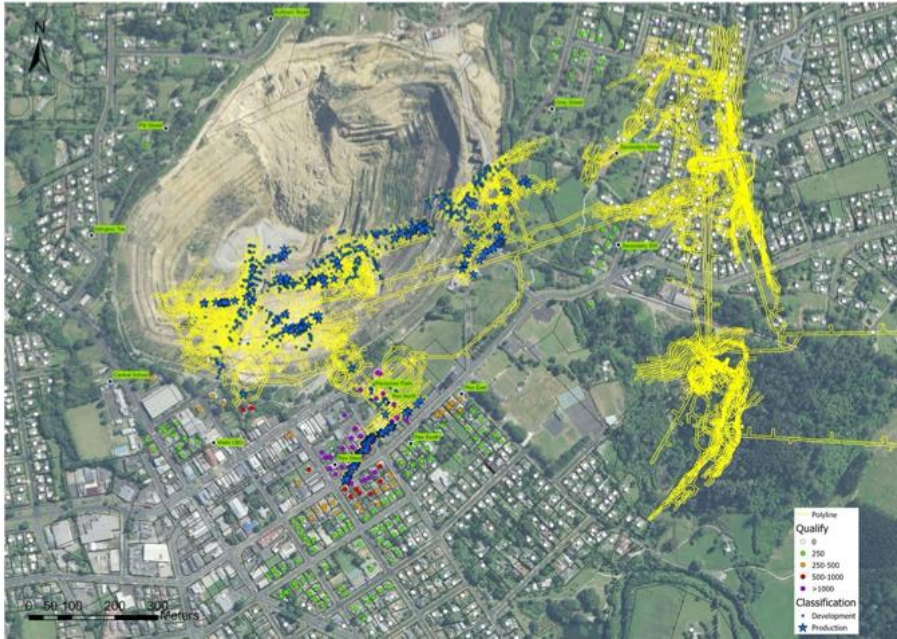
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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

OCEANA GOLD

Kyle said: The amenity affects programme is an initiative and even though our consent conditions for blast vibration were designed and intended to be protective of amenity, this is a recognition that from time to time, with the blast vibration, sometimes peoples' amenity is impacted. It's calculated on the preceding 6 months and it's a payment to residents. For your property to qualify, you have to have lived in it for 6 months and the property has to have experienced vibration events over 1.5mm/second twice in a single month. It's punched into an algorithm, calculated and on the next image I'll show you the dots that indicate the payments for the last 6 months. 155 properties qualified for a total of \$102,130. They were generally all in the Project Martha area which is consistent with where the blasting was taking place and that's the rolling average of how much has been paid out since the initiative was commenced.

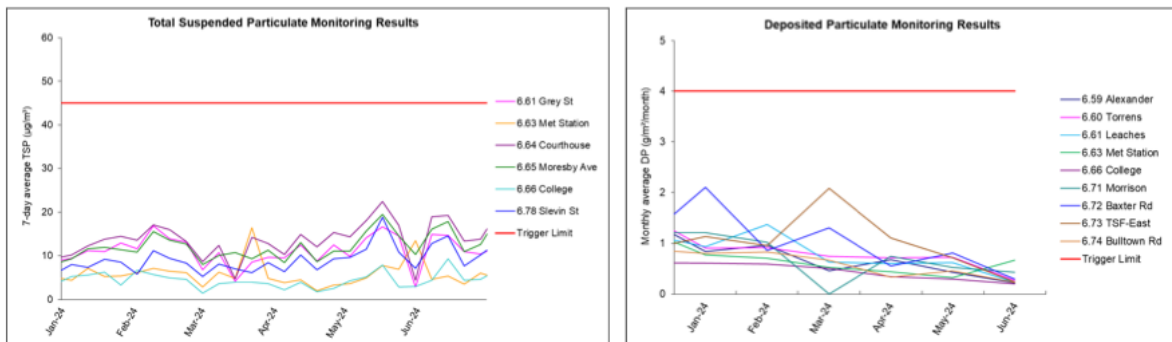
# H1 2024 AEP



Kyle said: As Dave and Mark have described, most of our blasting is happening in here under Martha and in the Rex area. As you would expect it's consistent with all of the coloured dots which are the properties that ended up receiving AEP payments and (pointing to the slide) a couple up there as well. Vibration is a little bit like throwing a rock in a pond. The vibration travels out like the ripples from the rock and that's why you see the payment sums fade as they move further and further away from the blast event.

## Air quality

### Air Quality Results



	Total suspended particulate	Deposited particulate
Sample period	7-day average	30-day average
Unit of measure	µg/m³	g/m²/month
OGNZL trigger level	45	4

Mark said: These are the air quality results for the 6-month period. The red lines are our compliance limits. For suspended dust, which we monitor every week, these are the results from our monitors. These are all around Martha Pit. For deposited dust, these ones are around Martha Pit and the development site as well. You can see from our monitoring that they've been compliant, those are the limits (on the table) 45 and 4 for this one.

# Air Quality

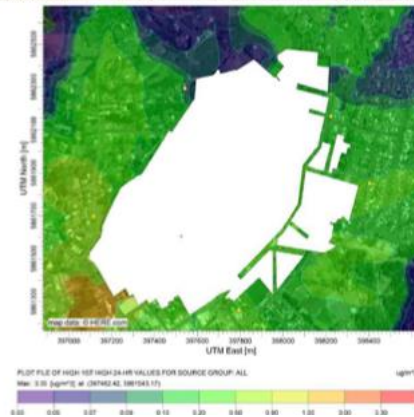
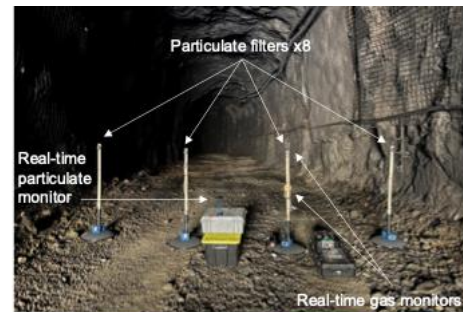
## Martha Pit Ventilation Discharge

Emission testing of the Martha Pit ventilation exhaust was undertaken by consultants in Mar 2024.

- Particulate matter, carbon monoxide, oxides of nitrogen and silica were measured.

Emission rates from the testing were used to model the dispersion of contaminants.

- Off-site concentrations of all assessed contaminants are low when compared to the relevant criteria
- A summary of the report's findings and link to the full document were published in the HC Post and online on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July.



INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Mark said: Back in March we did some air quality monitoring of the Martha vent. That's the peak portal down at the bottom of Martha Pit and these are some of the particulate monitors that we engaged some consultants to install down there. We put in 8 of these monitors. A full report on this is available on the HD Post and it is available online, it's on our website as well. They monitored for an entire day and there were 3 blasts during that day so they were monitoring for particulate matter which is something you might get from the diesel engines of the vehicles underground, carbon monoxide and oxides of nitrogen which you might get from blasting explosives and we also monitored for silica which obviously you might get in the quartz rock that we have at Martha. They measured what was coming out of here and then modelled what it would be like in Waihi. All these different types of emissions were below background levels when they did the monitoring in Waihi. It all came out really well but if you want to see the full report with all the findings it is online. It was also reviewed by Waikato Regional Council who gave it to their technical expert and they also agreed with the conclusions that the consultants have reached.

Catherine said: Just a general enquiry, being an ex-schoolteacher, I've always felt very concerned about the behaviours in the pit as opposed to poor old Central School right there. As the pit expands, are people watching? I've heard all sorts of stories like "Central School is going to shift" and all this sort of stuff. But, I fear for long-term exposure, little bits over a long period of time and the children's developing brains and lungs.

Tim said: Catherine, are you talking about the air discharge potentially affecting the kids at the school?

Catherine said: Basically, yes. When you're open-cast mining, it seems there is very little you can do to control a lot of the particulate matter and all that sort of stuff. I accept I am not a geologist, or else I'd be earning a much bigger wage, probably through you.

Mark said: They measured the actual levels and they had predicted background levels from all the national reporting that is done through NIWA and everything else across New Zealand.

