Project Martha / Correnso (CEPA)
Combined Community Meeting
Thursday 17 September 2026

The following is a record of the Project Martha and CEPA/SUPA combined community meeting held at 5.30pm on 17 September 2026. Where possible, we have tried to capture individual contributions at the meeting, but these do not purport to be verbatim notes.

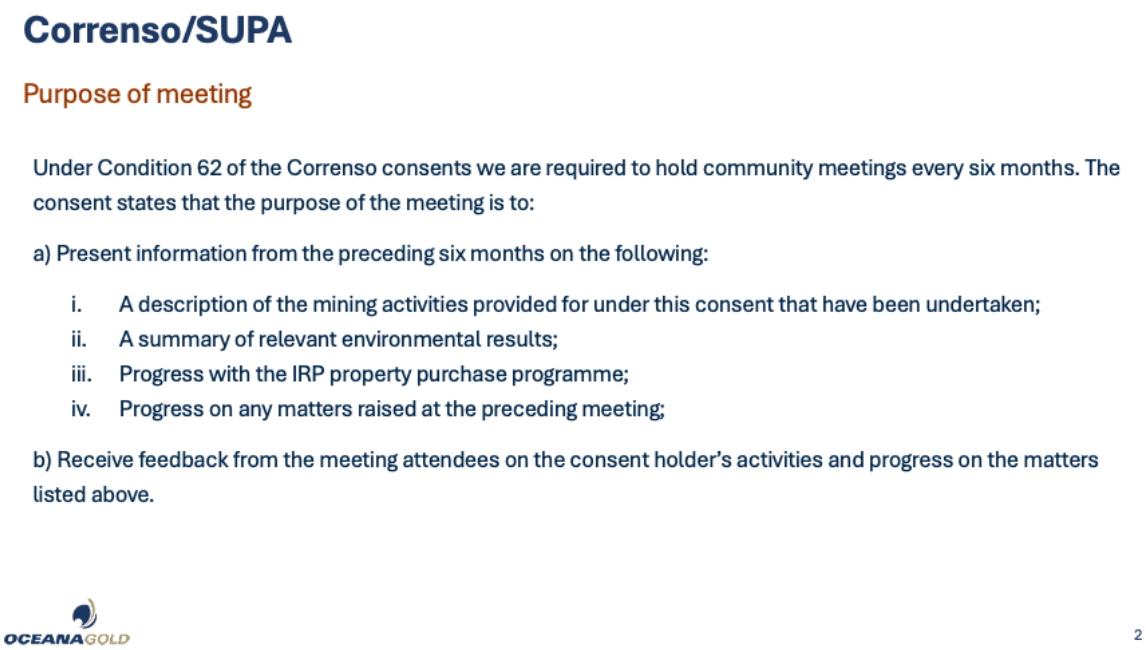
Welcome

Tim Clarke introduced himself as the independent facilitator and welcomed everyone to the 11th meeting of the combined Correnso and Martha community engagement process.

Tim said: At two meetings a year, we are half-way through the sixth year of these community meetings to keep people informed of what's been happening with Martha and the Correnso process. Welcome everybody. I'm just going to remind you of a couple of things as we do at the beginning of each meeting. We are recording the meeting so that we get the minutes correct and as they were spoken. It's not a transcript, but we want to be able to refer back to the recording, and the recording is available if you want it. If there are clarification questions for the "here and now" then just shout out and we will make sure that those get answered on the spot. If there are questions or things that we need to discuss then I'm going to put them on the parking lot and we will make sure that we cover them off at the end of the meeting so we don't interrupt the flow of the meeting but we make sure we get back to them.

(Everyone was asked to introduce themselves – see attendance list at the end of these minutes).

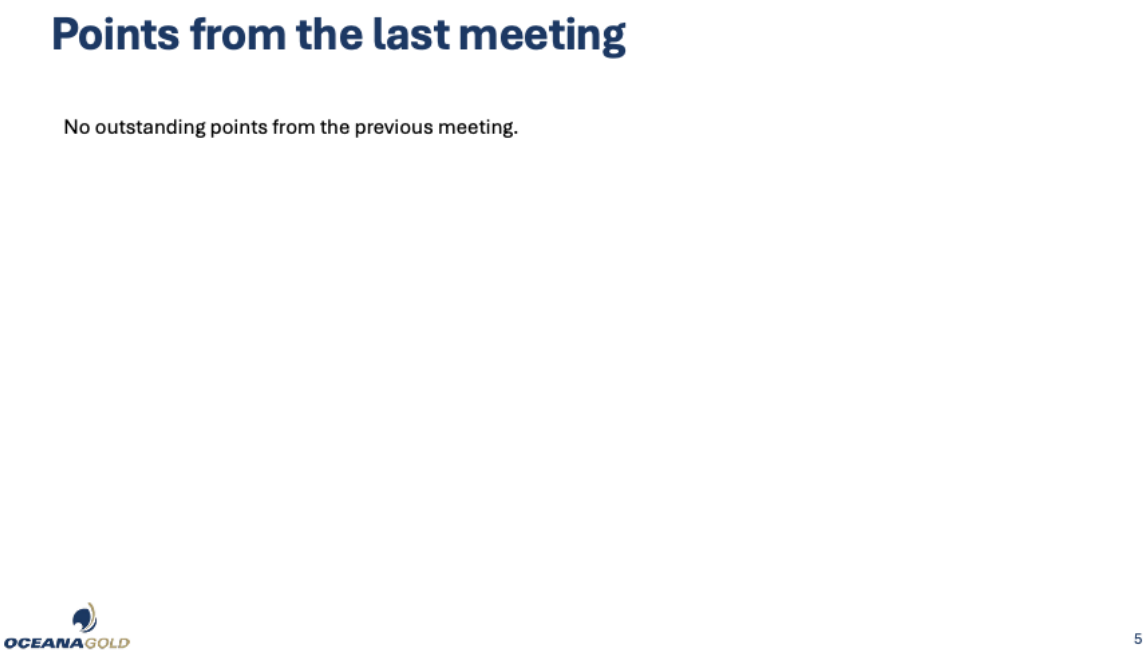
Purpose of meeting



Paula Scahill Thom said: Just a reminder about the purpose of the meeting which is a condition of the Correnso and Project Martha consents and they cover all our underground operations within Waihi town.

Paula said: Tonight we will be going through and providing a description of the mining activities provided for under this consent. Patrick will talk us through that and the very interesting projects that he's working on, that everybody wants to do. We'll also have a summary of environmental results from Shane and then my team will talk through some of the other community projects and Oceana Gold updates that are going on and also we will provide an update on the Waihi North project and where that's at. Of course, we are interested in any questions and feedback, an opportunity for that from all of you. We will cover off points from the last meeting, mining update, environment, social and community, Waihi North project update.

Points from last meeting



Paula said: As far as I am aware there were no outstanding points from the last meeting. I think we answered all the parking lot questions in the minutes.

Tim said: They're in the minutes. There might be a couple of things to follow up on? Erich, what have you got a question about?

Erich Schmidt said: Page 5 of the last meeting minutes, post-meeting answer in there is the website link but the website link didn't bring up the answer to my question about the royalties.

Josh Smith said: Yes, the question was about the company tax paid which was what that link goes to. In there is the consolidated financial statements of the group. Obviously, it's a large document. Page 37 has the information which is effectively the branches. That's got Waihi's revenue on there and at the company tax rate that gets you deferred tax. So, that was the question from last time around deferred tax. Kyle mentioned the number he had was around NZ$47m which is where that number came from. The long answer is Waihi had a profit of USD105.8m and that's because all our financial statements are in US dollars around the globe. The New Zealand tax rate at 28% gets you USD29.6m. Converting it to New Zealand dollars gets you NZD49.7m which is the deferred tax that Kyle was talking about at the last meeting.

Tim said: That's tax that's paid in New Zealand by the company?

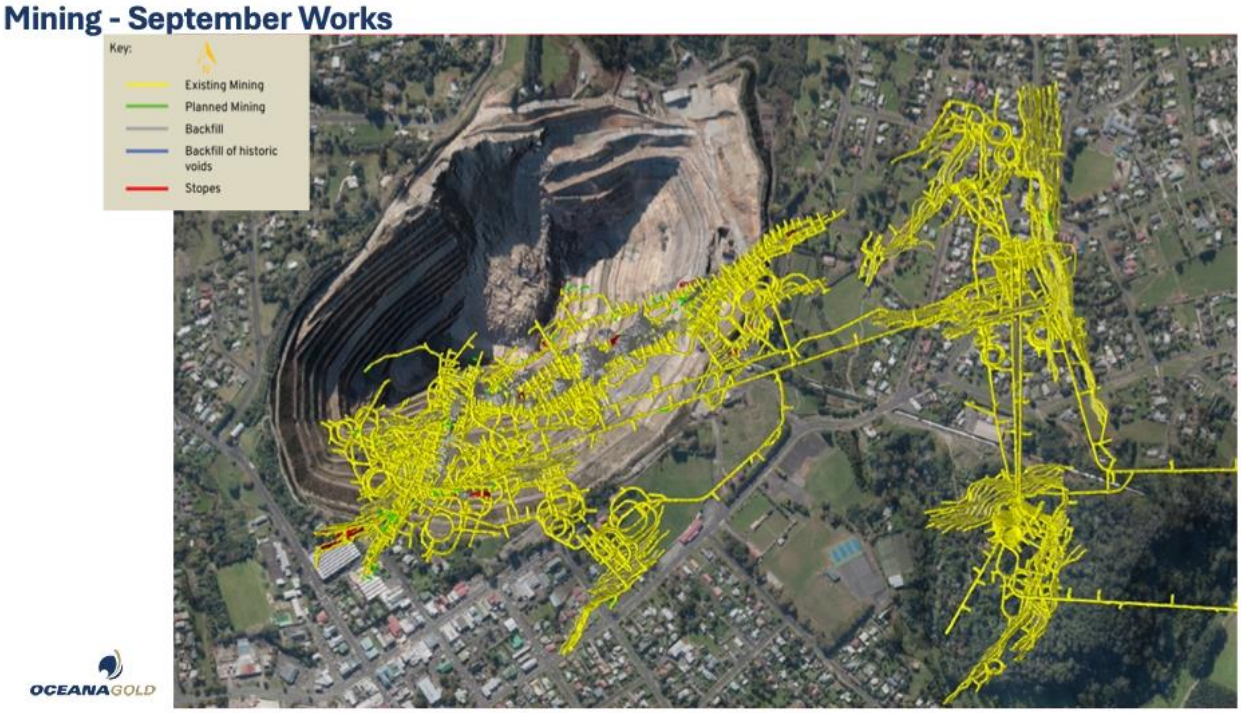
Josh said: Deferred tax. So, basically, we say if we made this much and we know what the tax rate is then you keep that money aside because you assume that's what the tax man's coming for.

Erich said: No, that's not what I wanted. According to the consent condition it said you pay "*this*" amount of tax and "*this*" amount of royalty. That link doesn't give those answers.

Tim said: It doesn't say the royalty bit?

Erich said: No, but you can find it on the normal website actually, it is 5.7 for tax and 1.3 for royalty.

Mining – September works



Patrick Slagter said: I'm the Superintendent for long-term planning for the underground operations. I've been involved with the project here in Waihi from 2005 as part of the Favona portal development and I remained here until about 2010. I then took a little bit of a break, I did some mining over in Australia, I did some geothermal drilling around the central North Island as well and then I came back just post-Covid around 2020. So, I've been part of this Martha project now for the last six years. I remain married, I'm not yet retired, my youthful looks belie my actual age. I've been involved in mining for 30 years now and I have three children – barely children anymore, two of them have left home and there's one still to go so starting to move on through life as well. That's about me. More about the project.

This is the extent of the underground workings. It doesn't show Favona which would be off to the right of the image (pointing) there. This is the Correnso mine. There still remains a little bit of activity that we're doing in (pointing) there. There's some material that we're continuing to mine out of (pointing) there but at a reasonably low scale. This operation was the Trio operation and that was mined around 2010 to I think around 2015, that sort of period, and then from 2015 on through to about 2020 was the Correnso operation and we continued to pull a bit of material out of that. The body of our work is within the Martha mine which encompasses this entire suite here. It's made up of the Rex material here, this will be the Royal material in here, we've got the Edward material here associated with the Edward vein and the Empire West and the Empire vein. They're all just named after historic vein structures. So, Empire strikes down through there and Edward strikes down through there. The original Martha load, which the pit takes its name from, is centred on this side of the operation.

