

Pit Rim Walkway

A year ago a section of the north wall of the Martha open pit slipped, halting all mining operations.

Since OceanaGold became owners of the mine in November of last year we have been investigating ways of stabilising the slip with the aim of getting back into the pit and resuming production.

Our analysis of the north wall leads us to believe that there may be more material which will slip. All of our geotechnical investigations suggest the possibility of more rock falling from the north wall.

We are able to accurately measure the location and rate of movement of this rock. If the material does fall, the top of the affected area is well inside both the pit rim and the mining licence, and there is no danger to members of the public on the Pit Rim Walkway.

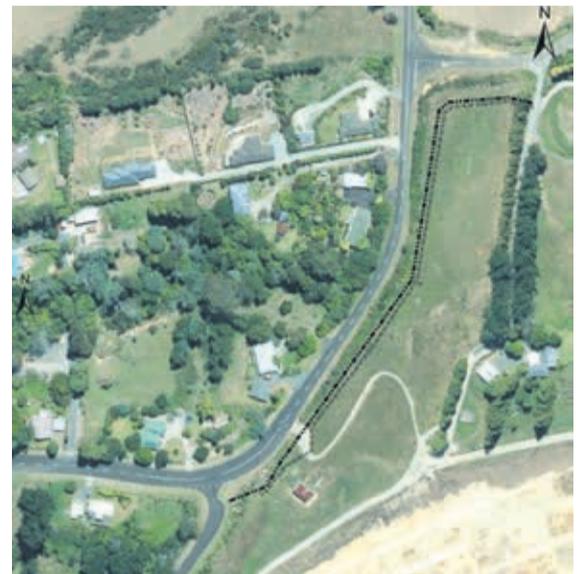
“ Our analysis of the north wall leads us to believe that there may be more material which will slip. ”

We are concerned, however, that if the rock did fall, people above the area at the highest point of the Pit Rim Walkway would be startled.

For this reason we have decided to reroute this section of the Pit Rim Walkway away from the top of the north wall to the grassed paddock

owned by us adjacent to Bulltown Road. This will remove the steep section of the walkway, and make it slightly longer. The new section of track will be constructed to the same standard as the other sections of the walkway and will be suitable for pushchairs.

Construction of the new walkway has started.



The northern section of the Pit Rim Walkway will be rerouted alongside Bulltown Road.



The seats near the pumphouse are always a popular place to sit and view the open pit, with or without a classic custom car.

PUMPHOUSE VIEWING AREA SEATS

The wooden slab seats at the pumphouse viewing area are a popular spot for locals and tourists alike. They are also located above the narrowest part of the pit perimeter road which will soon be used to cart material from the north wall to the crusher.

We need to widen the perimeter road to accommodate the road trucks that will be using this route, and that means moving the fence. In turn that means moving the seats back a couple of metres. It is expected this work will take place over the next two weeks. During this time the public will not be able to access this area. Once moved, the seats will again be one of the best places to sit and view the open pit, with some of the action being just on the other side of the fence.

GROUP RESTRUCTURE at Waihi Gold

Waihi Gold has agreed to sell its Waihi operations within the OceanaGold group. While that would result in all staff at Waihi Gold becoming redundant at the end of May, they would be immediately offered their jobs back. An offer of employment from 1 June has been made to all existing Waihi Gold workers on terms and conditions consistent with those at OceanaGold's other New Zealand sites.

When OceanaGold bought the Waihi Gold open pit and underground mines last year we bought them as Waihi Gold Company Ltd. From 1 June, those mines will be owned by the same company that operates the Macraes and Reefton mines and will form part of its overall New Zealand activities. This will provide commercial, administrative and efficiency benefits that are expected to increase the prospects for an extension to the life of the Waihi operations.

OceanaGold will have further discussions with staff over the next few weeks. Waihi Gold general manager Bernie O'Leary says he wants the discussions to be transparent and constructive.

'We believe this process will provide a secure foundation for the future of the Waihi Operations and are optimistic the outcome of the process will be positive for all involved.'

The site will also be contacting contractors and suppliers to inform them of the change. Those people are not expected to notice any change to 'business as usual'.