

Before the Waikato Regional
and Hauraki District Councils

Under the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

In the matter of An application for resource consents to extend the Waihi Gold Mine via underground and open pit mining methods known as Project Martha

By **Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited**
Applicant

Statement of evidence of David Fougere for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited

26 October 2018

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Qualifications and experience

- 1 My name is David Fougere.
- 2 I am the Managing Director of Phoenix Research Limited (**Phoenix**), a position I have held since establishing the company with colleagues in 1986. Phoenix is an independent professional research organisation that conducts surveys and other analyses in the field of marketing and social research, and has been a member since its inception of the Research Association of New Zealand and its forerunners.
- 3 I hold the degrees of a Bachelor of Science in mathematics and statistics, and Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in psychology, both obtained at Otago University. I also hold the following professional memberships:
 - (a) Fellow of the Research Association of New Zealand;
 - (b) Life member of the New Zealand Psychological Society;
 - (c) Member of the New Zealand Statistical Association; and
 - (d) Member of the New Zealand Association for Impact Assessment.
- 4 I have been employed in market and social research throughout my professional research career. This started with a post-graduate research position at Otago University, followed by survey research in central Government (in what at that time was the Department of Social Welfare). I then worked for ten years for the Heylen Research Centre, rising to positions as a director and general manager, before establishing Phoenix with colleagues.
- 5 I am a research practitioner/manager and responsible for both the business operations of Phoenix, and for directing projects and programmes of research for several of Phoenix's major clients. My responsibilities include consulting with clients on the application of research findings.
- 6 Phoenix's clients over recent years have included Two Degrees Mobile, Metlifecare, the Waihi gold mine, several central government ministries, departments and agencies, a number of NGOs, Auckland Council and its predecessor councils in the Auckland region, Auckland, Victoria and AUT Universities, and a wide range of other businesses and enterprises.
- 7 While working at Phoenix and before that at the Heylen Research Centre, I have conducted many research studies for the purpose of providing evidence in legal proceedings before the High Court, the Environment Court, the then Planning Tribunal, the Shop Trading Hours Commission, the Licensing Commission and the Motor Spirits Licensing Authority, as well as various local bodies and commissions.

- 8 In addition to these research studies, I have also conducted a number of research studies relating to intellectual property issues for Phoenix clients to present to the Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand (IPONZ), similar studies ultimately for the Commerce Commission, and studies for legal proceedings where those proceedings did not result in a full hearing. In several instances our research on intellectual property and related issues has informed and supported out-of-court settlements.
- 9 I am also called upon from time to time to prepare an independent review and critique of other research that courts or other judicial bodies are considering using as evidence.
- 10 In preparing this evidence I have reviewed:
- (a) The parts of the section 42A report relevant to my area of expertise;
 - (b) Submissions relevant to my area of expertise.
- 11 There is no material in the section 42A reports from either Hauraki District Council or Waikato Regional Council that I need to comment on. I have responded to the submissions relevant to my area of expertise as an addendum to this evidence.
- 12 I have read the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court Practice Note 2014. This evidence has been prepared in accordance with it and I agree to comply with it. I have not omitted to consider material facts known to me that might alter or detract from the opinions expressed.

Scope of evidence

- 13 I have been asked by Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (**OGNZL**) to prepare evidence in relation to community and employee views on matters relevant to Project Martha as revealed through community and employee polling and surveys. This includes:
- (a) A description of the relevant community polling and employee surveys that have been undertaken;
 - (b) A presentation and analysis of the results; and
 - (c) A discussion of some implications of those results of relevance to Project Martha.
- 14 I confirm that my evidence relates to the proposal known as Project Martha as described in Chapter 3 of the Assessment of Environmental Effects dated 25 May 2018 (**AEE**).