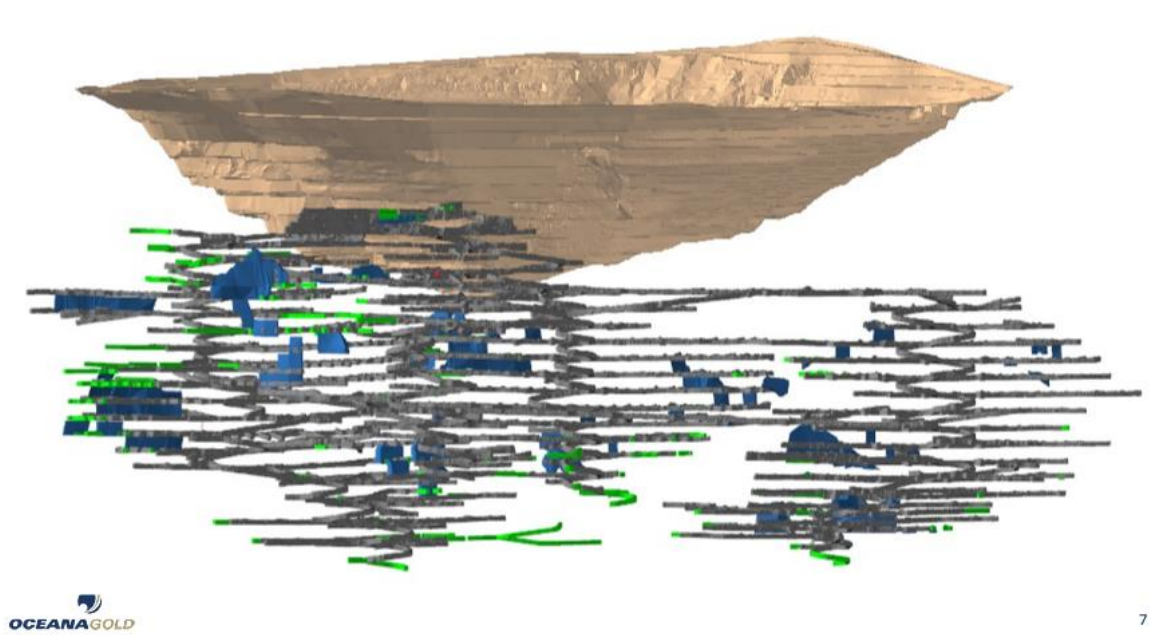
Tim said: So, Patty, the gold lines on the slide have been mined out?

Patty said: They're as constructed so that's been mined out. That represents primarily the development, it's a little hard to see the infill which would be our productive stopes. That's mine levels, successive levels and then we take out the material in between those levels which we show on here but it's a little obscured by the light.

Tim said: So, you are still doing some work in that area?

Patty said: There is and I've got a slide a little bit later to show some of the small amount of work that's in there that remains.

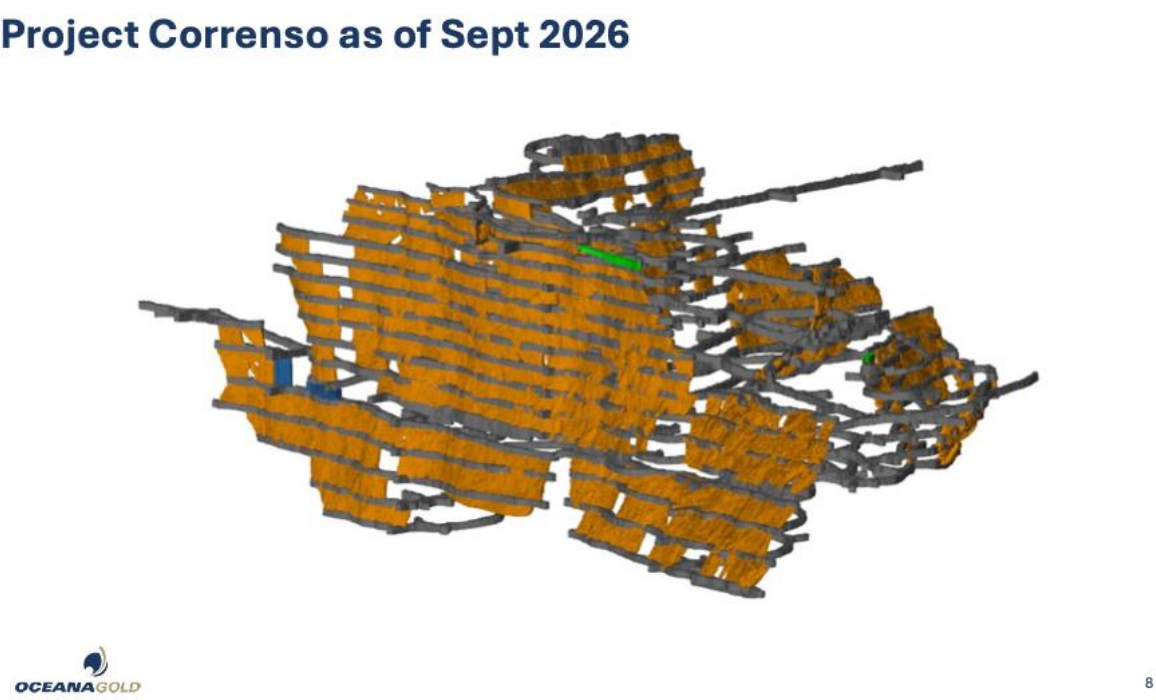
Tim said: Cool, thank you.



Patty said: This is Project Martha, Martha pit as we look toward the north orientation. Again, this is our active workings in and around the Empire load, the Empire West load and then back on this side is the Edward load. The grey lines indicate the work that has been completed to date, so that's the workings completed up until September and then a look ahead in the project for the next six months, the green lines representing the lateral development that we do, the drives that we use to access the ore and then the blue is a mixture of both the proposed extraction of ore that we have planned in the next six months and also represents some of the fill areas as well. We not only extract the material, we interact a lot with historic workings underground and so we need to go and fill those workings as part of the extraction methodology and also as part of our consent obligations. Rex, for interest, is just this very upper material (pointing) here.

Brian Gentil said: Can you just point out where the pumphouse is?

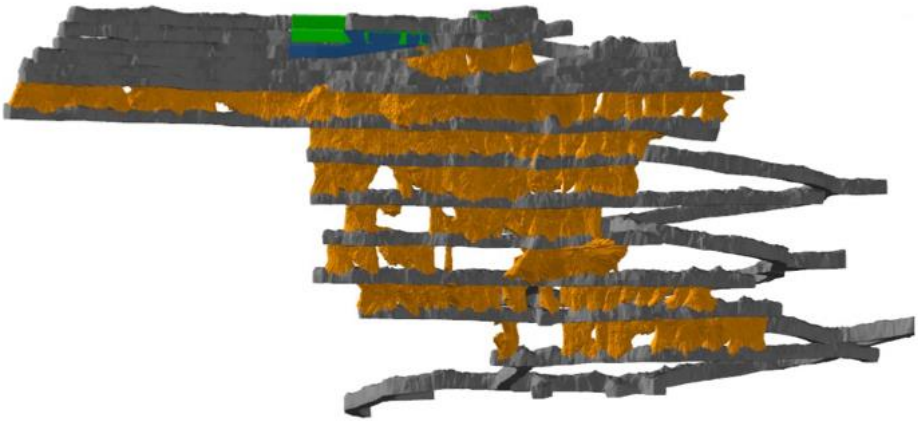
Patty said: The pumphouse would be oriented up in this section (pointing) here. That would be as you look from the pumphouse back across (in a northerly direction), that's the slip area there, not shown particularly well.



Patty said: This is just an oblique view of Correnso. The orange is material that's already been extracted, the grey represents the development that was used to get to those locations and unfortunately when I did this image I didn't have an aerial view to be able to show you that location on the surface. We've got a small amount of handheld work that we're doing right in the upper part of Correnso and then down a little bit deeper in Correnso we're actively extracting some of the remaining remnant material. Some of the decisions that drive that is simply the change in gold price which changes the economics that drive the ability to take out some balance of material that's there as well. So, just re-evaluating the remaining opportunities within Correnso.

Project Rex

- Level 10 through Level 2 stoped and backfilled
- Currently developing 1 level
- Vibration being managed through hole length



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Patty said: This is a view of Rex. We've mined Rex largely up into the 1 level. Again, the red/brown material is stope material that we've taken out and then the grey material is successive lifts of development that we've used to go and extract. We changed the methodology in Rex from this level-to-level stoping activity into what we've deemed to be a cut and fill activity just to manage the vibration and manage the nature of the ground up there as well, so it gives us more control. These levels are nominally around 4.5m in lifts and we just progressively take those ones out. There's a small amount of work planned over the next six months within Rex and as I point out there, we changed the methodology to help us manage the vibration as we get nearer to the surface.

Modified Avoca Technique

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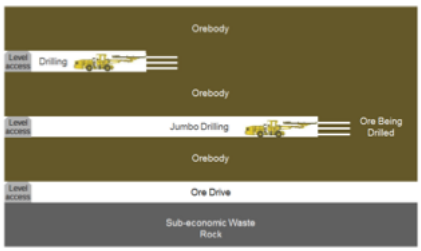
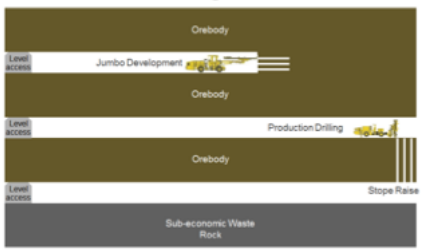
1 Drill drive access

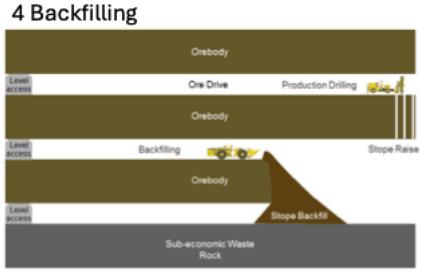


2 Production drilling



3 Production blasting & bogging

4 Backfilling



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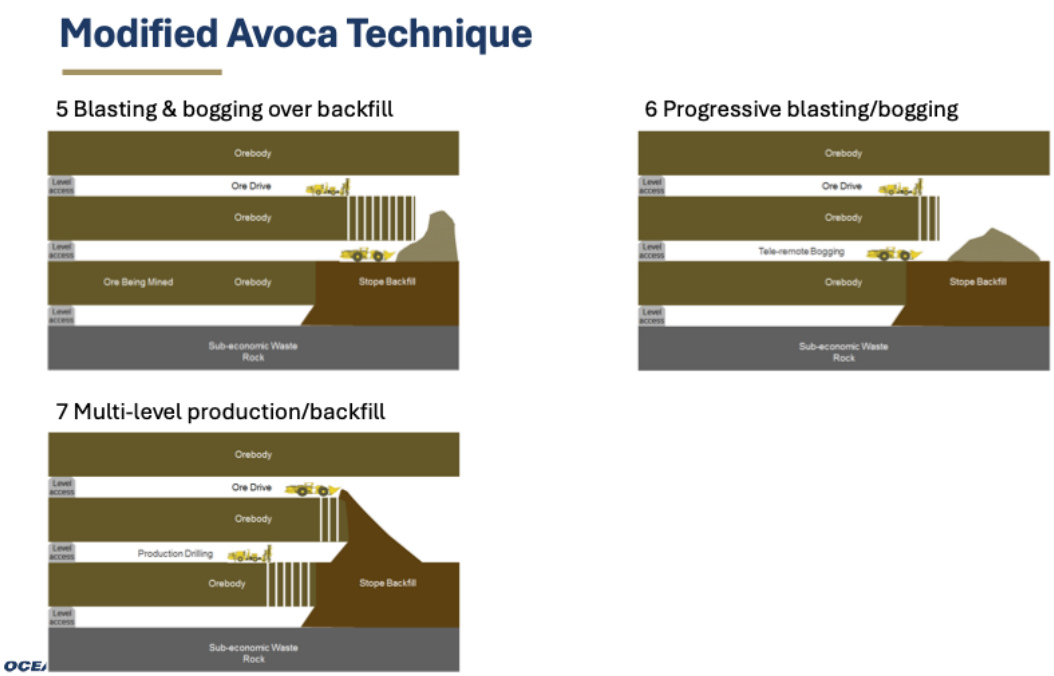
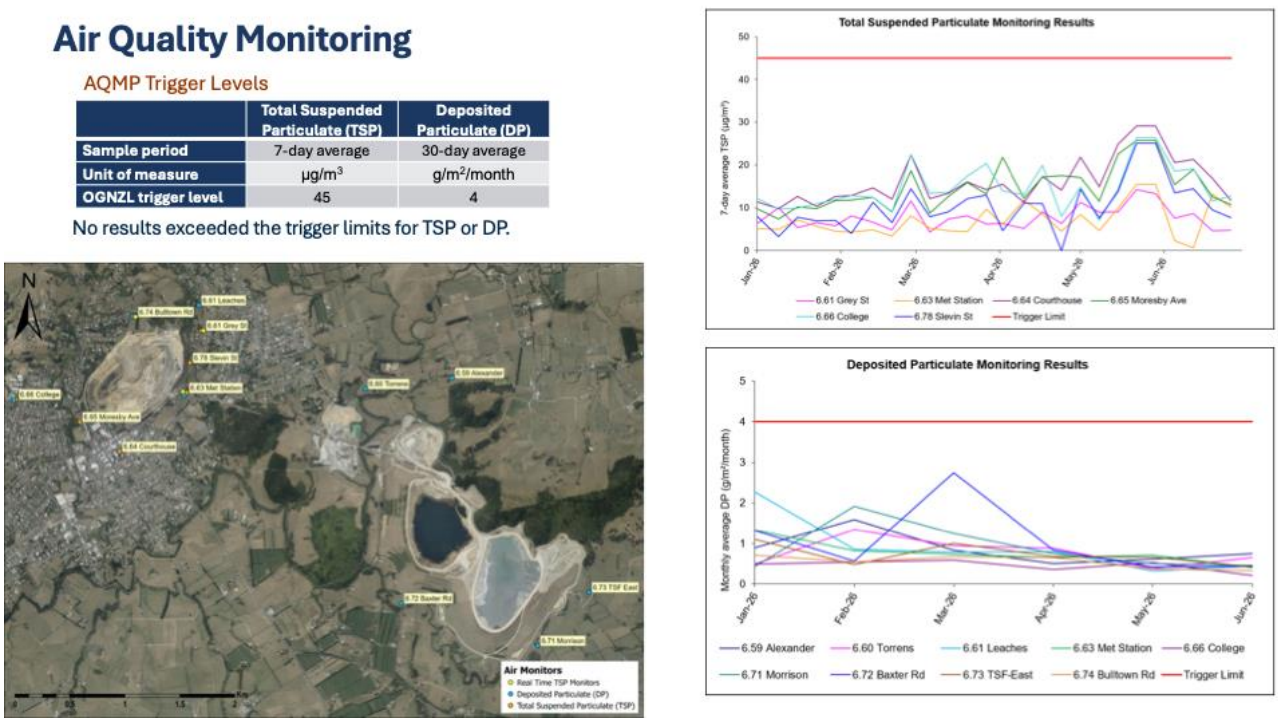


Patty said: One of our main methods for extraction is what we call Modified Avoca. We use a level drill that allows us to access the ore, we drive along the strike of the ore and we'll do that over successful levels to enable the extraction of the ore between those levels. We use what we call a jumbo which is a development drill to develop these levels, we then come in with a production drill and we will drill vertical holes in there, we will blast that material, then remove that material with a loader and then we come in as the final part of the cycle and fill that void that we've created with a loose rock mass or a cemented rock mass, depending on the future extraction in and around that specific area. We work from bottom up, compacting it by driving on it.

