



## **MEDIA STATEMENT – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

18 December 2025

### **OCEANAGOLD WELCOMES PERMIT APPROVAL FOR WAIHI NORTH PROJECT**

OceanaGold welcomes the Expert Panel's final decision granting approval for development of the Waihi North Project.

The Waihi North Project includes the Wharekirauponga underground mine which is located approximately 10km north of OceanaGold's current Waihi Operation. Wharekirauponga will extend mining at Waihi to around 2040, and will provide significant economic benefits for Waihi, the Hauraki District and New Zealand.

OceanaGold President and CEO Gerard Bond said the Waihi North Project is the largest investment project in the Company's portfolio. "We are investing around NZ\$1 billion in this project, which will deliver high-paying jobs and contribute to economic growth for New Zealand. It will generate substantial taxes and royalties, support communities and boost exports, whilst also making a net positive contribution to the environment."

Alison Paul, OceanaGold's Senior Vice President in New Zealand for Legal and Public Affairs, said that the Waihi North Project will both add to and extend the current operations at Waihi. "Once producing, the Wharekirauponga Underground mine will generate over NZ\$8 billion of export revenue for New Zealand (estimated at current gold prices). The Company expects to invest approximately NZ\$1 billion and generate hundreds of additional, high-paying jobs associated with the project. About 80% of our expenditure is expected to be spent in New Zealand, including over 30% of that within the Hauraki District."

Mr. Bond praised the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 which he said was tough, but welcome. "This new legislation provides the efficiency and certainty of a very clear timeline, while maintaining stakeholder involvement and the necessary rigour, oversight and expert scrutiny of the Company's proposals."

Ms. Paul agrees. She says there were 112 working days allocated to assess the application and the process stayed within that timeframe. Under the umbrella of the Fast-track Approvals Act, the Expert Panel assessed the application against 26 different Acts and regulatory instruments, spanning five different government regulators. "Using previous processes to work through the different regulatory regimes under separate applications, the same project would have taken a number of years to permit, with unnecessary duplication, uncertainty and inefficiency, and no substantive added benefit."

She says of the process, “I can confidently say that speed does not equate to a lower standard of outcome.”

“There were 263 parties invited to comment, resulting in over 60 sets of comments and a large number of detailed expert reviews. Permitting is a substantial undertaking, but a necessary part of responsible business practice, which is why a clear and timely process like that introduced under the Fast-track Approvals Act is a sensible and important initiative.”

Ms. Paul thanked the community members who took part in the process and emphasised the benefits of the project.

“When we acquired the Waihi mining operations in 2015, OceanaGold made a commitment to the New Zealand Government to invest in extending the life of mine in Waihi, which has been operating since 1988. With this set of approvals in-hand, we can follow through on that commitment. We look forward to making a significant contribution locally, regionally, and nationally. This includes our contribution towards New Zealand’s Predator-free programme with a focus on the Coromandel Peninsula.”

Mr. Bond said that OceanaGold has a proven 35-year track-record of working within a tight regulatory framework. “This includes obligations relating to vibration, noise, dust, ground surface stability, biodiversity, and water management.”

He says he has walked with colleagues in the Coromandel bush and that both he and the Company recognise the ecological value of the Wharekirauponga area, “This is a key driver for the mine being underground and accessed by a tunnel from outside the Forest Park area, minimising any impacts at the surface.”

**-ENDS-**

Attribution:

Gerard Bond, OceanaGold Corporation President and CEO

Alison Paul, OceanaGold Senior Vice President in New Zealand for Legal and Public Affairs

Note for editors.

Full details of the application, including final conditions of consent and supporting technical information can be found here: <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/waihi-north>

Full details of the Waihi North Project can be found here: <https://www.waihinorth.info/>

A short video can be found here: [OceanaGold Waihi North Fast Track announcement video](#)

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