



WATER

Around this time of the year we get asked if low flows in the Ohinemuri River are due to the mine taking water. With recent issues with Waihi's water supply, we have also been asked how much town supply water we use.

OceanaGold takes about 80 cubic metres a day of water from the Ohinemuri and discharges about 12,000 cubic metres a day. That means we take out about 60 spa pools of water (with the average spa pool holding around 1500 litres of water), and discharge just a bit under the contents of five Olympic-size swimming pools of clean water into the river each day. In 2019 we discharged around 4 million cubic metres of water into the Ohinemuri River. That's about 1,600 Olympic swimming pools of water. This is clean water, so why can't it be used for drinking? Russell Squire from our Environment team provides the answers.

While the treated water the mine discharges is safe to discharge and will not pose any health issues if consumed in small amounts, it is not potable drinking water. NZ water is rated for various purposes such as drinking water, stock water, and recreational contact. Our discharge is not required to meet the high human consumption standard.

It is designed to meet specific standards for discharge to river, which is a different standard to that for human consumption.



Water monitoring on the Ruahorehore Stream.



A mine tour bus crosses the Ohinemuri River. The mine water discharge can be seen to the right of the large rock.

Surface waters in New Zealand are generally soft because the water has not been in contact with minerals long enough to dissolve large quantities of calcium or magnesium. Groundwaters, on the other hand, that have been in contact with calcium carbonate-containing rocks, such as limestone are likely to be hard to some degree.

Coming from underground, our discharge water is relatively hard. That means it isn't great for washing your hair and your dish washing detergent won't foam much. You may also find streaks on glasses and cutlery in your dishwasher. And while hard water is OK for the human body it is bad for plumbing. Hard water results in scale build up in pipes and hot water cylinders and can cause problems. For household use, mine discharge water would need to be significantly softened.

We use town supply water for our staff – drinking, showers, toilets – but also for some processes. In total this amounts to around 60 cubic metres a day, or about the same as 60 families of four people. During the recent water restrictions, we used bottled water and portaloos for staff so we were able to keep operating.



Pit Rim Walkway BACK ON TRACK

When the Pit Rim Walkway was first constructed 13 years ago it ran along the top of the North Wall and provided great views of the open pit and to the south. The slip on the North Wall in 2015 meant that the walkway had to be rerouted, in part along local roads. Now, the walkway is being reinstated.

Within a few weeks, locals and tourist will once again be able to walk around the pit rim on the gravel track. A new section is currently being constructed. This 800-metre section will take walkers from the Education Centre through the 'Hidden Garden' and zig zag through a low gully before emerging on the top noise bund next to Bulltown Road and then rejoining the existing walkway.

We know how popular the walkway is with both locals and tourists, so it's good to get the section of the route off the footpath and back onto a purpose-built gravel track. And even if we say it ourselves the view from the top of the North Wall is spectacular.

Mining on the North Wall will not resume for at least 18 months. When it does, we will once again relocate some sections of the walkway.

Staff REDUNDANCIES

When mining at Correnso comes to an end we will have a production gap before Project Martha ore comes on stream for processing. Last month we outlined a proposal to our processing staff that would result in fewer jobs during this time. Seventeen positions have been disestablished. The last day for these staff will be Tuesday 10 March, although some may be leaving earlier.

We have also made the decision to reduce the number of drill rigs operating. A final decision on a revised structure for Exploration/Geology was made this week. A total of 10 positions have been identified as being redundant by 30 June, leaving a total of 28 staff.

None of these decisions have been made lightly. While it is normal for exploration levels to fluctuate in line with results and corporate strategy, we have good people within our

exploration team and a decision to make roles redundant is never an easy one.

We have offered staff other roles within the company where possible and also provided assistance with CV writing. Work & Income staff have also been in contact with local employers and will be able to advise of any positions which may be available as well as providing information on the various allowances and entitlements available.

As the largest employer in Waihi we are very aware of the effect these job losses have on staff and their families. We also know that once Project Martha is in production, we will have work for at least the next decade, and that we have other projects which we are currently looking at that could see us remain in Waihi for even longer.