Environmental

Shane Reynolds said: Good evening everyone. I'm the Senior Environment Advisor. I've been in the role for about two years. I'm going to go through the six months of monitoring data for the first half of the year, from January to June 2026.

Air quality



Shane said: Starting off with air quality monitoring. It's a bit fuzzy this image here but you can see the pit, the Baxter Road site and then the TSFs and these labelled locations are our air monitoring sites. It's a bit hard to read in the legend down there, but we've got three different types of air quality monitoring we do. We've got TSP which is total suspended particulate and we've got DP or deposited particulate. Briefly, how that works is the device that measures TSP has a filter paper, a pump that draws air through that filter paper and any particles in the air are collected on that. After a week, we bring that in and weigh it and we work out the concentration of particles. DP is a bucket with a big funnel. That stays out for a month and everything that lands in that funnel goes into the bucket. Then we tip the bucket through a filter, dry it and weigh it. So, it's a similar sort of process but a little bit different because in the dust bucket you can get pollen and bugs and things like that. We also have some real-time TSP monitors that are constantly measuring and you can view that information via our website.

Josh said: Sorry Shane, just quickly. So, something like soot, because we get a lot of that obviously through winter, does the soot end up in TSP or DP?

Shane said: Soot would show up in TSP and DP as well but you tend to get a bit of a spike, a bit of an elevation in concentrations of TSP during winter because of so many fires. The TSPs and dust buckets are located around the pit there and then these ones further afield just tend to be the dust buckets for DP. Our trigger levels are 45mcg/m^3 for TSP and 4g/m^2 for DP, per month. Then we've got our results graphed over here on the righthand side of the slide. This is TSP, you can see that red line at the top is our trigger level and you can see on the graph the results from the different monitoring sites. Our results are well below our trigger level.

Tim said: Shane, who sets trigger levels?

Shane said: The trigger levels aren't set in the consent. The trigger levels are set in our air quality management plan and they're based on the Ministry for the Environment practice guideline for dust. They provide guidance on appropriate trigger levels so that's what we've gone with.

Glenis Gentil said: Are any of the particles you're measuring breathable particles?

Shane said: Yes, they are. The TSP measurement measures the whole range of particle sizes from fairly coarse right down to breathable. If you want to get a more detailed measurement about breathable particles then you would go to PM10 which is measuring 10 microns or PM2.5 which is 2.5 microns. Those ones you can breathe into your lungs and they are included in our TSP measurement.

Glenis said: And you show those on your graphs?

Shane said: They are included in these concentrations here. This level here for TSP is set to be protective of health and if you went to a PM10 or PM2.5 measurement then you would have a different trigger level that would be set for that size particle.

Tim said: To extrapolate Glenis' point then, by knowing that those are the readings that you're getting, are you also knowing that the PM2.5 and PM10 are not at a level where there is a risk?

Shane said: Yes, that's how these are set.

Fritha Tagg said: What was the big spike?

Shane said: I'm not sure. We probably could correlate that with some comments from the sampling. Maybe something foreign got in there through the funnel or bucket.

Tim said: It looks like the spike is around about March 2026.

Shane said: Yes. I can have a look at that and we could put it in the minutes.

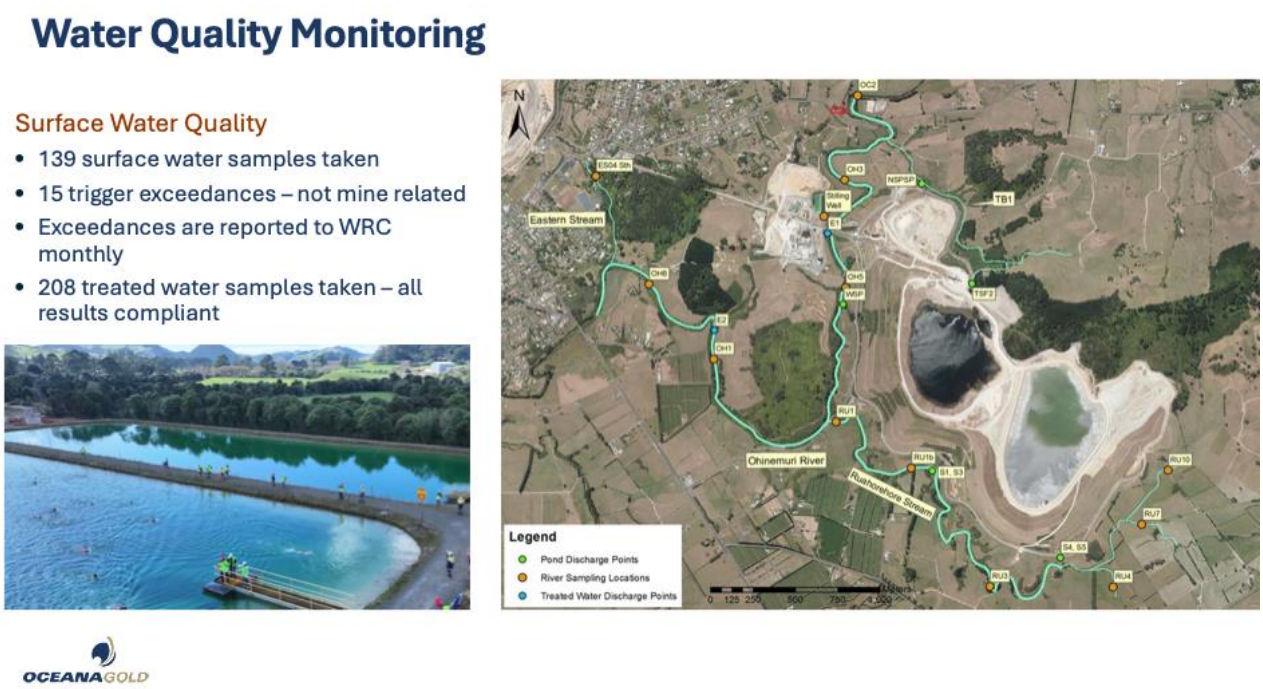
> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *Oceana looked back at the results and commented that the spike was caused by foreign contamination, primarily insect faeces, rather than dust-related sources.*

Katherine Lucas said: Where's Tauranga Road? I can't figure out which of those roads is Tauranga Road.

Shane said: It's there and then that's Baxter Road going down there and the Beach Road is there.

Katherine said: Right, okay, thank you.

Water quality



Shane said: We've got an extensive network of water quality monitoring sites. As you can see labelled on here, I think those are the Ohinemuri River sites there as it winds around and then we've got sites on the Ruahorihori Stream here as well. Over that six-month period, January to June, we collected 139 surface water samples and we had 15 trigger exceedances but they were not mine related. Some of them were at upstream sampling sites. For example, we have sites up here that are upstream of our treated water discharge and also in the Ruahorihori we have sites that are upstream. So, we use those sites to compare upstream and downstream results and sometimes we can get triggers on those for pH or iron or different sorts of things. We report all those exceedances to Waikato Regional Council (WRC) every month with an explanation. So, there were none that were related to our discharge.

Tim said: Okay, so they look those over and they would ask for a "please explain" if it was a mining-related outcome?

Shane said: Yes, that's right. Our treated water discharge goes into the Ohinemuri River here from the water treatment plant. 208 samples of that were collected and all the results were compliant. I don't know if anybody heard about the Walrus Swim, but we have an annual swimming race in the polishing ponds. I think you can see that we got quite a good turnout this year, 20-something?

Josh said: We took an absolute hiding from one of our contractors, they got first and second easily, there was no need for a photo finish.

Shane said: Yeah, so that just shows the confidence we've got in the quality of the water that we are discharging from site that we would swim in it.

Katherine said: And do you think that with the El Nino and the predicted winds that the particulate will increase and things like that?

Shane said: I'm no expert on El Nino but I guess if you get dryer, windier conditions then probably you'd say that you'd expect more particles flying around the atmosphere.

Someone said: Things like pine pollen.

Glenis said: When you get an exceedance, how do you know the difference between one that's not mine related and one that is related to mining?

Shane said: If it's downstream of our discharge then we would investigate that to determine if its mining related and also, depending on what the particular parameter is or what the chemical compound is that's elevated, whether it's related to our water discharge or not.

Tim said: Have you got an example of one of the things that might have been an exceedance?

Shane said: I think at a previous meeting it was high iron in one of these sites up here and I think from memory it was because the water is quite stagnant up here, it's not really flowing that well with groundwater potentially ponding at the sampling site. But, again, I can dig out a specific example and put that in the minutes.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *The exceedance registered was upstream of the mine discharge point, so could not have been influenced by Oceana's operations. The exceedance was determined to be naturally occurring, the area has waterlogged soils with low water flow and high iron content.*

Glenis said: So, what happens if there is an exceedance that is related to the mining or the tailings or something like that? Would you report that to WRC?

Shane said: Yes.

Glenis said: And then what do they do? What's the process that happens?

Shane said: We would investigate it to determine what the cause was and then, as a result of that, put actions in place to make sure that it didn't happen again.

Glenis said: So, WRC doesn't do an investigation?

Shane said: They could do but I think in the first instance they would rely on us to do an investigation and provide them with that information which they would review and verify. I suppose, in summary, all of this information would be in our reports which should be publicly available on both the councils' websites.

Glenis said: So, it sounds like you monitor yourselves but the WRC doesn't?

Shane said: WRC come and do regular inspections of the sites.

Donna Fisher said: And they do their own sampling too don't they?

Shane said: Well, water quality isn't one of my strength areas but again I can answer that question on whether or not they do independent sampling in a post-meeting answer.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *WRC have multiple catchment monitoring points. WRC monitors the Ohinemuri River water quality at SH25 Bridge (upstream of the Baxter Road site) and Queen's Head (downstream of the Baxter Road site). If people want to request further details, these should be directed to WRC.*
>
> *Oceana collects samples from near mine sites at 9 separate locations, up and downstream of the water discharge points. If there are any anomalies in the data, we work through these with WRC and undertake any appropriate follow-up actions.*

Janine Barlow said: So, if there were any issues with the water and it would affect the residents, how do they find out?

Shane said: Well, in terms of drinking water supply it's upstream of our treatment water discharge so there's no chance of the drinking water supply. I'm right there aren't I, Leigh?

Leigh Robcke said: Yeah.

Shane said: The drinking water for Waihi is above Golden Valley Road I think, the intake. So, I guess the other impact could potentially be swimming in the river and I imagine that if something happened that was a threat to peoples' health then that would be widely publicised for people to not swim in the river.

Tim said: So, you would have to report it to Environment Waikato and then they would measure that. Do they use the national water quality standards? Is that a minimum that's safe for people?

Shane said: Yeah, I'd imagine they would have safe recreation guidelines that they use and if they were exceeded then that may be a question for Community as to how that would be communicated, I'm not sure.

Paula said: It depends on the level of risk. When I used to work for council, if we for instance had a sewerage overflow or something, that was very widely communicated. We'd put signs up, all that kind of thing. So, absolutely it would be crisis immediate communication.

Tim said: I'm curious, Paula. If it was a water thing, would it be council's responsibility to make sure people know or the company's, or both? The company has to report it to council.

Paula said: I think Oceana and the council would work together on that.

Leigh Robcke said: If it's drinking water, there's a whole lot of tests that the council does to make sure the water's safe to drink, so it is the Ministry of Health (I think it is) that sets those.