- 15 I confirm that I am the author of a report dated March 2018 entitled Project Martha: Community Polling and Employee Surveys: Technical Report attached as Appendix W to the AEE. This technical report draws on more than ten surveys, all of which have been reported separately, at the times they were conducted, from 1992 onwards. These surveys, whose results I drew upon in preparing the technical report, are of two kinds:
- (a) Community polling surveys (covering both residents and businesses in and around Waihi)
 - (b) Employee surveys
- 16 I have directed all of the community polling surveys that my technical report draws upon, and have had substantial involvement in writing all these reports, so have direct knowledge of the underpinnings of the technical report to that extent.
- 17 The employee surveys which I also drew upon in the technical report were largely conducted in-house by OGNZL, with varying degrees of assistance from me and others at Phoenix over the years these surveys have been undertaken. While I have had a considerable hand in the design and analysis of these surveys in most recent years, I have not had the direct oversight of them to the same extent as for the community polling surveys. Even so, I am familiar enough with these surveys, including the way employees were sampled and the questions they were asked, to have a high level of confidence that they accurately assess the issues they cover.
- 18 I would also note that survey research is intrinsically a team undertaking, involving (especially in the case of the community polling surveys) a wide range of personnel from telephone interviewers and their managers and supervisors, to those who provide the samples of telephone numbers used for the surveys, those who classify (or "code") the answers people give to open-ended questions, data analysts and others responsible for document preparation. Part of my expertise is in knowing how to direct, manage and integrate this type of large team to get results with optimum accuracy, along with knowing the areas where survey data can be more vulnerable to error, and knowing how to ensure those potential areas of weakness are addressed.
- 19 Notwithstanding the extent of the teamwork involved in conducting surveys that I have described above, I confirm that I stand by the conclusions I have drawn and written about, in the technical report.
- 20 I confirm for the record that my evidence and the technical report this evidence refers to, are within my area of professional expertise.

Executive summary

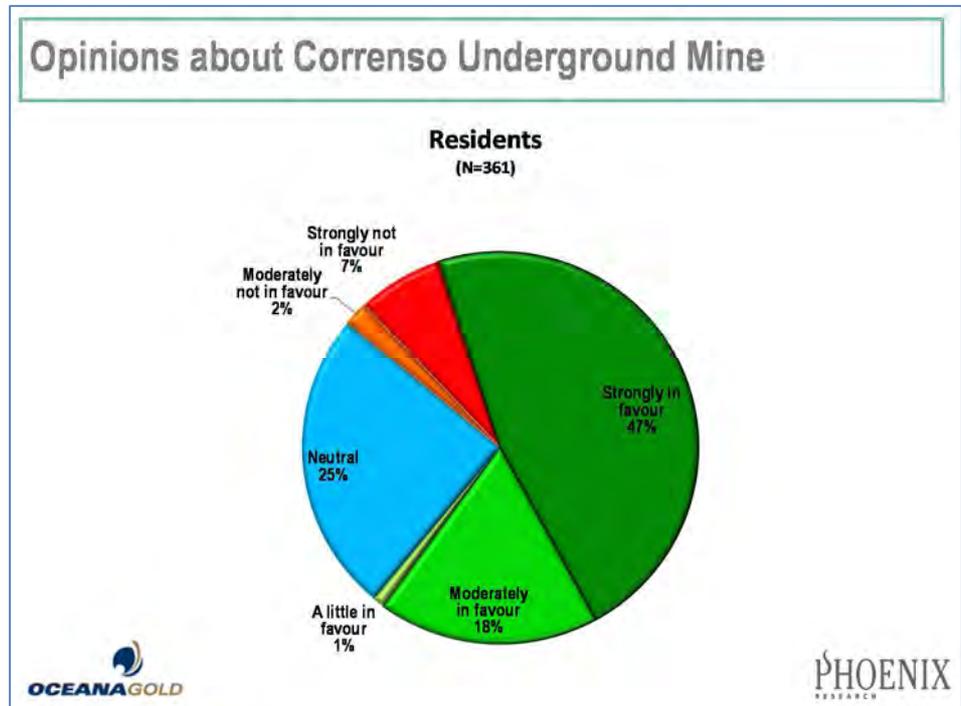
- 21 The **Waihi Community Polling Surveys** taken collectively show that:
- (a) There is a likely, though not definitive, trend for residents in Waihi to become more favourable about mining over time;
 - (b) Residents of Waihi are more favourable about mining in general when some time has elapsed since the last announcement of a proposal, as opposed to shortly after an announcement;
 - (c) Businesses are consistently more favourable in their opinions of mining than residents, with a very strong skew to being in favour;
 - (d) The introduction of the Amenity Effect Programme (**AEP**) may have contributed to residents of Waihi becoming more favourable about mining over time, although if that is correct, the AEP appears to have taken some time to impact on favourability, rather than having immediate impact (this could be related to the breadth of application of the scheme);
 - (e) The increased proportions of the residents of Waihi in favour of mining since 2015 have been contributed to by the temporary cessation of mining in the pit following the slip in the pit in 2015. This has resulted in people being less inclined to identify noise and dust as disadvantages of mining. The data is not able to identify definitively whether this factor alone explains the long term trend towards more favourable opinions of mining among the public of Waihi, although that is somewhat unlikely since a modest upwards trend in favourability had also been identified up until the last survey measurement before the slip. (That survey measurement was in 2011); and
 - (f) Residents have consistently been less favourable in their responses to new mine developments proposed, than they are to mining in general, and there is some evidence that the same trend applies also to businesses.
- 22 From the **Employee Surveys** it is possible to estimate the number of employees who would leave Waihi when the mining there finishes, and what the impact of those departures would be on the local community in various ways. These estimates show that in the region of a third of mining employees will/would leave Waihi when the mining is finished, resulting in about 4% of households in the area leaving, and similar proportions of children leaving from various educational facilities: day-cares, kindergartens and schools. There would also be quantifiable losses in the numbers of people participating in and supporting local voluntary organisations, including volunteer rescue services.