Tim said: How does that compare with what's considered to be safe?

Mark said: Waihi has very good air quality and all the levels were well compliant with the Work Exposure standards. We also monitor all of our staff as well.

Catherine said: That sort of answers it but it doesn't mean I trust it to be honest. I think business will prevail. When they want to do something there's always a way of talking their way around a corner and making it look like a gentle bend.

Tim said: Mark, you said you monitor it for your staff too. How does that work?

Mark said: For quartz levels and other emissions there is health monitoring of our staff who are underground and exposed to dust. We do a lot of health monitoring because we don't want our employees to become ill.

They are right down there in it. They have sensors and they wear these little monitors that run all day while they're working to ensure they're not exposed to high levels of contaminants or dust. They're down there for 12-hour shifts. That's part of our mandatory monitoring.

Catherine said: Some of these effects on bodies, and silica is a great example, don't show up for years. Sometimes people don't know they're developing a problem.

Tim said: I think Mark is saying the silica itself does show up and that is what they are monitoring.

Mike said: To help answer Catherine's question, I taught at what was then the South School, now the Central School, for well over 20 years. I retired 20 years ago. My lungs are fine. When I was teaching there, they were actually taking the top off the hill so dust was certainly a major, more towards the east end of Waihi rather than here. It hasn't affected me, as far as I know, whatsoever. So, that may ease your concern a bit.

Glenis said: You talked about the readings as "predicted" for the bottom one. So, it's not actual readings?

Mark said: That was in Waihi. Those little yellow dots are where they predicted what the levels are. They haven't gone out and measured every spot. These readings they have done were actual readings and they were really low. The (natural) background levels are higher and they have predicted the levels from the vent will be less.

Glenis said: Because they are from right inside so I guess it depends how far it spreads.

Mark said: Then they looked at topography and wind patterns and things like that to see where there would be concentration. We have a met station and they take those readings too - that's how they do it.

Glenis said: I had a bit of a look at the report and to be honest I got confused with it because it had things like silica and there was nothing you could compare it to. It talked about Water Care in 2014 and then there was a Newmont report and a 60-something page report and over 20 pages of it were from 2007 from Newmont Waihi Gold. It's very confusing to actually understand the air quality.

Tim said: Let's note that to come back to in the discussion section later in the meeting

Mark said: In summary, the testing was done, there were low levels, the air quality is good and compliant with Work Exposure standards.

Brian said: Where do you find silica? Do you find it in the top 2m, 20m, 50m, 60m?

Dave said: It's in the quartz, we mine the quartz veins everywhere, silica is basically quartz smashed very fine.

Brian said: Mike mentioned that he was here when they were skimming the top so there'd be no silica in that skimmed top anyway.

Dave said: Very little. The veins of Martha did daylight in the pit so there would have been small amounts. You normally get the silica when you blast and grind it very fine.

Brian said: So, would you expect to see more of that now than you would skimming the top?

Tim said: Let's discuss later in the meeting as agreed.



## Water Quality Results

### Surface Water Quality H1 2024:

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

Table 2: Receiving Water Quality Standards

Parameter ( $\text{g/m}^3$ unless stated)	Receiving Water Concentration <sup>(1)</sup> Hardness 20 $\text{g/m}^3$ $\text{CaCO}_3$	Hardness 100 $\text{g/m}^3$ $\text{CaCO}_3$
pH	6.5 to 9.0	6.5 to 9.0
Cyanide ( $\text{CN}^{2-}$ ) <sup>(2)</sup>	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 <sup>(3)</sup>	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	0.00012	0.00012
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."



Mark said: A brief summary of our water quality monitoring results. We sample the Ohinemuri River and the Ruahorihori weekly and then monitor these sites on a monthly basis. We have taken 124 surface water quality samples during that period. This table shows our limits that we have in our consent with Waikato Regional Council. We've had 4 low pH results but it's this site over here which is considered our control site. When that small ... it's like a creek and when it's got low flows in it the pH tends to drop down. When I say low, the limit here is 6.5, this is going 6.1 and 6.2 so it's just outside of that. We do not believe that that is mining related over here. Just a little bit on the biomonitoring. Two surveys are conducted every year. They come and do aquatic biomonitoring in the Ohinemuri and also some control sites way up here too and two reports are sent to Waikato Regional Council each year. Those are the general conclusions, that we're compliant with the conditions of our permit. So, the river is in good shape. They also assess all of our water quality monitoring and our results to make sure that it is complaint so that is essentially a third party audit by regional council.

Andrew said: Do you only test the river twice a year?

Mark said: For the biomonitoring, which is 3 days of surveying where they're looking at fish, plants and sediments and they look at our water quality results as well. That's actual in-river surveying but we take water quality samples every week.

Catherine said: They are probably going to be doing that a little more now because of our river turning orange, which had nothing to do with Oceana Gold, but I read the final Waikato Regional Council report on that and all sorts of nasties were found there and they ended up in this article saying that it will have to be watched for any effect on the aquatic creatures because some of these things have a long-term effect.

Mayor Toby said: The result of the testing showed iron with traces of arsenic. The arsenic is natural in the ground water so it's not artificial arsenic from something else.

Erich said: It's from the mining. It's in the article. No-one gives us a decent answer.

Kit said: I can give you a decent answer but not now. If we add it to the list I can explain it.

### Post-meeting answer:

Below is how we (Oceana) understand the situation; however, for further clarification, it may be best to contact Waikato Regional Council directly.

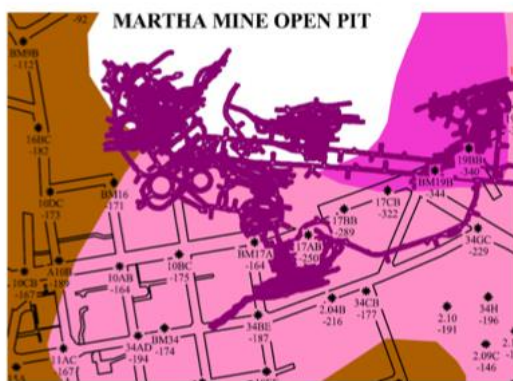
- According to Waikato Regional Council (WRC), the discharge into the Nohopane Stream, and subsequently the Ohinemuri River, occurred at the entrance to Comstock Low Level Drive in the Karangahake Gorge after the collapse of a natural dam at the entrance to the tunnel.
- The Comstock Low Level Drive in the Karangahake Gorge was mined between 1896 and the early 1900s as an exploratory mine.

- WRC noted that the 'tideline' inside the drive indicated sediment had built up to nearly a metre in depth, and over time, the entrance had become overgrown and covered with branches, and eventually, the weight of the sediment caused the natural barrier to breach.
- WRC's initial testing found elevated arsenic levels in the river, but these were within acceptable guidelines for drinking water and ecological protection. No cyanide was detected. The tests also revealed elevated copper and zinc levels, but WRC indicated that these levels were consistent with what would be expected in urban stormwater.

## Dewatering and settlement

### Dewatering & Settlement

- Overall, groundwater levels have decreased due to reduced rainfall (624mm in H1 2024 cf. 968mm in H2 2023)
- Waihi township piezometers have been stable
- Settlement monitoring – May 2024 settlement survey showed no new tilts



MINING GOLD FOR A BETTER FUTURE

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Mark said: When we're mining, we're drawing water from underground so that people can work there and it doesn't fill with water. We have a network of piezometers all around Waihi and we read over 100 different water levels. We read those every month to ensure that the water level is nice and stable and that dewatering is not having any impact. We also have this settlement mark network ... we're here at the moment. These marks get read every 6 months by the surveyors. The 6-month settlement survey was conducted in May and we didn't find any new tilts, which means unevenness. We do expect settlement but we don't want any uneven settlement which causes tilting and movement.

Brian said: Are the dots the piezometers?

Mark said: These are the settlement marks and these are the piezometers over here.

Brian said: Are there any piezometers up Seddon Street?

Mark said: Very close - there's one actually at the brick house where the vibration monitor is, so there is a piezo there and there's one just down by the Gold Discovery Centre near the church in that little carpark.