Paula said: I do know that they also monitor because you can go on that website for the regional council and they give you all the water quality at all the local swimming holes and rivers and things but I don't think they are measuring for things like we are but definitely E.coli and things like that.

Tim said: Okay, Janine did that answer your question in terms of how people would get to know?

Janine Barlow said: Yes.

Erich said: One thing the council doesn't tell you is when the water quality is bad. On Sunday we got a broken pipe. I flushed my system with 500L of fresh water that I have to pay for. What was coming out was absolute "brown". They didn't flush the pipeline, they didn't inform us, nothing. There was no communication from the council. None at all.

Helga Schmidt said: About 6 o'clock on Sunday, no water, it was all shut down.

Leigh Robcke said: It would have been the District Council working on the local water. They put Facebook posts out to let people know.

Erich said: There was nothing.

Tim said: Give me a date Erich and we'll find out what happened.

Helga and Erich both said: It was last Sunday (13 September 2026).

Tim said: Let's get Leigh to check out what was happening with council at that stage.

Leigh Robcke said: We've got to find out if there's a break or maintenance. We'll know what it was.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *Leigh Robcke has emailed Erich and Helga on 24.9.26 and said:*
>
> *At the community meeting last week you asked about a water break on 13 Sept and why there was not advanced notice of the interruption to service.*
>
> *I have made enquiries and it turns out the break in service was not planned, it was due to a break in the Waihi Water Main, therefore the service delivery team were not able to advise of the break in advance – it just happened, and then they fixed it as quickly as they could.*

Katherine said: It would be helpful if the water quality aerial photograph on the slide had the topography shown on it so we can tell where the hills are.

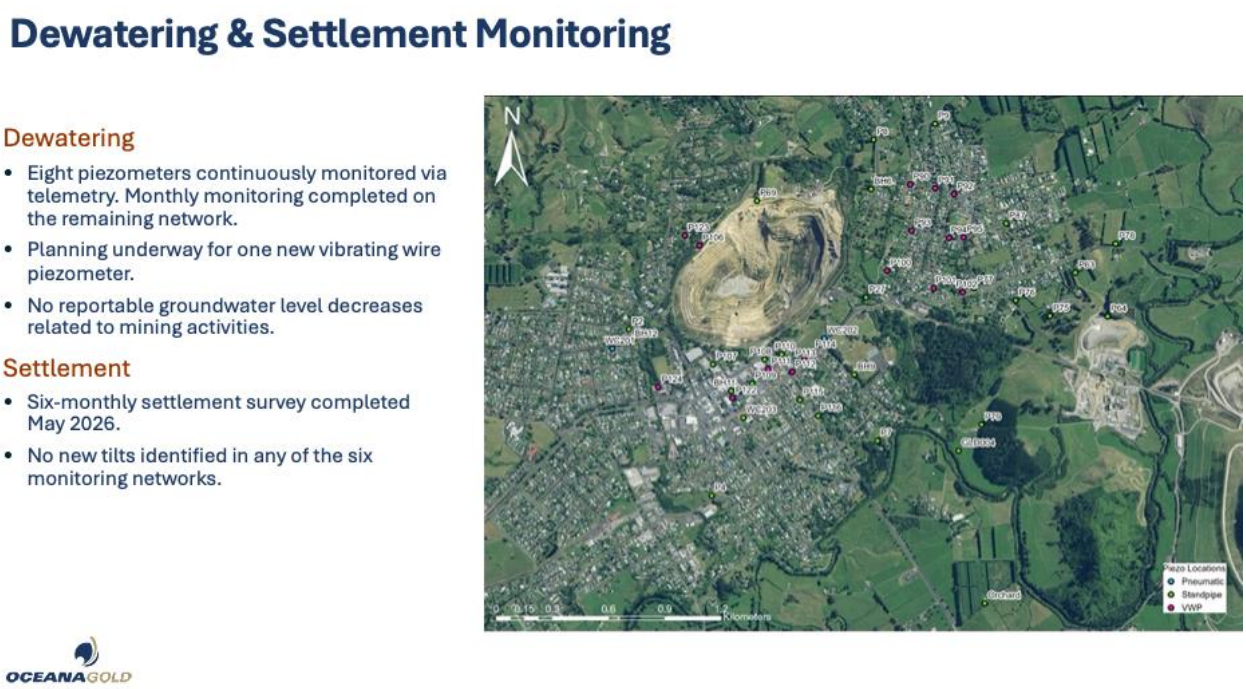
Shane said: We could just put some arrows if you want to see what the direction of the flow is.

Katherine said: That would be cool if you could do that and show the heights because without that information I'm left thinking are the TSFs as high as Black Hill or as high as Union Hill?

Shane said: Yes, we can look at adding the topography and layer it over the aerial.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *Oceana will see if they can implement this for the next meeting.*

Dewatering and settlement monitoring



Shane said: We've got quite a big network of groundwater level monitoring piezometers around town which you can see on the map here. There are different types. There are vibrating wire piezometers which basically have an instrument on a wire – it's pretty much measuring groundwater level – so we have level loggers which you pull up and manually download onto a tablet computer, we have standpipes which are just a tube in the ground and you run a tape down which has a sensor on the bottom and when it hits the water it beeps and it's like a marked tape so you can read off the level. There are a few different methods but basically they're all just measuring where the groundwater level is in that pipe in the ground.

That's important because we're pumping groundwater out from underground. We've got people working down there and they can't work in water; it needs to be dry. We're pumping groundwater up to the surface and we're drawing down the natural groundwater level and when you do that the ground settles. We are monitoring that settlement to make sure that it's within a predicted range and that's what all of these monitoring wells are for. Eight of them, mainly around Rex, are on telemetry so they are continuously monitoring and you can view that information on the website because in Rex we're mining quite close to the surface so we've got a tighter trigger value that we're monitoring against. So, if we see a sharp decline in a short amount of time that's an indication that there could be a problem that needs to be investigated. This network is getting adapted and reviewed and expanded all the time. We put a new piezometer in here last year, across the road from Mitre 10, and we're putting another one in later this year here. We didn't have any reportable groundwater level decreases related to mining activities. I think we did report a couple to council that were related to rainfall. In the early part of 2026, we got a lot of rain a couple of times as everyone knows. What happened then was the groundwater level recharged quite rapidly and then it dropped quite rapidly afterwards and exceeded our trigger level so we reported that to council. But, it was related to the rainfall not related to mining. We still investigate that just to make sure that it's not related to mining. So, that's the groundwater level monitoring.

The other part of our monitoring is the settlement monitoring. We have survey pins and I don't have a map of it but there are probably hundreds of survey pins throughout Waihi. Every six months we have a team of surveyors go out and check the level of those and then they compare it to the previous six-month reading and that way we can measure how much settlement there's been in that location all the way back to 1989 when we started the surveys.

Tim said: Shane, the pins are like nails driven into the ground. What happens if you see a big difference in the levels?

Shane said: Basically, the town is broken up into zones that radiate out from the pit. We are expecting more settlement around the pit and above the mine workings and less as you go further out. It's divided into zones and each zone has an allowable amount of settlement. If we exceed that then that's a trigger that we investigate to see, "What's the reason for that?" Sometimes marks move because they've been disturbed, sometimes they get covered up, you know they reseal the road and it disappears and we've got to put a new one in. So, they're

constantly changing and moving but because we've got that dataset going right back to 1989 those anomalies smooth out. So, we expect to see just gradual settlement. The key thing we're looking at is tilt. If everything is settling at the same rate it's no problem but if the marks are settling at different rates then you get tilt and that's what we don't want to happen because that's when you can get damage to buildings and infrastructure and that sort of thing. We do that survey every six months. We compare the height of the mark to the previous reading and the readings all the way back to 1989 but we've also got different networks where we compare the rates of settlement between two marks and we have triggers for tilt. If it exceeds a trigger then we need to investigate the reasons why what's happened.

Brian said: So, this is reporting on the groundwater, it's not reporting on the water tables. Are there any increase or decrease in those?

Shane said: Probably what I should have said here is that these piezometers can be multi-level. We can have sensors at three different levels for example. You could have one reading shallow groundwater level, one deeper down and then some of them are down 200m which is where we are dewatering. We're monitoring the deep groundwater level that we're actually dewatering but we're also monitoring the shallow groundwater level because we don't want to be dewatering that because that's isolated from the deep groundwater that we're pumping out to mine and if that shallow water starts dropping then that indicates there could be a problem.

Brian said: So, there's no level decreases or increases in those water tables even though this is more flow, less flow as compared to your groundwater?

Shane said: Not that has exceeded our trigger levels that we've got set. The two examples that I gave before where we did have a rapid drop was following rainfall. We had a rapid increase and a rapid drop, so we investigated and attributed that to a rainfall event not to mining. We are monitoring different levels.

Tim said: And is there an impermeable andesite layer between the levels?

Shane said: Yes, that keeps them separate.

Tim said: If you cut a hole and water was going down through that andesite layer that could cause an issue?

Shane said: Potentially that could happen, so we are being careful to monitor for that.

Glenis said: What will happen when you're no longer mining in those areas or you've finished mining, what happens to that water?

Shane said: It will gradually recharge back to its original levels.

Glenis said: So, will that hold everything stable?

Shane said: There could be a little bit of a rebound. So, the ground has settled a little bit, it could rebound back a bit. But that's all been looked at as part of the closure and the refilling of the lake and all that sort of thing.

Glenis said: And just one other one, with the planning underway for a new vibrating wire piezometer, where's that going to go and what is it? Is there a difference between a vibrating piezometer and the other ones?

Shane said: That's just the type of piezometer it is. That's going on the north side of the pit here. You may be aware of the peer review process that we have annually where council's experts come and review our reports and provide recommendations. As well as ourselves, they're looking at this network and identifying where we potentially have a gap in information that we need to fill. So, they've identified this is the next location we need to look at so that's where we're going to put another piezometer. Back in the old days they were all standpipes, you just drill a hole in the ground, put some plastic in it and then you have to drop something down to measure the depth of the water. The vibrating wire is just an instrument that's in there permanently that's sending the data back via telemetry.

Glenis said: So, it's a better technology.

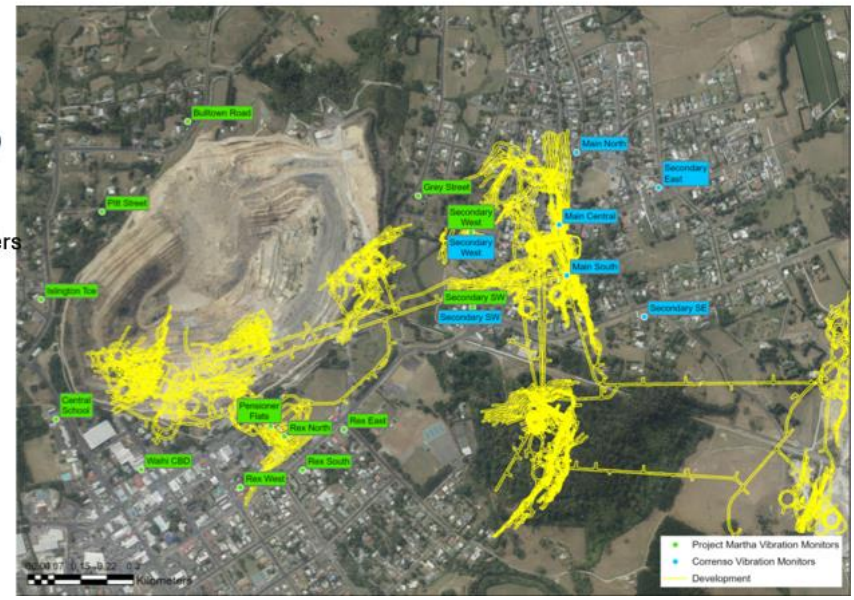
Shane said: It's better and that's the way we're going with the new piezometers.

Vibration monitoring

Environment – Vibration Monitoring Overview

- Compliant with consent limits for blast vibration Jan-Jun 2026
- Two high-level vibration events (>5mm/s)
- 15 blast events fired outside preferred blast windows (283 blast events in total)

piezometers



Shane said: Vibration is the last topic. Again, we've got a network of vibration monitors around town. These green ones are what we call the Martha network and then the blue ones are Correnso. I've got the consent limits on the next slide but if we have a blast where vibration exceeds 5mm/second, we call that a high-level blast. It's not a non-compliance but we need to investigate it. We had two of those in that period which were investigated and reported to council. We had 15 blast events that were fired outside our preferred blast windows. Our preferred blast windows are 7.30am to 8.30am and 1pm to 2pm and 7pm to 8pm. The development blasts, which are the smaller blasts which are the drives, are in the morning and the evening and production blasting is in the mid-shift.

Brian said: Isn't it 1.30pm to 2.30pm?

Erich said: Yeah, it's 1.30pm to 2.30pm.

Shane said: We endeavour to fire within those times but sometimes for technical or other reasons we can't fire inside that window so we report on that. We had 15 blasts outside of that out of a total of 283 blast events.

Glenis said: Who decides what the preferred blast window is? Is that a consent condition?

Shane said: It's not a consent condition but it's in our management plan.