Community Polling Surveys - Research Methods

- 23 Phoenix has undertaken community polling surveys on seven different occasions over the period 1992 to 2017, using very similar methods on each occasion. The close similarity of the methods used (covering issues such as sample composition and coverage, and the exact wording of survey questions) makes results comparable over time, allowing conclusions to be drawn from these surveys with confidence.
- 24 On each occasion these seven surveys have been undertaken, samples of residents have been surveyed, typically with sample sizes in the range 150 – 250 people (though on one occasion, 500 residents), and covering people living in the town of Waihi and its environs, sometimes called the "study area" or "Greater Waihi area". I have defined the term the "Environs" of Waihi in my technical report, and the rationale for surveying throughout the area. This area comprises essentially what is known locally as the "Waihi Basin" or more colloquially the area covered by the "07 863" telephone landline prefix. As an example of the local use of this term/concept/grouping/amalgamation, and its relevance for defining the local community of interest, the Lions Club produces a local telephone directory that covers this area.
- 25 Even though I regard this as a sound geographical area on which to base the analysis of community polling about mining, I have supplemented my main analysis using all the survey results combined, with a "drill-down" analysis examining the opinions just of people living in the town of Waihi.
- 26 In addition, on all but one of the seven occasions when we undertook this community polling survey of residents, we also undertook surveys of business owners and managers in the area, to round out the coverage of the "community" of Waihi. The sample sizes for these surveys were 50 interviews on each survey occasion.
- 27 These surveys have been conducted by waves of telephone interviewing on each occasion, undertaken by fully trained and briefed survey interviewers, working in closely supervised environments. Quality assurance methods included multiple calls to each household or business sampled and contacted, if the relevant person was not available when we first called, one of a number of important procedures to ensure that any survey sample properly represents the opinions of the entire community. Calling was done to landline telephones only up until the 2015 survey, when a component of calling to mobile phones was introduced to enhance the coverage of the survey.
- 28 A number of other technical details of the conduct of the surveys that bear on the quality and reliability of the results are documented in my technical report.

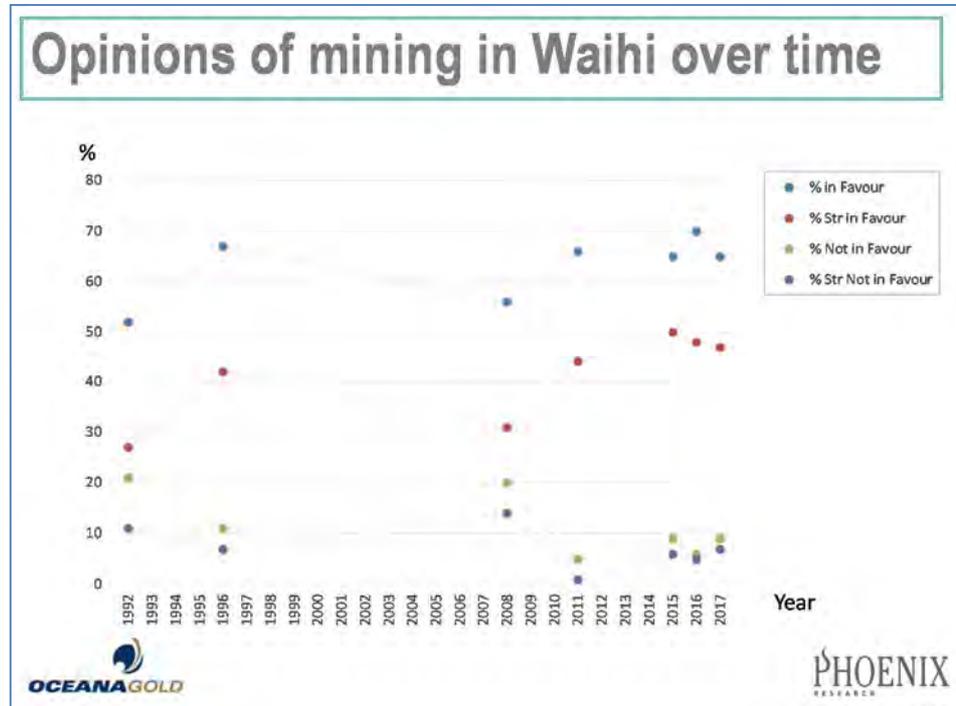
Community Polling Surveys – General Findings