Brian said: So, nothing down the main street?

Tim said: Mark, when you are talking about the settlement markers, that's the measurement that Mayor Toby was talking about in terms of that being monitored for ground movement, is that fed back to the council and the council team are looking at that?

Mark said: Yes, all this information gets sent to Hauraki District Council every 6 months, we have got to report on it. There have been no concerns identified from those marks.

Catherine said: Seeing as we've got our lovely Mayor Toby here, we might be able to get an explanation of these sudden eruptions of water we've had happening like the one by the Fresh Choice, by the college here and all that sort of thing. Is it just that everything is getting older bit by bit, all the things underneath and this is starting to become a problem?

Mayor Toby said: We need to understand that this is a New Zealand (wide) problem. Most of the infrastructure is from maybe 90 years ago and it's got to the point where it's ...

Erich said: No maintenance.

Mayor Toby said: No, it's not that it's no maintenance. They have a lifespan of 80 years but they're at the end of their lifespan. Now we're in a programme of replacing that stuff but we have had some where we've replaced the pipes with new plastic-welded type pipes and the welds have broken on a few of those. We go back to the company that installed those and get them re-welded.

Catherine said: Some of these problems have been quite long-lasting and I always wondered if there was a connection between the use of water by the mine. Does it have anything to do with the mine?

Mayor Toby said: No, we can have a water break anywhere in the district, whether it be Patetonga out on the plains in Paeroa.

Donna said: They had no water last night.

Mayor Toby said: It's just the age of the infrastructure.

Tim said: Thank you, good to get that clarity.

## Community - Notification of Blasts

The latest blast times and locations are available daily on our website: [www.waihigold.co.nz](http://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: There's lots of talk already about our blast windows and those times are between 7am and 8am, 7pm and 8pm and 1.30pm and 2.30pm. We make our best endeavours to let blasts off during those times. At the outset of Correnso, there was some discussion around peoples' fears of a blast going off and not having warning of it. We still offer the coasters which are blast notification devices that sing a little tune 10 or 15 seconds before the blasts go off to give you a warning that it's coming. If you'd like one of those, please touch base with Donna or anyone in the team who can make sure you get one.

Erich said: Got one before, didn't work.

Donna said: Get another one then, Erich.

Erich said: Nah.

Kyle said: The other thing we do is every morning Donna and Jeannine will flick a text to anyone who wants one, giving them forewarning of where the blast is, generally speaking, and how deep.

Tim said: So, that's kind of a heads-up? What does the text say?

Donna said: It just says, "Good morning, today we are blasting in Martha North ...", or Rex or wherever the location is, at whatever depth it is, "... between 1.30pm and 2.30pm" and then, "Have a nice day, Donna".

Erich said: Yeah, only sometimes you say blast at Martha North and you don't blast.

Donna said: Sometimes we don't blast until the end of shift if there's a problem but if that's the case, if I know about it, I let people know.

Erich said: Yeah, I know, I will give you this list, you can fix it again.

Donna said: That's fine, you can give it to me at the end of the meeting.

## Complaints & concerns

### Complaints & Concerns – January – June 2024

<b>Martha</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Period</b>
	Property	1	January
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>Project Martha</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Period</b>
	Vibration	18	January - May
	Felt & Heard	1	April
	Noise from Blasting	1	April
	Property	2	May
<b>Correnso</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Period</b>
	Staff Behaviour	2	January - April
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Proposed Projects</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Period</b>
	Noise	12	March – April
	Property	1	January
<b>Concerns</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Period</b>
	Property	3	April - June
	Vibration	3	January - March
	Felt & Heard	1	June
	Noise	1	January
	<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	

INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Donna said: These are the complaints and concerns that we received from the community for the January to June period. We report these to HDC and the Waikato Regional Council 6-monthly and this is the list of complaints for that period that has gone to them now:

- For the open pit we had one property complaint and that was because somebody had ... there's been a lot of unregistered dogs running around the pit, so it was nothing to do with mining as such, and a lot of dog faeces and there was a lock broken on the gate. We can't do much about roaming dogs, that's really a dog control problem. If anybody does see roaming dogs on the pit rim please report it to council and they will act on that. The dog faeces, well we can do something about that. I did let the guys know who do maintenance around the pit that it was there and if they see it they will get rid of it but most people are pretty responsible these days carrying their little doo-doo bags.
- For Project Martha we had 18 vibration complaints which is people ringing to say they felt the blast. "Felt and heard" is a category where people can feel and hear the blast go off and we had one complaint for Project Martha. For just hearing the blast and not feeling it, we had one complaint and that's classed as a noise from blasting.
- We had two property complaints for Project Martha. These were mine related but were not complaints about mining operations.
- For Correnso we had two staff behaviour complaints and that was noisy parties at company rentals. These were passed on to the property manager who acted on them.
- For the proposed projects, like Waihi North Project and the Martha Mineral Zone, we had one person who didn't like the idea of the Martha Mineral Zone so they rang up to voice their concern about that.



- We had 12 noise complaints which were mainly from helicopter activity going out to Wharekirauponga which annoys people, which is fair enough.
- “Concerns” on this list are calls that people make where they don't want it logged as a complaint, they just want to register their concern. I do log those and let the councils know about them. We had three property complaints, two of those were property damage. We get a building surveyor from Tauranga come over and I know a couple of people in the room have had those reports done. He comes and inspects to see the damage that people are concerned about and he will give them a report of his findings. They were both deemed not to be mining-related. One of those property concerns was a tenant from a Housing Corporation house way over out of the mining area so I recommended that she contact Housing Corp and if they had the same concern to see the owner of the property so they could contact me and I would look into it. I never heard from Housing Corp about that.

That's our complaints and concerns for the last 6 months.

Jane said: I hear it every day, if not twice a day or more. I don't bother ringing up and complaining every day.

Donna said: No, but some people want to. Some people think, "Oh that was the blast" like probably you do but if you rang then I would log that as a complaint or a concern.

Tim said: Fantastic, thank you Donna. Kyle, up to you.

### Update on Other Projects (Waihi North and Martha Mineral Zone plan change)

## The Waihi North Project Update

- We are continuing to progress the technical studies supporting our application for the Waihi North Project. A full consent documentation package was provided to both Hauraki District and Waikato Regional councils for their consideration and review in June 2022.
- This application was accepted as complete, and a Request for Information was subsequently received. This includes questions around the geochemistry, ecological assessments, and groundwater impacts of the project.
- While the consent process continues, we have prepared a series of summary Fact Sheets about the project. Members of the public are also invited to call in to the Company's Project Office at 86 Seddon Street in Waihi.

**FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE WAIHI NORTH PROJECT MAY BE FOUND AT [www.waihinorth.info](http://www.waihinorth.info)**



INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Kyle said: Whilst the focus of the meeting is on Project Martha and the Martha Underground and Correnso, it's a good opportunity to provide a general update on the other two projects which currently are the Waihi North Project and the Martha Mineral Zone plan change.

The plan change is essentially a prerequisite should we want to expand the Martha Pit. Unfortunately, I don't have a lot of information to share. We announced the Waihi North Project in 2021 and it evolved out of what was initially Project Quattro. We pulled the pit out and put the ore body of Wharekirauponga in and then the supporting infrastructure of the tailings storage facility and the rock stack in the base of the pit all came in under that package.

We lodged it with the council and a year later the council said, "Your application is complete" but with large projects like this it's not uncommon for them to come and ask us more questions. These are generally called "requests for further information" (RFI) and since that time we've been working really hard to respond to those RFI's but we haven't got there yet. Until we answer those, council processing of the application is on hold.

Glenis said: Something came up in my emails the other day saying that you applied on 17 June 2024 basically for exploration of the rest of Waihi. What's the story with that? Is it to do with Waihi North? Because that basically goes right out to more or less the boundary.

Kyle said: We have a mining permit at Wharekurauponga, we've got a corridor of a mining permit that comes back to Waihi and we've got a mining permit that's called Favona which is generally over the Correnso and Project Martha area. There was an opportunity to apply for an exploration permit to the left of the corridor and we have applied for that.