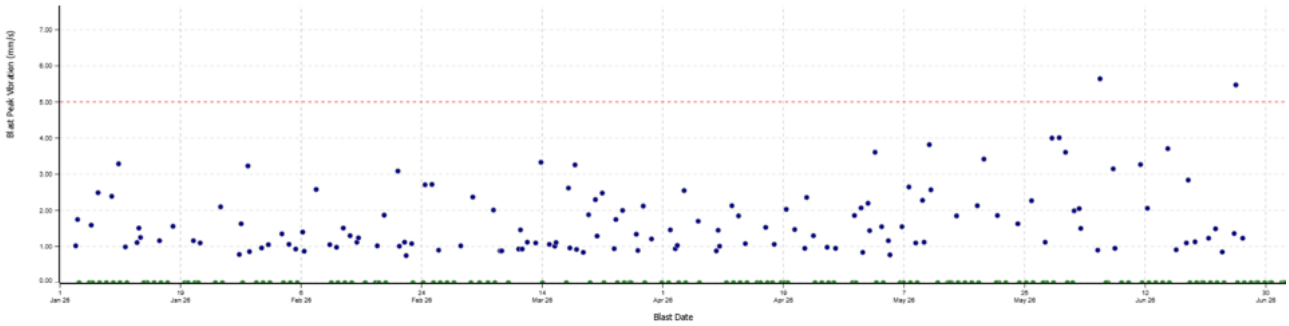
Donna said: Those times for the production blasts were originally set for Correnso when the kids would be outside playing at lunchtime near the school.

Vibration Monitoring Results

Rolling 6-month performance to 30 June 2026

	Compliance Limit	Correnso	Martha Underground
Development 95%	5 mm/s	0.75 mm/s	2.13 mm/s
Development Average	2 mm/s	0.75 mm/s (Main Central)	0.73 mm/s (Rex West)
Production 95%	5 mm/s	1.88 mm/s	3.71 mm/s
Production Average	3 mm/s	1.27 mm/s (Main Central)	1.31 mm/s (Central School)
Maintenance/Safety	1 mm/s	No blasts	No blasts

MUG Blast Vibration Peaks Jan-Jun 2026



Shane said: This slide has got our consent limits. It's a 95 percentile, so 95% of our blasts have to be less than 5mm/second. Development is 5mm/second and production is 5mm/second. We also have a limit on the average at each individual monitor which is 2mm/second for development and 3mm/second for production. You can see from our results here that we are below those limits. The highest result, as you would expect, is the Martha underground production blasting. Our 95% is 3.71mm/second compared to our limit of 5mm/second. This chart shows every blast during that six-month period. That line is 5mm/second so you can see most of them are down around 1.5 to 2 and there are the two high-level ones we had, I think they were both in June, that we reported to council.

Tim said: Do people experience those? Do you recall those happening in June?

Shane said: I remember feeling one of them quite sharply.

Paula said: I did.

Brian said: What's the process once you report it? Maybe Leigh can answer.

Shane said: We investigate it to determine the cause and we try and prevent that happening again.

Brian said: So, your letter to the council, they just receive it.

Leigh Robcke said: We read it.

Brian said: Oh, great.

Leigh Robcke said: There haven't been a lot of exceedances in the last few years to be honest. These are the first in about eight months.

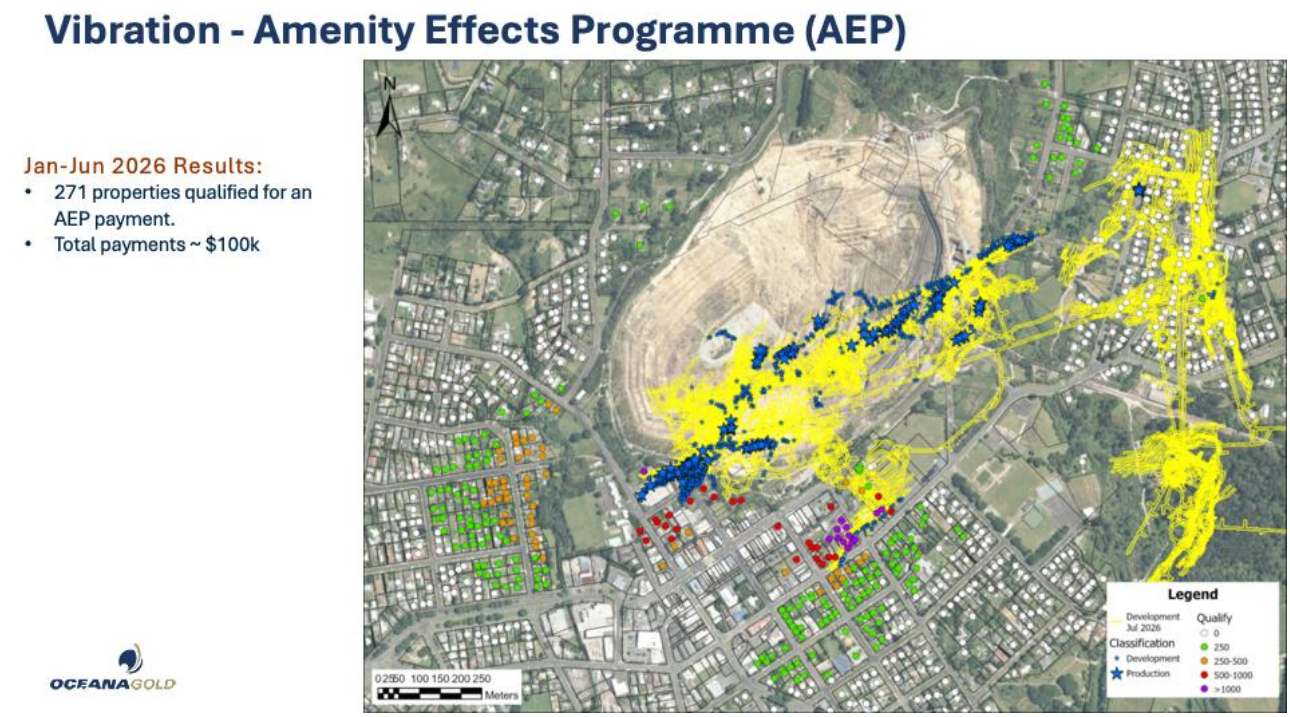
Shane said: I think the previous before these two, we had one in February last year. So, it's been over a year with no notifiable blasts.

Paula said: Leigh or Shane, if we exceeded that 95% that would be different, wouldn't it?

Shane said: That would be a consent non-compliance, then we're not compliant with our consent.

Leigh Robcke said: If there was a big cluster of exceedances over a short period of time, we've got a blasting expert who looks at it and talks to their blasting and vibration expert and tries to come up with a solution.

Amenity Effects Programme (AEP)



Shane said: There is a financial consequence to having more high-level blasts in that we have to pay out more in AEP. These are the results for January to June 2026 when 271 properties qualified for a payment and the total payments for that six-month period were around $100,000.

Every dot here is a property that signed up to the programme and on the legend down here you can see the green dots which are properties that qualified for the minimum payment of $250 and then it's a sliding scale. So, the more vibration you experience at your property the higher your payment is. $250 to $500 is orange, $500 to $1,000 is red and over $1,000 is purple. As you would expect, the people that are closer to where the blasting is happening get a higher payout.

Marie Canning said: On 22 August I got a letter saying you qualify for your $250, it will be paid within two weeks. Today is 17 September which is three weeks later.

Jeannine Wiki said: It's going in tonight, trust me. We had trouble with the accounts so it's going in tonight.

Marie said: But you know last month, the last time I got this payment and I came and saw you and I said I hadn't been paid so you went and queried it and the accounts department rang me and said, "You have been paid". So, I went back and said to you, "Give me the account number it went into" because it certainly wasn't mine. Then the next thing, you rang me and said, "It's going in on Friday".

Tim said: So, that was the previous payment and that was eventually sorted out?

Marie said: Oh yeah, it was eventually sorted out but we shouldn't be mucking around like this.

Jeannine Wiki said: One of the reasons is that when we send the letter a lot of people only get their mail delivered once or twice a week, it's not every single day. So, we've got to allow for …

Marie said: So, change your letter.

Jeannine Wiki said: Thank you, we will. We've got to allow for the letter to go out and then because we don't go and door-knock we don't know who everyone is in their property, that gives us a chance to get the letters to come back to us if they're passed on or they've moved away. So, we are looking at improvements so any suggestions would be great.

Tim said: So, Marie you said change the letter?

Jeannine Wiki said: I'm open to any options. What will we change it to?

Marie said: Say “within three weeks” or something, so that people know what to expect?

Jeannine Wiki said: Yep, thank you.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *We appreciate this feedback and will make changes to the letter before the next round of AEP payments (July-December payment).*

Katherine said: How come there’s parcel boundaries at the top of the pit (looking at the top righthand corner of the pit on the aerial photo on the slide above). Is that where old streets or old houses were?

Donna said: It is old property boundaries.

Shane said: I’ll just explain a bit more about what this is showing on this slide. The yellow lines are the development drives and the blue stars are the blast locations, each blast location during the period. The small stars are development blasts and the large stars are production blasts. The way that you qualify is, if I go back to my previous slide, these are the vibration monitor locations and there’s 18 or 19 of them. They have a trigger level of 0.75mm/second so each time they record vibration above that, it sets the monitor off, it records the level of vibration and it sends it to a database. To do the AEP calculation, if you’re living in this house here, there’s a calculation that looks at the nearest monitor pretty much on either side of you, it sees what level of vibration was recorded and then calculates what would have been felt at that location. If that’s calculated to be more than 1.5mm/second twice in a month then you qualify for an AEP payment. If it’s less than that, you don’t qualify and then it’s a sliding scale. I can’t remember exactly what the numbers are, but if it’s 1.5 to 3 you get a higher payment and then the payments go up. The more of those blasts you have, the higher the payment.

John Sharp said: What sort of damage would you expect in your home? Any? With an extreme one, would it knock the vase off the mantlepiece or something, or what?

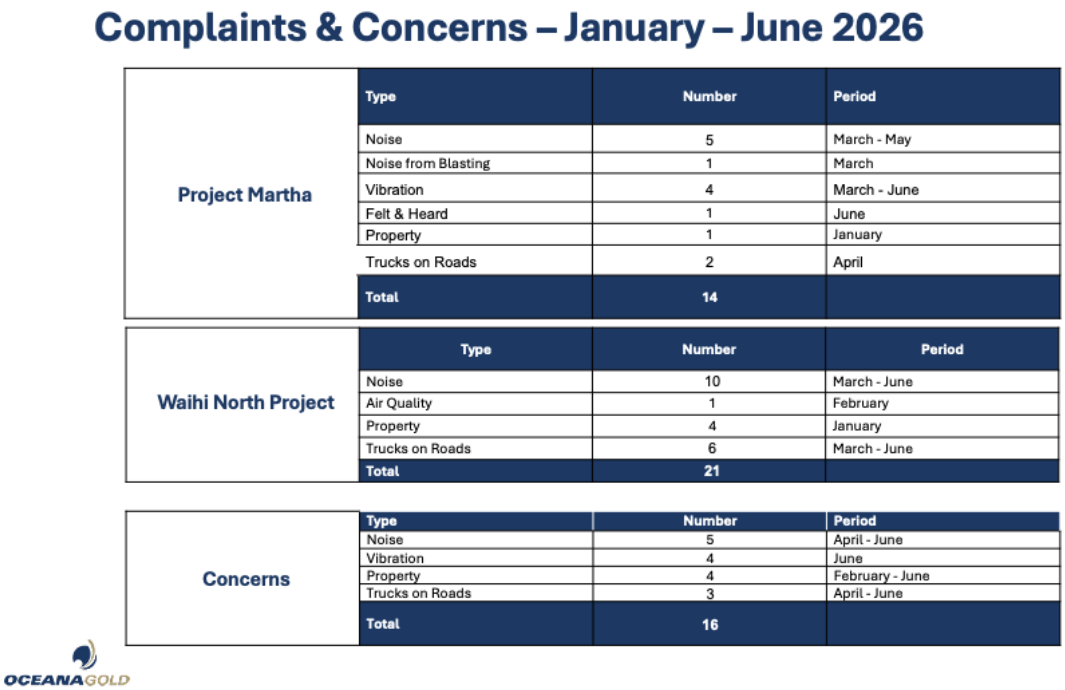
Shane said: No. The 5mm/second is set to be protective of peoples’ amenity. The AEP was designed because it recognises that people are affected by vibration and blasts but the 5mm/second is set really to protect peoples’ amenity. To cause structural damage, you would really be looking at 10-15mm/second, or upwards of 15mm/second.

John said: We had earthquakes in my time down in Turangi. It was doing more than knocking stuff off the mantlepiece, so scary.

Shane said: We’re nowhere near that.

Community

Donna said: For anyone that's new tonight that's living in an area where you are feeling vibration or blasting, we do have a notification device that we can hand out to people but we're trying to go away from those because they are quite unreliable. What Jeannine and I do every morning is we put where we are blasting and what times up on the Waihi Gold website and we also send emails to people that want to be emailed about blasting each day and we also send texts out to people that want to be notified. So, if any of you that are new here aren't on those lists and would like to be, please see us before you go and we will get your details and add you to those lists.