- 29 On each survey occasion, people were first asked to identify what they saw as both any advantages or benefits of mining, and any disadvantages, before being asked to summarise their overall opinion about mining, effectively on a scale ranging from "strongly in favour" to "strongly not in favour". This approach was used to ensure that people gave considered opinions about their overall favourability, rather than more "top of mind" responses. This is a "best practice" survey approach, well supported by academic practice.
- 30 To assist the reader to understand the results it is useful to build the picture of what these surveys show, first focusing on the survey of residents from the whole of the greater Waihi area, and starting with just the results from the most recent survey, done in 2017:



- 31 This chart shows that close to half of all residents in Waihi in 2017, 47%, were "Strongly in favour" of the mining in Waihi. When those "Moderately" or "A little" in favour are included, this accumulates to 66% being in favour of mining. A further significant proportion describe themselves as "Neutral" (25%), and a total of 9% say they are "Not in favour", mostly strongly so.
- 32 While the presentation of results above works well for the results from a single survey, the pie chart method above is not suitable for showing results over time. The equivalent results over time are shown in the following graph, which shows the percentages of residents in favour or strongly so, and those not in favour, over the seven occasions when this survey has been undertaken.

- 33 For the purposes of the line graphs below, the percentage of those "in favour" is the sum of those either "moderately in favour" or "strongly in favour" in the pie chart above. The same approach has been applied to those not in favour.



- 34 This graph shows what looks like a modest upwards trend over time, with residents in Waihi moving from around 50% in favour in 1992 up to 65% to 70% in favour from 2015 to 2017. The results for those strongly in favour show a similar modest upwards trend over the period the surveys have been undertaken.
- 35 Similarly the proportions of residents of Waihi not in favour of mining in Waihi dropped markedly in 2011 compared with the 2008 results, and that drop in the proportion of residents not in favour of mining to under 10% has remained through to 2017.
- 36 My technical report examines the trends shown or suggested by this graph in considerable detail. The first question to ask about this graph is whether the apparent upwards trends in favourability over time are statistically significant, or not. The simple answer to that question is that the upwards trend lines in favourability over time are **not** statistically significant. (This was determined by using the t-test statistic applied to the slope of the fitted trend lines.)
- 37 However the trend lines do not fall far short at all of the standard statistical criterion of 95% confidence, having likelihoods in the range 75% to 95% of being actual trends (i.e. those are the probabilities that the upwards trends apparent in the graph also apply to the full population of all residents of greater Waihi, not just those in the sample for the survey). A fair summary in layman's terms of this analysis is

that the surveys show trends over time in greater Waihi towards opinions becoming more favourable about mining to an extent that is "likely though not definitive".