Glenis said: Is that Rua Gold?

Kyle said: Rua Gold and Oceana Gold are two separate and distinct companies. We're not related. This is us (Oceana) applying for an exploration permit.

Glenis said: You need to clarify that actually goes over the rest of the town, over the residential area as well.

Kyle said: It's worth having a look on the New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals website which has those maps and have a look. You're right, it does come down to here (pointing to an aerial photo on a slide) and picks up some residential land here. Remembering that this is an exploration permit. There are lots of steps. The exploration permit is step one and this gives us the ability to explore, subject to getting all of the other approvals we need to do that, such as resource consents, access arrangements if it's not our land and so on and so forth. Then we would need to apply for a mining permit should we find something that we can demonstrate is worth having a look at and pursuing for a mine. Once we get a mining permit then all the other stuff happens which is what we're going through now, such as resource consenting and other approvals processes. It's a big stretch between us seeking an exploration permit and a mine being developed.

***Post-meeting answer:***

*Link to NZPAM Permit Maps website:*

*<https://data.nzpam.govt.nz/permitwebmaps/?commodity=minerals>*

Catherine said: So, no mining is happening at Wharekurauponga? How far away would you think that is?

Kyle said: That's a great question. I don't know. What I can tell you is that if we did get a resource consent, let's say tomorrow, a totally hypothetical and imaginary number from the current schedule says it's going to take us roughly 6 years to develop everything that we need to be here and get to the ore body. That's 6 years of development before we could start.

Catherine said: A lot of us are getting very scared by this fast-tracking, "this can be decided here", "this can get fast track consents", "no, we are only exploring now" and all the hundreds of stories in the last few years.

Tim said: I'm listening to what you are saying Catherine and wonder if it might be useful for us to look at the steps involved in the process, not tonight but is that one of the updates?

Kyle said: I'll just say this, I think Oceana ...

Mayor Toby said: I can provide an update at the end on all that. I work closely with the Ministry for the Environment RMA reform programme. As an example, when the government last used fast-track it was during Covid. They had a fast-track consent approval process for a wind farm in the Waikato District, Ngaruawahia/Huntley, that type of area. Even though it got fast-tracked it still had to go through a process. It's just been turned down because of bats so it can't go ahead. Fast-track doesn't necessarily mean it's a "go". They still have to go through a process.

Catherine said: My concern is I don't know if I can ever be talked out of this. I try to listen to sense, but this is environmentally a problem. I really don't get how we can say, "Oh no we're only boring underneath it and that will not disturb Wharekurauponga". I read all the stuff just recently about Rua Gold and it was quite a lot you know, how it's being marketed over the sharemarket and everything and how New Zealand has a very pro-mining stance at the moment.

Kit said: Could I just clarify that, seeing as Rua has been mentioned a number of times? Firstly, there's quite a bit of conversation on social media about Rua Gold and them being a subsidiary of Oceana Gold. They are not. I think what's happening is there are Rua Gold people in the bush and they are wearing high-vis which looks very much like ours.

Donna said: And their logo looks very similar to ours doesn't it?

Kit said: Yes, they are not us and they are not associated with us.

Catherine said: I believe that but then when you look at the map they are quite a big concern in Reefton. They are not a little tin-pot mining company. They are Canadian so New Zealand will get the little pittances from it but they've got high plans, absolutely high plans, to keep going as far as they can under our very pro-mining government.

Katherine said: When you say that an opportunity came up that you could apply for that, why did that come up now? Why couldn't you do it before?

Kyle said: I don't know, I'd have to look into it and provide an answer:

***Post-meeting answer:***

*We think this is in reference to the Mataura Permit (61170.01)? In short, this was a vacant permit space alongside our tunnel corridor for the Waihi North Project (WNP) so we picked it up. We have held portions of the same area previously.*

Glenis said: Oceana Gold is on the list of people or businesses that have applied for the fast-track. What does that mean for residents of Waihi when it comes to resource consenting processes? Do the people have no say because it just goes through?

Kyle said: At this point in time, we know about as much as you do. We're obviously very interested in what fast-track is and what it's all about. The reason for that, I think, is because currently as the bill is proposed it assesses the project under multiple acts at one time where previously we had to go to DoC to apply for this and Heritage New Zealand to apply for this and Hauraki District Council or Waikato Regional Council to apply for this. The attractiveness for us is that we can assess all of that in one package which hopefully streamlines the process. We, like many other companies, put our project forward in May or earlier this year. We're one that we think might be suitable for fast-track. The whole fast-track bill is going through the Select Committee at the moment. Whatever it pops out looking like, I don't know. It's a moving feast and we are very keen to find out ourselves.

Catherine said: It makes it hard for us to know what to complain or show concern about because everything is moving so fast and we don't know that (we should complain) now but we decide we should have later, you know?

Kyle said: To Toby's point, there will be a subsequent approval process and we will have to apply. We have to physically put in a new application for the Waihi North Project which will be assessed. They look at all of our effects assessments and consultation undertaken and all the rest to inform their decision-making. At the moment, it's just something that's going through a process.

Catherine said: Will they go back to the consenting process where we've put in submissions already to see what was said or is that old business?

Mayor Toby said: This is central government and it has got nothing to do with council. This is central government and the current government that's in now. Originally, it was going to be three ministers who could sign off what they had approved and it over-arched the legal requirements. That's gone through Select Committee and now the three ministers are not part of that. There's still a process in place and they're working on the legislation as to what it looks like. It's still got to give effect to certain criteria. It's just trying to take that process up where it's not going through a council and holding up the economic wellbeing of New Zealanders. That is what the government is saying.

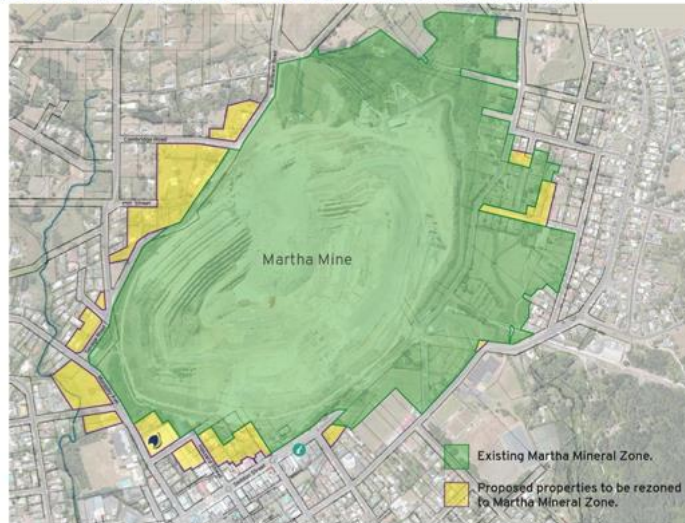
Glenis said: About this exploration licence which takes up basically the rest of Waihi, I had someone come and knock on our door a few months ago and they said they were really concerned because they had been told that Waihi Central School is going to be moved as that subject was broached some years ago. They said they'd been told from very good sources, both from the school, that basically an agreement was being negotiated where the school potentially may be moving because there is gold that the mine wants so potentially with that application there as well that would take in that area too. Is that on the cards?



# 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.

- HDC's public notification of our Proposed Plan Change occurred on 15 February with the submission period running until 28 March 2024. In total 78 submissions were received.
- Council staff and experts are now working to assess what is being proposed by OceanaGold in light of the matters raised in submissions and further submissions.
- A Planning Report will be prepared in the coming months with the aim of holding a hearing in November/December.
- Any mining activity is controlled by the Resource Management Act and resource consents would still need to be sought should the plan change be approved.



INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Kyle said: Thanks Glenis, to answer your question our slide on the Martha Mineral Zone covers that. The Martha Mineral Zone is a private land change request that Oceana put to the council. It's a plan that has been in place since something like 2021. We've been talking about it since then, the application went in a little bit later and it was finally publicly notified in February this year. The plan change is about expanding the green area (slide above) which is the Martha Mineral Zone, the area where surface mining can currently occur subject to us getting resource consents. We are applying to extend the Martha Mineral Zone to include those new yellow areas. They're all Oceana Gold owned properties. The reason for that is if we ever want to get a larger pit consented, currently we'd be prohibited to even apply for a consent if the activity was outside of those zones. That went through the submissions process. I think there were 78 submissions. Council is now preparing its planning report in light of those submissions which we expect to see some time in November/December of this year and then there will be a decision after that. The zone change is a prerequisite before we can apply for a resource consent for the Martha Open Pit. However, at present all of our effort and resources are concentrated on the Waihi North Project. While there will be some preliminary decisions made around what the Martha Open Pit looks like, we have to do more engineering, resource consenting and studies before we can even apply for anything.

To answer your question Glenis, none of the discussions I am, or have been, involved in in the past involve moving the school or mining out the school. Hand on heart, I can say that's not something I've been part of. I'm sure others in the room would say the same.

Catherine said: I remember when Newmont went through this, all of a sudden there was talk about moving the doctor, the dentist and that whole thing down ...

## Discussion items – part 2 of meeting

### Q: Dave Wellington's attendance

Glenis said: Why was Dave Wellington trespassed?

Kyle said: Dave's going through a legal process now. As part of that process, he was trespassed from several properties including a number of Oceana Gold properties. Because that is before the courts, it probably wouldn't be appropriate for me to comment beyond that, so I won't.

Catherine said: Could I comment on that? Because Dave has given me consent to do that. I've known Dave for a long time. He can look like a woolly bushman. He's very intelligent and he's very passionate about conservation and mining near and under conservation land. Yes, he did go past the offices and go "f off" and this sort of thing but they're words for God's sake, sticks and stones may break our bones but ... then they got on about his stick. Well, he does have gout and he carries a stick although he's too scared to now. He carries his stick because when his gout's playing up it can be helpful and he loves doing a lot of walking. But, the one



thing I do know about David is that he is not violent. I went to the interview he had with the Police because I said, "Do you want some support?" ...

Tim said: Pause there, Catherine. This is stuff that should not be talked about in this context, for Dave's benefit. What the mining company has said is that because it is before the court ...

Kyle said: I will just say one more thing. Those legal proceedings are not between David and Oceana Gold. It's not between us as Oceana Gold and David. It's between him and individuals. Some of those individuals work for us, yes, and we might be supporting them through the process but the legal process is nothing to do with David and Oceana Gold.

Catherine said: I'm not going to controvert it anymore but a lot of the stuff that has come up is absolute bullshit.

Tim said: We are talking about something that is before the court. If I was Dave's lawyer, I'd be saying, "Don't talk about it here, go and be a witness for him in court". It's important we stop now and respect his privacy. Catherine, we need to stop talking about it now.

Catherine said: Okay, I think I should go.

Tim said: I'm not asking you to go. Are we still talking about Dave or are we talking about ... ?

Catherine said: No, I'm not talking about Dave, I'm talking about my own things that I've put on line. I get told "Oh why don't you ...", "You knew when you shifted in here that it was a mining town" and all that. They have got so many people intimidated that they won't even give their opinions anymore.

Glenis said: That's true. Can we get back to my question? If it's not to do with Oceana Gold, the situation with Dave, why has he been trespassed from this meeting? It's a public meeting.

Erich said: It's a public meeting.

Kyle said: I've already said I'm not going to comment on it further and I'm not going to.

**Q: Will the proposed expansion produce more dust?**

Mark said: This is about Martha Open Pit potential expansion. We haven't done any more technical studies around it. At the moment, it's just a plan change. Who can say if it's going to produce more dust or not? I don't know. We put every control in place that we can for dust.

Tim said: Okay and there will be some council requirements in terms of dust?

Ingrid Taylor said: Yes, Regional Council control dust.

Mark said: Yes, there will be limits to comply with. There will be consent conditions.

**Q: Should there be dust monitoring in Seddon Street?**

Brian said: It's probably the mainstay for this town. Apart from New World and Fresh Choice, people shop there, people are tourists, you name it, Seddon Street is it, but the monitoring seems to be all around Seddon Street but not there on Seddon Street.

Tim said: I was curious about that, Mark. Would the monitoring stations that do exist be an accurate measure of what happens in Seddon Street anyway?

Mark said: Yes, I'd say so. Those locations have been agreed with Waikato Regional Council. Obviously, dust will spread out depending on wind direction so council is happy with the monitoring locations. We've got 10 monitors around Martha Pit so I don't see why we would need more.

Tim said: Mark, are you saying that the Waikato Regional Council have said this is a good grid of monitors?

Mark said: Yes, and we report on the results from those monitors in our annual report to Regional Council too.

Glenis said: Waikato Regional Council haven't monitored here for years and years because we'd spoken to them when we were at Gold FM and they just said the only place they were actually monitoring was Thames.

Mark said: They did have a monitor down on Grey Street for silica and particulate, back maybe 10 years ago. I can't remember how long they had it there, about 2 years I think, but they ended up removing it because the results were so low. They removed it and put it in Putaruru.

Tim said: So, council stopped monitoring then but is it the case that Oceana monitors and gives council their numbers? Do they look at your results and say those are within the limits that are required?

Mark said: Yes, we monitor and we have environmental monitoring standards methodology that we follow.

Brian said: The reason I brought it up was so that we have a ground zero, a baseline, to work from when there is no mining so that if any future mining does happen we've got something to compare. When did the regional council agree that those monitors were good? Was that this year, last year, last decade?

Mark said: Every 3 years we need to produce an air quality management plan and Waikato Regional Council approves that. It gets refreshed every 3 years. So, within the last 3 years.

Donna said: We have done baseline control studies in Paeroa and Katikati for quite long periods of time. We had air monitors and dust buckets over in Paeroa and Katikati and they had higher levels than in Waihi.

Brian said: Monitoring now, when you've got absolute zero, would surely be beneficial to the mining company?

Tim said: Brian, are you saying that if there was an application for a resource consent to mine in the area you'd be saying, "Where's the baseline study?"

Kyle said: Mark's given the answer three times. Regional council are quite happy with the monitoring we've got in place. We can keep thinking about it as we progress towards consenting the Martha Pit. We might look at it again in terms of baseline but I don't think we need to put it on the agenda to talk about again next time.

Glenis said: Remembering that you, the company, are telling the residents that it is acceptable and the residents don't have a say in that.

Kyle said: No, we're not. We're telling you that based on our interaction with Waikato Regional Council the council have endorsed what's there and we're happy with it and they are happy with it.

Glenis said: Well, they haven't tested here for 10 years.

Erich said: You give them the numbers.

Kyle said: This is my point. This is the third time we're having the conversation with the same response. We can bring it up and give the same response every time.

Brian said: So, you won't move from your position?

Kyle said: At this point, no. This was our answer at the start of the meeting.

Erich said: Would you trust them?

Glenis said: No.

Tim said: What you're saying is that you've talked to Waikato Regional Council and they're happy by way of your 3-yearly management plan?

Mark said: Yeah.

Glenis said: Where is that data?

Mark said: You are most welcome to have the Annual Air Quality Report. I'm not too sure if Waikato Regional Council puts it on their website. It's probably on ours. [Mark looked during the meeting and said:] Yes, the Annual Air Quality Report from 2023 is on the Waihi Gold website ([www.waihigold.co.nz](http://www.waihigold.co.nz)).

Glenis said: Maybe that data would help.

Tim said: Anybody else need a copy? Okay, cool - Erich thank you, Erich and Glenis and Brian.

**Post-meeting action:**

*Hard copies of the air quality report have been delivered to Erich and Glenis and Brian.*

Mike said: May I suggest that people who don't trust, or like, the information from Oceana should write directly to the Waikato Regional Council and they will respond.

Glenis said: I've telephoned the regional council and spoken to them. I have written to them, emailed them, many times in the past.

**Q: Steam in the atmosphere**

Tim said: I put this on the board because I think there was a distinction that needed discussion between whether that was dust or water vapour or something that comes out of the vent in the pit. Is that right?

