

MAKING SUBMISSIONS on Project Martha

Most people in Waihi will be well aware of OceanaGold's proposal to restart mining in and under the Martha open pit. This work would also include a cutback of the north wall. The company also proposes to mine the small Rex vein to the south of the open pit using underground methods. Collectively, all of this is called Project Martha, and was made public in March this year.

Submissions on this project are now being called for by Hauraki District Council and Waikato Regional Council.

Submissions close at 4.30pm Friday 14 September and must be 'in the correct format'. Many people will have received the appropriate submission forms in the mail. You can also find the forms needed to make a submission and all of the technical reports on the Hauraki District Council website www.hauraki-dc.govt.nz/our-district/mining/project-martha

The Ministry for the Environment also has a useful guide to making submissions on their website www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/fresh-water/everyday-guide-making-submission-about-resource-consent-application

You can make a submission for or against all or part of the proposal, or present a neutral submission.

Waihi Community Forum members have offered to advise people who need assistance with the submission process.

More details are available here www.waihicommunityforum.co.nz



Phone survey

If you live in the Waihi area you may get a phone call on your landline or mobile phone from a survey company asking for your opinion on a number of issues relating to mining. This annual survey is part of the data gathered for the Social Impact Management Plan (SIMP) and is commissioned by OceanaGold as part of the Correnso consent conditions. We welcome your feedback and encourage you to participate. This year more mobile phone numbers are being called than landlines as mobiles become more popular and landline use is dropping. How do survey companies get your mobile number? Apparently, they have a 'reverse phonebook' which lists numbers and the area in which the owner lives.

Exploration and ARCHEY'S FROG

Any mining at Wharekurauponga would be underground. Archey's frog would be safe.

Recently there have been media reports about Archey's frog, a small indigenous frog, currently reported only on the Coromandel Peninsula and one other small area.

It has been suggested by some parties that we are endangering the frogs or damaging their habitat.

Before we are allowed to carry out exploration in any Department of Conservation land we have to obtain approval from DoC. If granted, we are given an Access Arrangement (AA) which sets out our operating requirements, including a Kauri Dieback Management Plan and a Wildlife Act Authority.

We have been conducting exploration activities in the area for over 10 years. In that time, we have occupied 0.001% of DoC land on the Coromandel. We have moved one frog, as provided by our Access Arrangement. Ecological surveys conducted by independent specialists have found many more frogs. We have had over 40 potential drill sites disqualified, as each has had at least five frogs in an area one third the size of a basketball court. It is possible there are many more frogs at each potential site, but as

each is discounted once five have been observed, this information has not been collected. We are currently investigating the possibility of funding a comprehensive survey.

If the independent surveys show that four or less native frogs are found on a plot, the frog locations are marked and recorded with biodegradable flagging tape and GPS. The site may be used provided a six metre buffer zone is possible with each frog location while also ensuring that the buffer connects with habitat outside the plot.

If we are able to fit a drill site within the remaining area we proceed by first installing a sheer polythene fence to prevent frogs entering the site and then clearing the site to set up. If not, we look at alternative sites and then go through the same survey process again. When we leave the site, the area is restored.



OceanaGold is targeting high value deposits capable of being mined by underground methods. This means that if a mineable deposit was located it could be accessed from outside Conservation land with only vent shafts visible on the surface. If we were to mine, Archey's frog would be safe.

Pit Rim Walkway

Over the next few weeks we will be spreading new gravel on the Pit Rim Walkway. The work will be done in sections and as the weather allows, so different sections of the track will be closed for short periods of time. There will be signs advising of the temporary closure of each section. Take care if you are running on the new gravel. Sometimes it can take a while to 'bed in'.