Complaints & Concerns – January – June 2026

	Type	Number	Period
Project Martha	Noise	5	March - May
	Noise from Blasting	1	March
	Vibration	4	March - June
	Felt & Heard	1	June
	Property	1	January
	Trucks on Roads	2	April
	Total	**14**	

	Type	Number	Period
Waihi North Project	Noise	10	March - June
	Air Quality	1	February
	Property	4	January
	Trucks on Roads	6	March - June
	Total	**21**	

	Type	Number	Period
Concerns	Noise	5	April - June
	Vibration	4	June
	Property	4	February - June
	Trucks on Roads	3	April - June
	Total	**16**	

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Donna said: The next slide is complaints and concerns. I man the 0800 number so tend to take most of the complaints and concerns raised by the community. The January to June period, the last six months, for Project Martha, the underground pit, we had five noise complaints. Noise from blasting is where people hear blasting rather than feel it and we had one in March. For vibration, we had four complaints between March and June. One person felt and heard a blast in June. We had one property complaint and trucks on roads we had two of those. They were related to our Baxter Road operation where we got a bit of mud on the road so we got the sweeper out and we're constantly washing and sweeping that road now. The Waihi North Project, our new project, we had 10 noise complaints and they were mainly related to night-time noise when we were doing a lot of surface earthworks at the very start of the project. We had one air quality complaint and four property complaints which were all about someone's driveway. We were using a shared driveway and we blocked it a few times with the services trench works. Trucks on roads, which we've all heard about in the news recently, we had six complaints about those. We also report concerns from the community. We had five noise concerns, four vibration concerns – and this is over the whole projects that we're doing – four property concerns and three trucks on road concerns.

Tim said: Donna, what's the difference between a complaint and a concern?

Donna said: A complaint is when someone wants to make a formal complaint about something. A concern is where they might ring up and say, "Look I'm a bit concerned about …and I think you should know…."

Brian said: Do you ever get any constructive feedback?

Donna said: Sometimes, yes. These all get reported. The management team look at these and especially with the blasting if we get a lot of complaints about a particular blast on a particular day, they can look at those complaints and think, "Well actually, can we re-design the blast or do something better to lower that vibration limit?". We don't want complaints. Complaints are a gift really because they give us something we can improve on. We're not aware of it unless you tell us.

Brian said: Is there a traffic management plan in place for residential, in other words controlled by HDC, as compared to NZTA roading?

Paula said: If you're talking about Willows Road, we have a traffic management plan and that's approved by HDC and also NZTA for traffic in both areas, along State Highway 25 and up Willows Road. That's probably the only one.

Leigh Robcke said: Yes, there's a condition in the Waihi North consent that the road has to be put back to a certain level. So, they've done a condition assessment before activity takes place and then they go back and do it, I think, every year and then at some stage there'll be some works to bring it back up to a certain level. But it won't be until after construction stops, I would have thought.

Brian said: So, what about Barry Road? Because in emergencies, you're allowed to use trucks to go down there to get onto your property as compared to Baxter Road and Moore Road. The emergency is obviously happening for a whole year because it's been quite some time and I noticed today as I drove down I saw a big sign from HDC saying that they're really pleased that they're going to be fixing the road because it's in the summer works plan which means ratepayers are paying for perhaps a lot of the potholes and damage that may be being done by these trucks that have an emergency for over a year going down residential roads.

Donna said: The Moore Street access is our emergency exit if we can't get out through Baxters Road and that's used from time to time when the bridge at Baxter Road goes under in the flood but it is ***also*** allowed to be used for oversized vehicles that are too big to go across the bridge and so we have been using that to truck oversized objects, mainly for our water treatment plant upgrade.

Brian said: Is that finished or is that continuing?

Donna said: No, it's just about done. But, we actually do letter-drops to all the Moore Street residents, Knowles Crescent residents and half of Barry Road, right up to the corner of Kenny Street, just to the left of Moore Street, right up to Kenny Street, right up to the old dairy, both sides of the road, and let those people know that we are bringing in something oversized up your street and at what time of the day or night that might be.

Brian said: Okay, so is it because the bridge in Baxter Road can't take the weight?

Donna said: Yep, or they're too wide to go across the bridge.

Glenis said: So, wouldn't they be causing damage to those residential roads if they're that big and that wide? Surely being oversized that would damage those roads and then who pays for the damage?

Paula said: We actually do work constructively with both HDC and NZTA. For instance, on State Highway 25 we have an agreement with NZTA where we pay for some of the fixing of the potholes there, recognising that we're not the only traffic on that road and that we're not causing all of the damage. The road condition wasn't great when it started out there but we're still contributing to that and we do the same with the council.

Brian said: And will you contribute to Barry Road more?

Jeannine Wiki said: Has Barry Road got potholes?

Leigh Robcke said: I think Barry Road was damaged before the Waihi North Project. I was talking to the roading manager and he said it was unfortunate but the road was already stuffed so that it would be mainly district council that would be paying for it.

Tim said: Are you worried, Brian and Glenis, about there being an unfair burden on ratepayers?

Glenis said: Well, we've had some elderly residents in Barry Road ask us to ask these questions about it because they're concerned about the road and they document the heavy traffic that's using the road at present and they're concerned about the noise and the damage that has occurred to the road over time that may end up being a burden on ratepayers rather than the users of the road with the heavy traffic.

Paula said: There wouldn't be a lot of heavy traffic from Barry Road though from our operations. Our contractors are told to, and they do, stick to the main highways.

Donna said: Maybe earlier on when we first started the services trench and we had a lay-down area at the end of Barry Road but now we're not using that lay-down area, it's only up Moore Street when we've got those oversized loads and there are not a lot (of traffic movements).

Josh said: All I was going to say was one of the conditions for Waihi North actually is all our management plans, and one of them is the traffic one, have to be published and so that's on the website and we can put

that in the minutes or something anyway and that's got basically what we're talking about now, the conditions and all the specifics around the traffic management.

Tim said: So, if I jump to the end of the point that Brian and Glenis are making along the lines of whether there will be remediation at some stage, you're saying yes there is some work alongside NZTA on State Highway 25. In terms of the internal road, Leigh, you're saying that Moore Road or Barry Road was stuffed already?

Leigh said: No, Willows Road is having a lot of traffic on it but the condition is that once construction is finished, Oceana will upgrade it.

Paula said: Yep.

Donna said: And the intersection.

Brian said: Are you saying Barry Road was stuffed then?

Leigh Robcke said: Yeah, Barry Road but that's ongoing maintenance basically. I think it's programmed for this year.

Helga said: We got a letter today and a piece of paper …

Erich said: Yes, they will dig it out 63cm and it gets done very shortly on 1 October.

Glenis said: So, can I just ask, is there a traffic management plan for the residential roads?

Paula said: There is a traffic management plan for the construction that goes with the Waihi North Project so that covers Willows Road and along the state highway and mostly around that intersection. It regulates the number of trucks that we're allowed to have per day.

Glenis said: So, it's specific to that but it doesn't actually talk about, say, Barry Road?

Paula said: No, [there is no TMP for Barry Road, because that is not part of the project and there are no consent conditions around that].

Tim said: I think maybe the other bit of the answer is, and it will be in the minutes, Leigh saying that council have got a project that's about to commence in relation to Barry Road that's a remediation that's been on the council's books.

Paula said: Yeah, and the condition of Barry Road wasn't good, it was due for council to do some work on it prior to our use of it with the Fulton Hogan yard anyway.

Erich said: The only problem is this truck traffic what comes now, the idiot truck drivers use their engine braking. Engine braking is forbidden in Waihi. Make sure you tell them.

Donna said: We have.

Erich said: Then tell them again. They still do it.

Tim said: Are you still having it happen?

Paula said: Thank you for sharing that. We will pass that on.

Donna said: Yes, we will definitely pass that on Erich.

Proposed plan change application withdrawal

Martha Open Pit Project – Proposed Plan Change application withdrawal

2023 – application to expand the Martha Mineral Zone

2025 – public hearing and decision granting partial approval

2025 – decision appealed by Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki

Environment Court has not yet set a date to consider the appeal

2026 – OceanaGold makes decision to withdraw its application

May revisit at some point in the future – would require significant future work and engagement. Understand importance to the community, will be open about our plans and provide updates as they develop

OceanaGold remains committed to the ongoing stewardship and maintenance of the site

This includes planning for final closure and the delivery of enhancement work for the wider Pukewa/Martha Hill area

Will get this work underway now, where we can, and make improvements around the pit, focusing on areas we can progress regardless of any future pit expansion

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Paula said: This was back in June and many of you might have already heard this news, we did put communication out around this time, but I thought I would speak to it anyway because it has happened in between the last meeting and this meeting. This was our proposed plan change application which we actually withdrew in June and it was sitting as part of the Martha Open Pit Project.

In 2023, we put an application into council to expand the Martha Mineral Zone, which is the area around the pit that enables mining to take place, and that meant a plan change basically to expand that zone. It didn't give us consent to mine or anything like that but it was the first step to potentially allow an expansion of the pit. In 2025, there was a public hearing and commissioners made a decision that granted partial approval:

Martha Open Pit Project – Proposed Plan Change application withdrawal

What we applied for

- Rezoning of 47 properties (owned by, or under the control of Oceana Gold) to Martha Mineral Zone in the Hauraki District Plan.

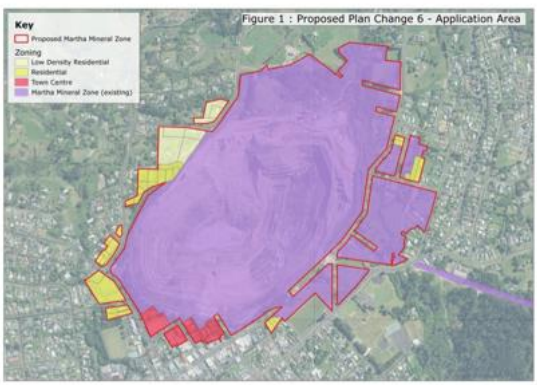

Figure 1 : Proposed Plan Change 6 - Application Area

What was approved

- Rezoning of 19 properties from Residential Zone to Martha Mineral Zone
- Rezoning of 7 properties from Low Density Residential Zone to Martha Mineral Zone
- Note: The change of zone does not authorise new physical mining beyond that which is already approved. We would still require resource consent to expand the Martha Pit across all, or part of, those properties (as a discretionary activity).

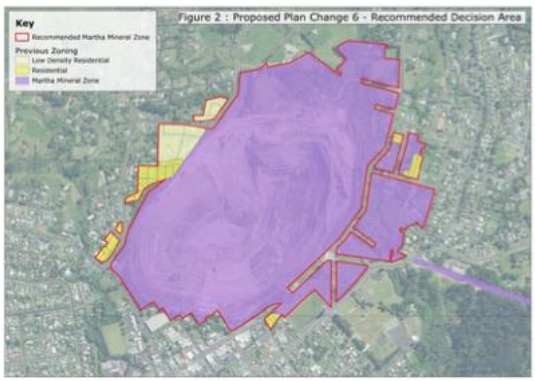

Figure 2 : Proposed Plan Change 6 - Recommended Decision Area

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INNOVATION PERFORMANCE GROWTH

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Paula said: This is what we originally applied for and you can see in the key here the yellow and red areas were where we wanted to expand the mineral zone to, the purple is where the existing zone was. On this next picture you will see what was actually approved. All this area down here was not approved for the plan change as part of that decision. Going back to the other slide, that decision was appealed by Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki.

At that point, the Environment Court had not yet set a date to consider the appeal. In June this year, we made a decision to withdraw the application and basically in light of the partial approval we didn't have sufficient land required to support the future expansion of the pit. Basically, because of the partial approval, there wasn't going to be enough land to support the future expansion of the pit so we decided to withdraw the application. We may revisit that at some point in the future but based on the commissioner's feedback in terms of a requirement for more community engagement and planning, it would require significant future work and engagement and planning to do that so we would expect that to take a long time.

If we went down that pathway again, it would basically be a whole new application and require notification, consultation, communication etc. However, we understand the importance to the community of the pit and we will be open about our plans and provide updates as they develop and we remain committed to the ongoing stewardship and maintenance of the site which includes planning for closure and the delivery of enhancement work for the wider Pukewā Martha Hill area. Where we can, we're going to get some of this work underway now and make improvements around the pit, focusing on areas we can progress regardless of any future pit expansion.

Paula said: One of those projects is on Kenny Street. It's around the pit rim walkway in this area here which is the site of the slump in 2001 when the house fell into historic mine workings. So, we've undertaken a joint initiative with Hako Tiako Whenua Nursery, the nursery owned by Ngati Hako which is another of our local iwi. They're based in Tirohia and have been operating for five years and they have supplied all the plants and also the labour and the people to come and put these plants in. The walkway comes around this side. They've planted a big mix of native species including slow-growing canopy trees, Rimu, Matai, Totara, Kahikatea which will eventually grow up and smaller ones to protect them when they're seedlings in the meantime. That work's been finished, it's just got to grow and be maintained now.

Golden Valley is another area where we've been doing lots of planting on our land out there that we own. We've put in more than 2,500 native plants since 2025 and those have been mostly along the river margins and wetland areas just helping to improve the water quality and stabilise the stream banks and create habitat for native wildlife.

The other one you can see up the top (photo) there is our weeding Wednesdays and that's one of our keen enviro interns. This has been championed by our interns and it's focused on weeding around the pit rim, Favona wetlands and this is actually the community garden site on Haszard Street which is land that we've basically given, on a peppercorn lease, to a local trust to develop the community garden which is starting to take shape.