Erich said: Yeah. When you open your curtains in the morning and you look over to the pit, there is fog everywhere. There is more fog here in Waihi than anywhere around. They changed the climate here, the atmosphere, with the vent.

Mike said: As I said, I've been here a long time and there's always been fog right through this part of Waihi as far as I can recall. I've always presumed it comes from the river and the steam because there's a different temperature on the water than there is on the land and that's where I've noticed it. As I come into Waihi it is not just around the pit, it's right around.

Glenis said: There is a difference since the vent has been venting out. It's not actually a vent, it's just a portal.

Kyle said: It's shaped like a portal and we use it for venting.

Glenis said: Since that started pulling air out of the mine there is definitely a difference. We've seen it.

Tim said: Is it water vapour in the air?

Glenis said: Yes, it is winter-time you know, it's that, but it wasn't there before the vent.

Kyle said: It's warm and hot underground and we discharge that air into cold air. I'm not a scientist but it evaporates and turns into water vapour, the same as what happens with the Union Hill vent.

Glenis said: Except that it's not water vapour. Come on, be real. It's water vapour and it's the particulates that come out of the vent so there's bits of diesel and dust ...

Mark said: The air quality monitoring report that's online will tell you what's in it. They are safe, they are very low levels, lower than what's background in Waihi.

Tim said: We have engineers and scientists designing processes and Waikato Regional Council saying that what's happening for us is safe. When do we stop questioning that? Can we get to the point where if Waikato Regional Council is happy with the air quality then generally we should be happy with the air quality?

Erich said: No.

Tim said: If not then should you talk to Waikato Regional Council?

Erich said: Did you ever talk to them? I've been in a meeting with them. Bullshit.

Tim said: Okay. The company is meeting Waikato Regional Council standards in terms of ... and it's probably not even the Regional Council is it? Are there air quality measures on ...

Mark said: Oceana is meeting the Waikato Regional Council standards and the Work Exposure standards.

**Q: Haszard Street uneven footpath and settlement monitoring**

Mark said: We will look at the pavement cracks on the Haszard Street corner and provide a post-meeting answer about the cause and safety (*refer to post-meeting answer on page 8*).

**Q: When does “historic” become “current”?**

Tim said: Glenis, you asked a question about when "historic" becomes "current". That is, if the current mining company says that things were problems caused by historic mining practices, you want to know when they actually become the responsibility of the current mining company?

Glenis said: Yes.

Kit said: I can sort of answer that based on being involved here in Waihi for so long. There were major subsidence events in 1961, 1999, 2001 and I think about 2013 or 2015.

- The 1961 event was just over here (pointing) and it was so big that the then Ohinemuri District Council used that hole as a rubbish tip. We know that because when we moved the pumphouse we actually re-excavated it and we had people coming to us saying that they knew there were parts of vintage cars being dropped in there and asking if they could have them. 1961 was before mining.
- 1999 happened in what used to be the park which is now part of the pit. The park literally just disappeared in the morning and I think Warwick Buckman found that in the morning.
- 2001 you know about.
- 2013 or 2014, and I may be wrong with that date, was down near the pensioner houses at the cul-de-sac end at the far end of Seddon Street. That was only found because the pensioners woke up in the morning and had no internet, no power and no water and that's because all the reticulation was coming through that area.
- 1961 was before mining re-started in Waihi in the 1970's.
- 1999, the company looked after that one in terms of making sure that was okay.
- 2001 was Normandy Poseidon and I will not bore you with what the company did but you're aware that Newmont took over at that time and of how Slevin Park came to be.
- 2013, the same thing happened. We actually cut a hole in the fence and took material from inside the pit to backfill that but now you can't actually see where it is.
- Every one of those, if you look at the geology, is as a result of historic mining. The only one that's as a result of modern mining is the slip that's in the pit.

Glenis said: What about the damage to houses, like the one I live in, from the Trio Mine?

Kit said: Let me give you an example of that area where you are and the park area that's there. Toby would be aware of this too. There are significant tomo in that area. If you look at the geology of that area, my understanding is there is an underground stream which is full of gravel and during heavy flows this results in subsidence. This is for the same reason, if you remember, that all the netball courts were subsiding. It turns out that area was built over the top of a rubbish dump. I hear what you're saying but that is not as a result of modern mining.

Glenis said: So, the crack that wasn't there yesterday when there was a big explosion but was there after it wasn't a result of that explosion? My point is that there is damage that occurs through the mining that happens today. It's just not really acknowledged and the extent that it happens is not acknowledged.

Kyle said: There are specific process conditions if you identify property damage. It's quite prescriptive - you notify us, we engage an independent property expert to assess the damage and investigate whether it's attributable to the mining, we give you that feedback. If you're not happy with that assessment, then within the conditions there is a higher order step if you're still not satisfied with the response. I believe it takes it to Hauraki District Council for mediation with an independent mediator.

Glenis said: How many cases would it have been proven that it was as a result of modern mining as opposed to historic?

Donna said: There was the Gladstone Road one from drilling. We owned up to that and we bought all his properties. When it is our fault, we fix it and in some cases I've been involved in, where somebody is not in a position to be able to fix something that isn't mine-related, I've even got that fixed for them too.

Glenis said: People have said to me that their houses have sustained damage which they believe is from mining but when they've complained they've been told it's just trucks going past.

Donna said: No, I've never said that to anybody.



Glenis said: They haven't been able to prove it so they've just had to ...

Tim said: So, Kyle and Donna, you're saying that you're responsive, you try really hard to identify ...

Donna said: Yes. I'd go round there and have a look and then I engage an independent guy from Tauranga who goes and inspects it. He does a report of it and what he's seen, he photographs it and I give a copy of that report to the property owner. If they don't agree with that it goes through the process that Kyle's talking about. But, nobody's ever done that.

Kit said: Just for clarification, the one that happened in December 2012 in Gladstone Road, that was us.

Donna said: Yes, we owned up to it and we fixed it so the process does work.

***When does "historic" become "current" - post-meeting answer:***

*This most often forms part of any Resource Consent which is required to conduct activity on the land. An example of this is the relocation of the Cornish Pumphouse. The mining company had a requirement in its consents to protect the Pumphouse. When the structure showed increasing evidence of tilting and potential failure it was moved to its current position.*

*This is true of any landowner. If you own land which shows evidence of contamination from an old timber mill, factory or whatever, then you are responsible. The Department of Conservation has many such areas under its care. The Karangahake Gorge is such an example. For interest, a priority list of sites identified for Government funding may be found here. <https://environment.govt.nz/what-you-can-do/funding/contaminated-sites-fund/contaminated-sites-remediation-fund-priority/>*

*In Waihi there are several examples of the mining company contributing significantly to address events caused by pre-1952 mining outside the current mining licence area:*

- *In 1999 a subsidence in the gardens adjacent to the Martha Mine but outside the mining licence was addressed by Newmont, then the mine's owners. Similarly, a subsidence in 2017 next to the pensioner flats on Seddon Street and also outside the mining licence area was filled by OceanaGold in partnership with Hauraki District Council. In this case mine staff simply cut a hole in the fence to allow mine trucks to dump clean fill into the slumped area. Both of these events were a result of early miners not backfilling stopes.*
- *The largest subsidence was, of course, the 2001 'house in the hole' which resulted in many houses being removed. Again, this subsidence was outside the mining area and the result of pre-1952 mining practices which often did not include backfilling. The mine's then-owners contributed significantly to the remediation of this area which today is part of the Pit Rim Walkway.*

**Q: Making the Annual Air Quality Report more understandable**

Kyle said: I'm happy to take an action on that. Mark is in our environmental team and understands all the different monitoring bits and pieces that we do but he's not an air quality expert. Richard Chiltern from Tonkin & Taylor, for example, is. We often have those experts in the Project Information Office and you can come in and sit down with them and ask questions. If there's a specific report you want him to help explain, I'm happy to bring that along, put it under his nose and let him look at it for you.

I'm happy to set up a "meet the expert" session. I am aware that they are during the day. Don't be afraid to give us a call and say, "Can you make this in the evening because I'd really like to attend this one." We would be really happy to.

