

Statement of Ferg & Sandra Cumming

We have lived in Waihi all our lives We are third generation Waihians.

Our Grandparents immigrated to Waihi from England to work in the Waihi mine

We owned a business in Waihi for 30 years also sewed curtains for Dillimores.

A lot of our work came from firms contracting to Waihi Gold. Hundreds of metres of curtains sewn for Waihi Gold owned houses (even the curtain to unveil the plaque on the pumphouse.)

Our two sons obtained apprenticeships in Waihi. Without the gold company presence here I don't think this would have happened back then when the Phillips factory had just closed. Employers had confidence in Waihi because of the mine.

We live on top of the Correnso mine and yes, we have had some sizeable blasts but traffic noise, ghetto blasters and logging trucks are much noisier and cause more vibration.

The mine has treated us very fairly.

We have seen so many businesses close over the years with jobs lost and lots of redundancies but the gold company is a constant.

Waihi wouldn't be the bustling little town that it is, and many businesses would not survive without the spinoffs from the mine.

Most long-term residents are not opposed to the mine but the newer residents who bought houses when the prices around the country slumped are the most vocal against the mine even though they knew that Waihi was a mining town.

The forms for the submissions were quite difficult to understand and we know a few people who are very much pro mine who put them in the too hard basket. Trevor Skinner said I could use his name. He was one of the people who support the mine but did not put in a submission.

You only have to look around to see the huge financial benefits to Waihi and the surrounding area that have come from the mine. We have many positive things to say about the mine and the donations and sponsorships and the like the give to our community The employment and donations far outweigh and negative effects.

We both think the mine is good for the town and should continue.