Brian said: Is that where the Foresters Hall used to be?

Paula said: Yeah, I think there's three sections. It's a big space.

Brian said: Are you still storing the old Foresters Hall nice and safely?

Josh said: Yep.

Paula said: So, those are some things and also we are in the planning stages, which we will share more about later, of a co-designed interpretive signage project with cultural and heritage storytelling involved. Watch that space. And you might want to speak a bit to this one Shane?

Janine Barlow said: Just before you move on, a question. You were talking about the pit, there's no work happening in there. Just wondering, I go for walks around the pit and you've got a rig up there.

Paula said: Yes, that's an exploration drilling rig, looking under that area around Correnso at the moment and I think it's going to be there probably until the end of the year. Is that correct, Donna?

Donna said: Yep.

Janine Barlow said: Is it working a day shift and night shift?

Paula said: Yes, it currently is.

Janine Barlow said: I'm in Bulltown Road so, if it's quiet, I can hear it and if the wind's blowing that way.

Paula said: Don't hesitate to call our community engagement line if you do hear it and what we'll do, or what Donna or whoever is on call from our team will do, is then get in touch with the environment team and exploration and will do the monitoring and make sure that we are below limits. At nighttime it's 40dba which is pretty low. But if you can hear it and it's a concern to you then give us a call.

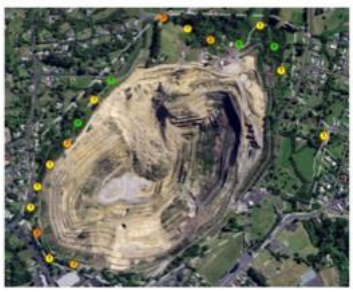
Glenis said: Is it looking for more gold?

Paula said: Yeah, well all our exploration is basically trying to understand what's beneath the ground there. Patrick might know more about this but our Correnso consent has been extended for another two years. So, I guess we're looking to see what's under there.

Patrick said: Correct.

Round the Traps – Pest Control

- Enviro team continued to maintain the onsite predator control network to reduce populations of possums, rats, stoats, hedgehogs, ferrets.
- 68 traps and 49 bait stations around the Pit and Baxter Road.
- Canadian geese egg addling completed at TSF to suppress population.



62

predators caught onsite Jan-Jun 2026

OCEANAGOLD

Shane said: I'll stand up for two seconds. I don't know much about it to be honest. Just a couple of maps here that show our trap network around the pit and out at Baxter Road on the development site around the TSFs. We're just working to control pests out there – possums, rats, stoats, hedgehogs, ferrets etc. There's a total of 68 traps and 49 bait stations combined around the pit and Baxter Road. You will see there we caught a total of 62 predators in that six-month period so that's about 10 a month. There are numbers inside those circles and then the colours is what was caught, but I don't have the legend so I can't say how many of each sorry.

We've also been working up at the tailings dams to try and control the Canadian geese population by doing egg addling so I think that's coming up again soon. You either pierce the egg with a large needle, that's one method, or you can smother them in oil. But basically you leave them on the nest so the geese don't know that you've done it and they don't lay more eggs, they keep incubating those ones.

Tim said: As a population control exercise. What wildlife birds occupy the TSF area?

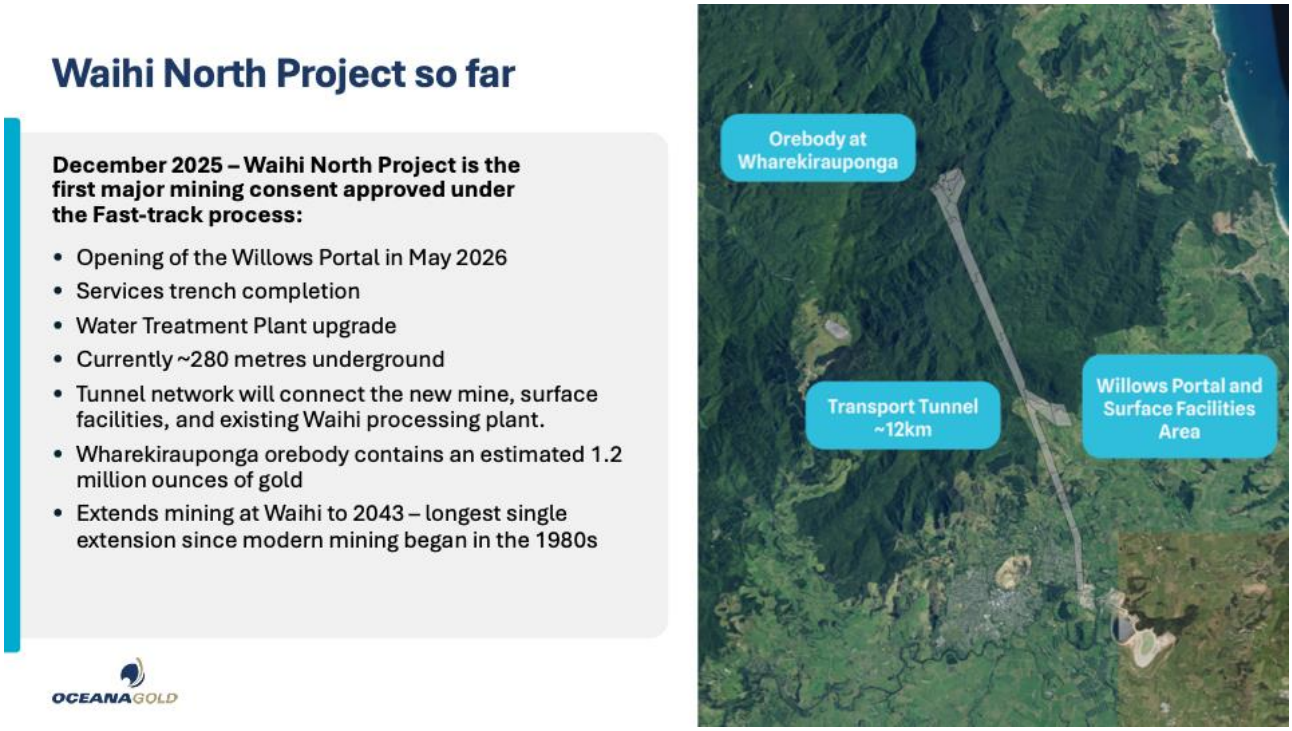
Paula said: Dotterels.

Josh said: And many ducks.

Shane said: Lots of ducks and swans, pukekos.

Paula said: Because there's quite a wetland area up there.

Paula said: Just quickly, this is upcoming work at our TSF1A. The work we're doing there we'll be starting any time mid-September or within the next few weeks. We're going to be increasing the height of the storage dam by 1.6m to provide additional tailings storage capacity to support our ongoing operations. The work is weather dependent and expected to continue through late May 2027 and most activity will be undertaken between 6am and 6pm on weekdays and between 6am and midday on Saturdays. However, depending on how we're going and the weather, we may also be working between midday and 6pm on Saturdays and on Sundays as well. You might notice that. I don't know if anyone lives around that area but that work's taking place soon.



Paula said: A quick update on the Waihi North Project. Last time we spoke with you I think we'd only just got the consent and we were working towards putting in the portal to go underground. That portal, which is here, was opened with a dawn blessing in May this year and they're currently around probably 300m …

Patick said: 350m.

Paula said: 350m, oh it's changed, they're progressing pretty quickly – about 350m underground on this tunnel here which is the access tunnel to the decline that will go up to the ore body which is here at Wharekirauponga and also the split off and there will be a tunnel going back to our processing plant in Waihi here. That's all underground. But it's just actually showing you how far into the bush that ore body is. It's going to take five years to get there.

Josh said: It's probably also worth mentioning that the outline there is basically where the tunnel ***can*** go. That's not to scale, it just has to be somewhere in there.

Paula said: Yeah, that's the corridor. This tunnel here, which is the transport tunnel, we'll probably start constructing that towards the end of 2028?

Patrick said: I think they plan to start that at the beginning of 2028, late 2027 to the beginning of 2028.

John said: Paula, how far is the ore body from the Willows portal? What's the distance there?

Paula said: That distance there – 7kms to the site and then, what, about 5 kms back in the other direction to the processing area. About 12km altogether I think, roughly.

John said: Is that the coast you can see out there?

Josh said: Yes, that's Whiritoa.

Brian said: What is the estimated depth of the tunnel back to the processing plant?

Paula said: It's between about 150m to 300m underground. That would be the average. We haven't got the exact alignment yet. We're still drilling to understand the geology better in that area and from that we'll determine exactly where it will go.

Brian said: Will that go through residential or Union Hill, Black Hill, out that way?

Paula said: No, it's not a very good picture, we do have better maps that show exactly where the corridor is. It's on the end of Barry Road.

Brian said: At the beginning of Barry Road?

Paula said: No, right down the end, past the residential area. The corridor goes that way and through up. It's not in a residential area, is what I'm trying to say. We will do our best to avoid going underneath peoples' properties but where that's unavoidable then we are offering ex gratia payments.

Brian said: So, it won't come into Martha, you know where your processing was and then onto the conveyor belt, it won't come into Martha?

Paula said: No, it's going directly to the processing plant.

Glenis said: And what's that tunnel for?

Paula said: Once we start mining the ore it will be transported back through that tunnel, potentially also some workers and different things. It's to keep all of the trucks off the public road.

Glenis said: So, there won't need to be trucks to transport that all back?

Paula said: No, it will all go through that underground tunnel.

Brian said: And the waste goes back up to Wharekirauponga?

Josh said: Basically, we're using the processing plant as it is. We're just getting the ore from much further away than we do currently, is effectively how it plays out. Ore at Wharekirauponga comes back, is processed at Baxter and then that goes as part of TSF3.

Paula said: We're building a new tailings facility to cater for that ore body.

Glenis said: With the tailings dam, how high can they go? What's the limit?

Paula said: The limit for the one I was talking about earlier, TSF1A, is 182m. With the 1.6m raise that we're doing, it will go to 181.1m. If they're doing really well and making good progress, they might try and go that extra 90cm to finish that one off but it's only consented to 182m.

Jeannine Wiki said: You've got to remember, it's not straight up. It's on an angle.

Glenis said: Do you think it is likely you would apply for a consent to raise that further?

Paula said: No, that's where TSF3 comes in so we'll build the new one.

Brian said: Where's TSF3 compared to 1 and 1A?

Paula said: Again, not a great map but it's in this kind of area (pointing to the south-east of TSF1).

Josh said: Yeah, above TSF1A.

Glenis said: And do we have a plan of how high TSF3 will be?

Paula said: I think it's been designed as part of the consent but I'm not sure what the height is. I think it's lower, actually. I think the plan is for it to be lower. I can't answer that confidently now but we can get it to you in a post-meeting answer.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *The new tailings dam will sit on a paddock that is 118 metres above sea level.*
> - *Initial build: The dam wall will start at 24 metres high (reaching 142 metres above sea level).*
> - *Maximum allowed height: Over time, the dam can legally be raised to a maximum of 37 metres high (reaching 155 metres above sea level).*
>
> *Note: In project plans, you will see these sea-level heights listed as "RL" (Reduced Level).*

John said: Where's that metal been going to? There's been metal trucks going up to Willows Road for a while in truck and trailer units. I'm very interested in where that's going. Was it going underground?

Paula said: No, it's going to build all of this area here at the top of Willows Road, the service facilities area where all the offices and amenities for staff are being built, all the haul roads.

Josh said: The portal (the tunnel entrance) is that light-coloured bit (on the slide).

Paula said: The tunnel entrance, and we're now 350m underground there, and this is one of four ventilation shafts that are going to provide air to everybody.

John said: I went up, I drove up and had a look. You can't go further can you?

Josh said: Willows Road, I think, ends pretty much on that far left edge there and the rest is private land effectively.

Paula said: It's pretty incredible actually the amount of progress they've made since only getting the consent in December last year.

Glenis said: How big is that area of land that you're doing that work on and do you own it all?

Paula said: I don't know how big Willows Farm actually is but it's quite a few hectares and we do own all this area up to the bush that we're working on here, yes.

Peter Lush said: Where will the tailings go that you're digging out, everything that you're digging out of that?

Paula said: Out of the mine itself? That will go back to the new tailings storage facility that we're building here.

Tim said: So, even the waste rock around the construction you're talking about on that area in Willows?

Paula said: No, that waste rock is being stored onsite.

Katherine said: Isn't it being stored in the northern rock stack?

Josh said: Yes, it is. If you go back to the other one, you basically end up with a few different streams. All that's processed becomes tailings and that goes into TSF3. Waste rock, which is basically just rock that isn't interesting to us, gets stored and then returned for backfill and that sort of thing. The plan for Willows, which is part of the things they're building, is basically a storage area for that stuff to sit at until you move it back underground and you just don't want to move it more than you have to.

Peter said: Got enough room for 30 years' worth of mining?

Josh said: You'd have to ask the designers but that's what they've done, so yeah.

Paula said: We are doing some quarries, pits within this footprint here to build the third tailings storage facility.

Tim said: The number that I saw pop up there that I'm not sure you've quoted yet Paula, was about how many years of mining that all ends up producing?