***Post-meeting answer:***

*We haven't locked in an air quality "meet the experts" session just yet. But we will look to host one in the New Year. It would be advertised in the HC Post and on our Facebook page.*

Tim said: Is that just an open invitation? Do you want to organise something around that now or do you want to just say "read it and approach"?

Glenis said: One of the conclusions in the report was, "Taking into account the methodology and comparing to the 2007 results it is considered that the scale and nature of the discharge has not materially changed between the Favona and Martha Open Pit discharge locations. Carbon monoxide concentrations did show an increase during blasting activities in the 2024 results". To actually see anything where there's a difference you have to read the whole report and there are bits there where it says if you want more detail, because they haven't put it in the report, you have to contact them. "Note: further information relating to the pre- and post-sampling calibrations can be provided upon request". In other words, the detail isn't there to enable you to actually look at all that is being taken into consideration.

Tim said: My problem with stuff like that is if I was to read information about the calibration of the devices I wouldn't understand that either because I'm not an air quality scientist.

Josh said: The same disclaimer again, I am far from a scientist. I helped put together the summary of that air quality that was basically the piece that was distributed publicly and that then has the link into the full report which you're talking about Glenis. The results come up here as section 5.6 and that's a table that has the measured results, the expected background based upon the air quality standards and those two combined for particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide and crystalline silica. Section 5.7 then has a discussion on each one of those. Then, page 20 has a short conclusion which is section 5.8 basically after the summary of those results which is that:

*"offsite concentrations of all assessed contaminants are low when compared to the relevant criteria wherein appropriate but conservative background level is also taken into consideration, the ventilation emission will not cause any criteria to be exceeded in an offsite location. Based on the assessment the adverse effects from the ventilation emissions are considered less than minor".*

Glenis said: Through the report it says the category less than minor, except for that one little bit in the conclusion where it says the levels were raised.

Tim said: Would it help you to have a session with somebody about the interpretation of that report?

Glenis said: No, I think it would just help if it was clearer with reading the report where you've got things about the silica that was tested and it's Water Care 2014 and the background value was 1 but that was from 2014. Then you've got a report that was Newmont Waihi Gold commissioned that was from 2007 that's held within it. It's kind of like the 2024 stuff, the "now" stuff, is hard to find to make a comparison with.

Tim said: Josh is saying the table (5.6 and 5.7) shows the conclusion that none of those elements are a problem.

Josh said: As an example, when dispersion of carbon monoxide from the vent discharge is modelled the offsite GLC (ground level concentration) which is an important distinction is expected to be 0.4 micrograms per cubic metre over a 1 hour average outside the Martha Open Pit. For context, this is well below the 30 micrograms per cubic metre criteria of the New Zealand Ambient Air Quality Guidelines. For further context, the estimated background concentration of carbon monoxide in Waihi is 5 micrograms per cubic metre.

Tim said: Josh is saying the ambient air quality plus the vent discharge is 5.4 micrograms per cubic metre and the guidelines say safe 30 micrograms per cubic metre is safe?

Glenis said: Is that 2024?

Josh said: Yeah, so if you go to the Oceana Gold website, the newsletter Oceana Gold Update from 25 July 2024 that has the article in it, you can click on the link and download the 40-ish page report. So, do that and then 5.6 has the results and 5.8 has the conclusion.

Tim said: I'm wondering, if somebody has questions like that with that level of detail that some are interested in and some not then do they go to the shop, in Seddon Street?

Donna said: Yes, if that is easier for them or they can ring the 0800 number.

Glenis said: Quite often here (at the meeting) you've got more people that would know than you would if you go down to the shop or you ring.

**Q: Orange Ohinemuri**

Erich said: Waikato Regional Council that monitored also and it is their fault. They didn't inspect the mine earlier, that's an old tunnel and they are in charge of it.

Mayor Toby said: It was a closed-off tunnel that somebody decided to open.

Erich said: Somebody? You've got proof of this?

Mayor Toby said: Well, it was closed and now it's not closed so somebody's opened it. That's the proof.

Tim said: My question, again, just to check (we stay on point here) this is not an allegation against Oceana?

Kit said: Tim, before you go on from that the Waikato Regional Council do an excellent job with their crisis comms and they put together the most amazing website. Google it. Waikato Regional Council Ohinemuri and it's got everything you need to know.

#### **Q: Exploration licence**

Kyle said: I think the question was, "Why did it become available?" so I can find that out and we will make that a post meeting answer.

#### **Post-meeting answer:**

*We think this is in reference to the Mataura Permit (61170.01)? In short, this was a vacant permit space alongside our tunnel corridor for the Waihi North Project (WNP) so we picked it up. We have held portions of the same area previously.*

### **General questions**

#### **Underground tour**

Tim said: Erich, that headline says, "Waihi College students head underground" and your concern is that you've been told previously that the public can't go underground?

Erich said: No, we can't, only they can. Why?

Kyle said: That headline you are holding up is Waihi College and they've got lots of young people who want to understand what mining is like. They say, "I would love to work in mining but I have no idea what it's like to go underground and work there and don't know if it's something for me". Recently we've been working with the college on what we've called a Mining Skills Development Programme. They get a first aid certificate and they get their driver's licence and part of that is we put them through some exposure to the mining industry. They sit in a pre-start with Dave, they have a meeting and as part of that they also go underground to experience what it's like. The point is, we don't want to put you underground just because you're interested. We would have to manage the risks, make sure you're fit enough, we've got to tee you up and put you through an induction.

Erich said: Yeah, easy, easy. I've been there and I did this, I got a first aid certificate, I know how to wear a mask and all this stuff, I've been there. I did this 20 years ...

Kyle said: We're putting those people underground for a really specific reason as long as they can meet all of the criteria. They've got to be drug free, pass a fitness test, all the stuff.

#### **Meeting process**

Glenis said: I find that when you try and ask some questions and then you get told you're holding people up it makes me think, "Well, why bother then?" Because, if it's all too much for the people holding the meeting then is it any use us asking these questions? The public are invited to ask these questions and then when you get here it's kind of like, "Don't ask it" or "We don't know". Noam Chomsky says it perfectly because that's how I feel:

*"The smart way to keep people passive and obedient is to strictly limit the spectrum of acceptable opinion, but allow very lively debate within that spectrum - even encourage the more critical and dissident views. That gives people the sense that there's free thinking going on, while all the time the presuppositions of the system are being reinforced by the limits put on the range of the debate."*

Kyle said: That's a lovely quote but I'm also really curious ... what do you think we haven't answered adequately for you or recorded where we've got to go away and find out the answer for you?

Glenis said: Oh, you're quite curt.

Kyle said: In answer to the question?

Tim said: Is it the way that it's being answered?

Glenis said: Yeah, well, just you know ...

Kyle said: I do want to give you the answer.

Glenis said: You will say, "That's the answer you're getting", that's it.

Tim said: It is great to have this conversation. The challenge that I have from a facilitation perspective is that the question gets asked and we work out a way to get an answer to that question and then the comment that comes back is, "Ah but we don't trust you".

Erich said: Yeah.

Tim said: And so, if you don't trust the answers that Oceana are going to give then why source them anyway? Why not go to the regional council or go to the peer reviewer of the work that Oceana is doing? I would love to get back to a situation where we can make it a problem-solving arena. How can we have a conversation that's not a "Oh yeah but what you're telling me is a crock of .... because you lied last time", or somebody else lied or whatever. How do we make this a discussion that actually finds the solutions?

Erich said: Yeah, but we got the proof. Look. Last September, or when was it? There was a broken gate. You remember? I sent you pictures and everything. He was going up, or somebody from Oceana, and saying, "We repaired it".

Josh said: That was me.

Erich said: It was not repaired.

Donna said: That's because we repaired it and it got broken again.

Kyle said: Someone broke it again and then we repaired it.

Josh said: Erich, if you're just going to say that you don't believe the answer that's totally fine. The gate was vandalised, yes. We repaired the gate. It was vandalised again, either that night or the next day.

Helga said: It was repaired the next day.

