

***To whom it may concern***

I wish to support the Resource Consent for Project Martha

I am a local who has lived in the Waihi area for over 40 years and have personally experienced the benefits that the current mining project has brought to the Waihi.

I am currently employed by OceanaGold and have been for the past 20 years at the Martha Mine.

Growing up in Waihi prior to the current mining operations, Waihi like many other small rural towns had many small to medium size business offering employment opportunities to locals such as

- PYE
- NZ Dairy Company
- Sawmill
- Foundry
- Brown & Brown (light industrial)

The local council also offered employment prospects for residents wishing to remain and work within the Waihi area.

Sadly, Waihi like so many other rural towns has suffered from the rural decline and many industries and business have chosen to restructure, consolidate or centralized their operations to the larger regions and cities.

Early in my working life, I have at times, had to travel as far as Whangamata, Paeroa, Kerepehi and Waitoa in search of fulltime employment.

In 1983 I suffered a life changing injury, which has left me with a permanent disability. This limited my future employment prospects.

It was not until 1999 that the then (Waihi Gold) gave me an opportunity to work as a relief store man for 10 weeks.

Since then OceanaGold has provided me with skills and qualifications that I could have only dreamed about previously.

I am a life member of the Waihi Football Club and have seen the way the mining company support local sporting organisations such as the Waihi Soccer Club.

Over the years the Gold Company has provided sponsorship for equipment uniforms and events such as the Annual Waihi Labour Weekend Tournament.

Having mining in Waihi has also provided me with access to many other Companies who have also sponsored our Club such as, Sandvik, Industrial Site Services and JH Russell just name a few that have embraced the opportunity to support our local club.

Alton Drilling recently supplied our Junior Football with a 40ft shipping container to securely store their equipment in.

I am also aware of the company's ongoing commitment to supporting local business and other local sporting clubs and events.

For these reasons I fully support the whole application

Neil Fisher

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Fisher', written in a cursive style.

1 - Nov. 2018