Paula said: Based on our current knowledge of that ore body, it extends mining out to 2043 which is actually the longest single extension since modern mining began in the 1980s. So, it does provide a really nice amount of certainty to Waihi town, businesses and people can plan and be confident.

Brian said: So, we can be guaranteed there'll be no lake until after 2043?

Paula said: I can't speak to that.

Tim said: Because that's Wharekirauponga rather than Martha Pit.

Brian said: Because I think you will be concentrating on Wharekirauponga until they start getting gold back and then will you go back to looking at Martha, extending like they have in the past, I'm guessing, once you're getting some money back for your investment?

Paula said: I don't know, there's a whole lot of planning that we have to go through to re-ignite that project.

John said: The ore body at Wharekirauponga, the choppers that are going backwards and forwards, are they working up there on another portal, or what is happening there?

Paula said: We've got six drilling rigs up there at the moment. There is an ore body that we know right now and we're still exploring.

Tim said: That's just looking for the margins?

Paula said: Yeah, they're up there drilling so that's what a lot of the helicopter activity is. We have people camping in there and all sorts plus our enviro team go up there.

Tim said: Counting frogs?

Paula said: Counting frogs yep, relocating frogs. It's actually really steep, it's rugged up there.

Glenis said: What about geckos? Do you find geckos?

Paula said: Actually, as part of the construction of TSF3 we're creating a lizard habitat area, moko habitat area. It's quite a big area. I'm not sure exactly how many hectares, it might be 4ha or 5ha.

Glenis said: So, will you transfer what you find …….

Paula said: Yeah, so any moko that we find in the TSF3 area, I think they have to be counting them and getting an understanding of what's there at the moment, then they will go into that area. We're planting Muehlenbeckia and basically creating an environment for them.

Glenis said: Do you know what species have been found so far?

Paula said: I can find that out for you. I don't know.

Tim said: Species of gecko?

Glenis said: Yeah, because in the Coromandel there's a species that was thought to be long-extinct called the Coromandel Gold Stripe and it was rediscovered so it was a pretty exciting thing to find a lizard that nobody thought existed anymore and now it's thriving in different places up in the Coromandel. I would be interested to know whether any are in that area.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *There have been three Moko skinks found in the Lizard Release Area (LRA) previously, and one Moko skink in the area that we will be clearing of vegetation (the TSF3 vegetation clearance area).*
>
> *Habitat enhancement within the LRA will provide suitable habitat for Moko skinks and other native lizard species that may be salvaged and relocated during project activities. This includes species such as the Copper skink, which can coexist with Moko skinks in the same habitat.*
>
> *These species favour complex habitats that provide refuge beneath rocks, logs, woody debris, and ground-cover vegetation. Habitat enhancement within the LRA has focused on creating these features through native planting and the haphazard placement of woody debris, providing a range of natural shelter and refuge opportunities for lizards.*

Fritha said: With this new project and where you're going, does that mean more employment for more miners and more employment for the community? How many more people will get jobs?

Paula said: Absolutely, there's an estimated 859 extra new jobs per year and that includes primary, secondary-induced jobs, so that's the estimates that they've done around the extra employment. We have 150 to 200 contractors currently working as well.

Tim said: For kind of "life of mine" ish?

Paula said: Yeah and with an average income of $140,000.

Brian said: You say "locally". Does that mean that there's nobody coming from any other mining sites to work because of their expertise?

Paula said: No, it doesn't mean that but people who will be based here and working here. There are definitely certain jobs that do need that expertise but there's still people who will be living, working, contributing to the economy in this area.

John said: What's the staff numbers now for Oceana, here?

Paula said: 470.

Katherine said: So, there's going to be an extra 850 right up until 2043?

Paula said: Yeah, and that includes secondary, jobs that are created because of the extra stimulus to the economy.

Katherine said: Including jobs in the community not just directly employed by the company?

Glenis said: Is that 859 altogether or is that on top of the 400-odd that are already here?

Paula said: It's extra.

Josh said: Yeah.

Glenis said: And for what sort of period of time? Like, there'll be different amounts of employees needed for different parts of the project. Do you have that all time-lined out?

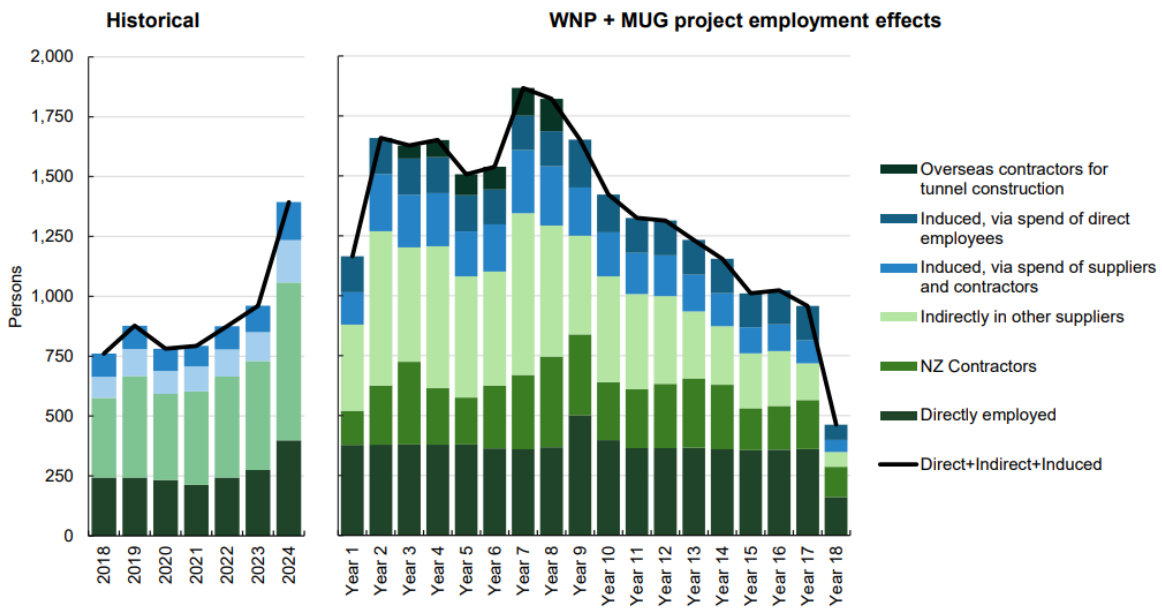
Paula said: The information is there and it's one I would have to dig out unless anybody here knows it.

Post-meeting answer:
From Shamubeel's report:
"The project will support a wide range of well-paid (over $100k pa) jobs at the mine (directly and through contractors) and indirectly via suppliers (spread over New Zealand) and the consumption of these supported jobs."
"The WNP project will support:

- *197 jobs directly in the mine, on average over the 18-year life of the project;*
- *223 jobs indirectly in contractors, who will work full time at the mine (192 excluding tunnelling construction contractors);*
- *243 jobs indirectly in other suppliers;*
- *and a further 195 jobs via induced demand (through the spending of supported jobs).*
- *A total of 859 jobs (direct, indirect and induced)."*

The effects on the Hauraki District are significant, with 199 direct jobs and a total of 442 (direct, indirect and induced). For context, there were 5,648 jobs located in the district in June 2024 according to tax data. So, this project is equivalent to 8% of all jobs located in the district.

Figure 10: The total effect of the mine will be a continuation and growth of well paid jobs in the region, and spillover benefits across New Zealand



"WNP will extend mining in Waihi beyond 2040. This will be a boost to the Hauraki District and national economy. The underlying positive economic contribution of mining activities in terms of boosting exports, attractive foreign direct investment, economic activity through local expenditure on wages and suppliers, well-paying jobs and supporting a multitude of suppliers is already well established in economic analysis and local lived experience."

Josh said: We can also put it in the minutes but there is an economic assessment done by a guy called Shamubeel Eaqub. You've probably seen him on the news and he goes into all that sort of breakdown for the project. Because, obviously, one of the other things is that you get more activity in certain sectors at certain times. At the start, you get a lot in construction but you wouldn't necessarily get a marked increase in miners at the start because the mine hasn't been built. You see that sort of shift over time where you'll have a lot of, say, construction activity at the start obviously to build the thing but that will tail off once it's built and then you switch. Again, we'll put the link into the minutes because it's all publicly available but that has the numbers, the averages and where they sort of fall. Like I say, at the start there's a lot of construction, exploration, those types of works, and then as the thing is built your construction numbers would go down but then your mining numbers would go up. The full report can be located at:
https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/4139/B.51-Eaqub-Economic-Effects.pdf

Brian said: So, does that include modern technology as it progresses very, very fast from trucks being driven by people to trucks without human drivers?

Josh said: You always want to be pretty careful making predictions about the future for anything but I suppose there are contingencies that some of the engineers have worked on, even down to one example where they mention the ratio of the decline that's useful for certain types of vehicles – some of them are diesel, some of them are electric – but you work in the options and then see what those markets look like by the time you build the thing. Predicting the future is a good way to get a hiding for nothing.

Tim said: Erich, you had feedback about two units that are being built and I asked you to park it until later. What were you going to say?

Erich said: Yeah, that is good otherwise I am late for dinner. So, you build two units on Kenny Street. You've got built by "Frame It". Absolutely brilliant, that was the cleanest building site that I ever have seen. And … hang on, hang on … concrete done, planting, everything is done only then comes the council, two guys with a hard hat, tablet and they stayed there for 70 minutes, discussed where the water pipe is and then comes David and they dig only a small hole and found it so council are useless.

Tim said: Why were they useless? They didn't know where to find the water connection?

Erich said: Yeah.

Tim said: The next point you were going to make is?

Erich said: The next point is then came a company, Horizon, the power company. Dig a hole, come on Friday, dig a hole, spray it out, they came with three trucks and five people, two does the work, another sits in the truck the whole day and cones everywhere, double row of cones, double row, why? It brings $2 per day. And the power company damaged all the gutter and it's still not fixed.

Jeannine Wiki said: Ring the council.

Katherine said: Remember the last time I was here, I asked why you couldn't put solar panels on the side of the tailings storage facility and there was a big discussion and then no-one said whether you could or you couldn't put solar panels on the side of the tailings storage facilities.

Paula said: I did go back in the minutes to that question. I did talk to the company and basically we actually do use solar. I guess my answer is more about solar in general but certainly I can take the tailings storage facility question back as well. We do use solar for telemetry for some of our equipment up there currently but in terms of the broader picture it doesn't actually make economic or environmental sense for us to do that because we actually have a commitment to 100% renewable power currently anyway. That doesn't mean it will never make sense and that we won't investigate that in the future.

Katherine said: But the question, can you put solar panels on the side? Would there be a reason that you couldn't do it?

Paula said: I can ask that.

Josh said: I think where the discussion got to last time was we'd probably need to check what the closure plans were because if that says it has to be restored this particular way then that might preclude sticking something else on it because that's what you're consented to do.

Tim said: I've been remiss about that so we can come back to Katherine with a specific answer on that in the post-meeting answers.

Paula said: Yep.

Jeannine Wiki said: Solar farms are coming to Waihi.

Tim said: And batteries are getting better so it's a more useful source of power, a more sustainable source of power. There will be a post-meeting answer about what could be done, what could be accommodated.

Paula said: Specifically for the tailings storage facilities.

Katherine said: Yes.

> ***Post-meeting answer:***
> *Yes, it is technically possible; however, several factors would need to be considered. These include the orientation of the facility walls in relation to the sun movement, the potential impact of solar panel structures on the long-term monitoring of the facility, and access for ongoing maintenance and the ability to effectively manage vegetation growth. Solar Panel infrastructure may make it more difficult to control trees and other plants that could develop root systems that interfere with engineered structures. Business priorities would also need to be taken into account, including operational requirements, long-term rehabilitation plans, and the overall value and feasibility of the investment.*

John said: I have one more question. The fancy bridges that have been built over that stream up there, two of them, what are they carrying?

Paula said: They are carrying water, power and also fibre optic cable from our processing plant up and back to Willows. We've just completed that project actually. The bridges that you see are carrying them over the waterways but the rest is buried in road reserve. They're pretty sturdy bridges eh?

John said: Yeah, they are solid.

Conclusion

Tim said: Can I just check with you that the meeting tonight was useful, helpful, informative? Anything that we haven't talked about that we should be talking about? (Lots of people nodded that the meeting was helpful.)

Tim said: Outstanding, there will be another meeting in six months' time.

The meeting finished at 7.28pm.

Next meeting: Thursday 11 March 2027 at 5.30pm
(Combined CEPA/SUPA and Martha meeting)

Attendance register:		
Patrick Slagter	Kit Wilson	Paula Scahill Thom
Shane Reynolds	Josh Smith	Jeannine Wiki
Donna Fisher	Glenis Gentil	Brian Gentil
Mike Nankivell	Shelley Nankivell	Geoff Bate
Katherine Lucas	John Sharplin	Erich Schmidt
Helga Schmidt	Peter Lush	Marie Canning
Lee Anderson	Janine Barlow	Skye Wilkins
Leigh Robcke	Jenna Powell	Ann Maree (5.45pm)
Fritha Tagg (5.45pm)	Tim Clarke	Louise Fielden
Apologies:		
Jane Murray	Mike Hayden	Kyle Welton