Erich said: The next day you put a brand new gate in and it's still working. You were lying the first time.

Tim said: This is a perfect example because we can frame it as "a lie" and say it erodes your trust in the company or are we going to have conversations that help to expand and improve things?

Katherine said: Would it be easier if people submit their questions so that you can prepare it before the meeting?

Tim said: We did try that. How did we experience that about three or four meetings ago? Did that help in terms of getting the answers?

Glenis said: No, it did not really work because when you come and you see the presentation there are more questions.

Mike said: Yeah, the questions come up during the presentation just the same.

Tim said: We kind of double-handled them for a while, didn't we?

Glenis said: I understand where people like Erich and Dave and the lady Catherine and maybe even myself come from and it's not that ... we don't want to distrust the company because we understand ... most people here understand how important the company is to the industry here and all of those things and the benefits of it but it's got to be recognised by the company as well that there are impacts that could be negative on the community. I guess for some people it's the constant, "It's the historic mining", "It wasn't us". It's that sort of stuff and, "Oh but we will own up to it if it is us" but then the times that that doesn't happen, that's where the distrust comes from. And it feels like ... we used to get it all the time in radio with people who would come to us and ask us to ask the questions because they didn't feel they could themselves because they were scared. They were scared of having pooh put in their letterboxes, they were scared of being attacked on social media.

Kit said: To be fair, I think we did a pretty good job of answering those questions. We stopped doing them on air, if you remember, because they became a bit problematic. Then we went to answering written questions and we did those right up to the time that I wasn't here.



Glenis said: But see, for us, having to do that is something the media never wants to do - having to answer or talk about questions that have been sent to you to ask.

Kit said: Yes, and Glenis did a great job of putting all those together. I guess the other problem is that for us as Oceana Gold there's a consent condition which says, "Here are the things you have to present and here's the information you have to present and here's the timeframe in which you have to present it". Part of our problem is if we allow a free-flowing discussion that goes wherever, before we know it it's hours into the meeting and the things that we were meant to present and are consent-bound to present don't get presented and people are walking out. So, I appreciate what you're saying. But I thought tonight worked because we did the stuff that we needed to present and then we listened. You may not be happy with everything you heard, but we listened.

Glenis said: It's not that I'm not happy, it's just that I'm voicing my opinion if that's alright because I think it's important that people do that because you've got to be able to hear those other voices. I hear what you say too and it's good for me to get that information, it helps people to understand.

Tim said: Other thoughts about the tone and nature of the meeting from other people who attend?

Mike said: Yes, I agree with a lot of what Glenis says. I was going to say much the same thing. But, I suppose I also wanted to compliment the people here on the respect that they've shown. They asked good questions. The thing that really got up my nose, and I've only been at these meetings two or three times, is the aggression that comes out, the aggressive comments. In the last two meetings there were three aggressive presentations from people here, one of them is no longer attending I believe. The bad language and the swearing is unnecessary and if respect is shown by people here, if they ask the questions and give their opinions respectfully, that's fine. Otherwise, new people who come here who are going to walk out the door because they're going to say, "I'm not going to a meeting where all that's going on". If we can just keep it where respect is shown as most people, just about everybody, here tonight did that would be a fantastic meeting. I am coming here to get more information and also our property may have an effect in the future with mining, I don't know. I need to find out information about all sorts of things and I get it from the questions and the comments made here and from the staff. I do not want to listen to bad-tempered people coming in with closed minds and an agenda and shouting and screaming. Unfortunately, I'm speaking to the converted here because the ones who cause those problems aren't here.

Katherine said: Can I just say there's another thing that sometimes I feel that there is the company and then there's the people that work in the company and sometimes it gets kind of personal in here with those aggressive people. They are targeting someone that has a particular job whereas really they're looking at the company. Like, for instance, that gentleman just there was saying, "Oh you lie" and that happened at the last meeting, "You lied" and it is aggressive and it will drive people away.

Tim said: I feel uncomfortable sometimes when the tone of the meeting gets to the point where we've got two or three or four people speaking at once and I'm yelling to be heard over the top to ask for it to be one at a time because I think my yelling then adds some sharpness to the tone of the meeting too. It would really help me if we just stuck to one person at a time because I am very passionate about everybody having a chance to say what they want to say.

Glenis said: I'm grateful for the job you do. I think you do a good job, you do a great job.

Tim said: Thank you, that's the benefit of the process. So, those are some work-ons for our next meeting. It's been a helpful conversation. Thanks everybody.

### **Helicopter flights over property**

Andrew said: Today there were about 12 return missions by helicopter. Only one was over my property because since I've been doing all the helicopter complaints, the helicopter has been flying higher and the noise is a lot less but occasionally he still likes to just fly over my property and I'd prefer him not to.

Justin said: I think where we get the complaints we try and work with the helicopter. We also look at the routes that they take because they've got the onboard GPS and also the ability of what the heights are.

Andrew said: I made a point at this meeting 6 months ago. A responsible company should use public roads where they're available, not fly helicopters over private property. So, for example, you own the 500 acre ex-dairy farm up Willows Road where you intend on having a mine site. Part of the proposal is there is a helicopter pad. Why don't you build that pad up there now? Well, there's big open paddocks, you don't need a pad. Just stop flying over private property when you don't have to. Like you transport goods up Waitekuri and you fly

across, that's cool. Why can't you do the same this way? Why is the helicopter flying over dairy farms out the Whangamata Road daily?

Ingrid said: I'm not sure if it's mine-related sorry but I am aware that Powerco have been doing a lot of line renovations in the area.

Andrew said: Very rarely they fly a helicopter up the valley.

Justin said: All I can encourage you to do is to put through complaints, like you do, and we'll review the helicopter and we'll modify the routes.

Kyle said: We do alternate the routes because you're not the only one Andrew, as you can imagine. We try and give some reprieve by alternating the routes and, where we can, fly equipment out of Golden Cross. Our people have to meet somewhere and they meet at Baxters Road and that's where we fly people from. But, duly noted and it's something that Justin and I can talk about.

Tim said: So, I think we're saying "noted" and it's a work-on. Thanks Andrew for raising that again because I do note that was at the last meeting too. So, thank you. Thanks everybody for your attendance and contribution

Josh said: It is valuable and it's stuff to take away and consider.

### **Conclusion:**

Justin said: I appreciate your words but for myself it's good to come and listen. I've sat in the background and it is very much appreciated that people can come and voice concerns about what's going on and also ask questions about what we're doing. We take this away and have a think about it - how we may engage or put messages out there in terms of answering questions. There is a lot of science and detail in what we talk about so, again, if the messaging is not right or you want further information, Kyle is more than willing to help, Donna is always there and Jeannine. I'm very proud of what the team does. To give you an example, going out to Wharekirauponga and looking at the drill sites, we go to an extensive amount of work and care to be able to operate in that area and you don't appreciate that until you actually go out and have a look at what's going on.

Ingrid said: Which I will be doing, by the way, in the next few months.

Justin said: In relation to that, we had DoC come out and they did an external audit there last year and they didn't find anything. They found a little bit around waste and a little bit around rubbish, but they didn't have anything to say in terms of how we were operating. That's our responsibility because if we don't do it well we're not here anyway and so it's in our interests to do it well. I want to try and minimise the impact the best we can and these sessions help us to try and let you know what we're doing as well.

**The meeting finished at 7.50pm.**

**Next meeting: 13 March 2025 at 5.30pm  
(Combined CEPA/SUPA and Martha meeting)**

<b>Attendance register:</b>		
Kyle Welten	Katherine Lucas	Glenis Gentil
Justin Johns	Mike Hayden	Brian Gentil
Helga Schmidt	Erich Schmidt	Jane Murray
Shane Reynolds	Catherine Harker	Ingrid Taylor
Terry King	Bhavesch Ranchhod	Andrew Wharry
Mark Burrows	Josh Smith	Kit Wilson
Dave Townsend	Mayor Toby Adams HDC	Anne Marie Spicer
Donna Fisher	Tim Clarke	
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Leigh Robcke	Dave Wellington	Louise Fielden