- 38 There are several contextual factors that also contribute to the results shown in the above graph. My technical report examines the relevance of a "recency of announcements" effect, and finds there is considerable evidence that the public of Waihi are more favourable in their general opinions about mining when there have been no recent announcements of proposals to extend the mining. (This trend was identified as being statistically significant using a series of z-tests. Z-tests were also used for most other tests of statistical significance throughout my technical report and this evidence.) Conversely, when our surveys happen to have been undertaken shortly after an announcement of a proposal to develop or extend the mining in and around Waihi, public opinions about mining in general (and not necessarily just about the proposal) are less favourable. However the data is not sufficient to be certain of this hypothesis, since these observed trends could alternatively be explained by an increase in favourability about mining over time. (The reason that proviso is necessary is that none of the more recent surveys have been run in the context of a recent announcement or proposal, and none of the earlier surveys were run without that.)
- 39 A further hypothesis or alternative explanation for the apparent upwards trend in favourability about mining over time, concerns the introduction of the AEP. This is a programme which aims to offset a perceived loss of residential amenity. The AEP was introduced for an initial trial period, with a small number of households, in January 2007, and subsequently became part of the Correnso consent conditions. AEP payments have been made by OGNZL – or its predecessors - to 200 or more recipients in every half-year since the beginning of 2010, and to 300 or more recipients in most half-years since the beginning of 2011.
- 40 As with several hypotheses investigated, the data from the surveys does not contain enough data points for findings on the impact of the AEP on favourability to be definitive. The survey findings suggest it is possible that the much wider spread of AEP payments from 2010 onwards, along with the programme presumably becoming more widely known over time, has contributed to the later higher favourability ratings, i.e. from 2011 onwards.
- 41 A further contextual factor examined in my technical report is considering whether the higher levels of favourability in the last three survey measurements when taken collectively, 2015, 2016 and 2017, could possibly also be contributed to by the temporary cessation of mining in the pit necessitated by the slips on the north wall of the Martha pit, since 2015.
- 42 On this point the surveys do have clear and unambiguous findings: there have been marked reductions in the extent of people mentioning dust and noise as

disadvantages of mining since the temporary cessation of mining in the Martha pit that was necessitated by the slips in 2015. It seems almost certain that the reductions in these being identified as disadvantages of mining, are related to the more favourable opinions of mining since 2015.

Community Polling Surveys – Further Findings

- 43 My technical report examines a number of detailed points related to the above more general findings. First, the surveys also contain findings about people's responses to recently announced mining *proposals*, as well as about *mining in general*. Based on the survey occasions when there had been a recent announcement of a new proposal, favourability towards the *proposal* was consistently lower than about *mining in general* in and around Waihi.
- 44 This result is unsurprising. While the surveys do not provide direct evidence about people's reasons for this, it seems reasonable to think that people are more likely to be favourably disposed to something they have recent or current experience of (provided of course that experience has not been a bad one) than they are towards something that they have not experienced and which may expose them to things with which they are less familiar, or about which they are uncertain.
- 45 There were three occasions when surveys were done shortly after the announcement of new mining proposals:
- (a) 1992 (shortly after the announcement of the "Twin Tunnels" project):
 - (b) 1996 (shortly after the announcement of the "Extended Martha" project):
 - (c) 2008 (shortly after the announcement of the "East and West Laybacks" project).
- 46 While the public of Waihi were markedly more often in favour of mining than not on each of those survey occasions (just as they have been on every survey occasion), there were some variations in favourability in response to these announcements that merit comment.
- 47 First, favourability about mining in general was higher in the 1996 survey than on the other two survey occasions described above. That is, favourability about mining in general was higher after the announcement in 1996 of the Extended Martha project than it was after the announcements of the Twin Tunnels (1992) and East and West Laybacks (2008). In fact, the overall favourability towards mining in general in 1996, shortly after the announcement of the then Extended Martha project, was very similar to the levels on the four other survey occasions when there had been no recent announcement.

- 48 To the best of my knowledge, the current Project Martha proposal is more similar to the earlier Extended Martha project, than it is to the other earlier proposals. On that basis, it would be reasonable to expect that favourability towards mining among the public in and around Waihi following the announcement of Project Martha, will be similar to what it was in 1996, and in other survey measurements since 2010, i.e. little impacted by the announcement of Project Martha.
- 49 Secondly, the surveys on the three occasions when there had been a recent announcement also measured the extent to which people were in favour or not, of each of these recently announced proposals *specifically*. (That is in contrast to their favourability about mining *in general*, the subject of the preceding paragraphs.) Consistently with the above results about the favourability of opinions about mining in general, although the Extended Martha project specifically was regarded in 1996 less favourably than mining in general at that time, that project specifically was regarded more favourably than either the Twin Tunnels proposal (1992) or the East and West Laybacks (2008).
- 50 The technical report analyses the responses of the public to the West layback proposal for possible relevance to Project Martha. The conclusion of this detailed analysis was that the large majority of the concerns the public expressed about the West Layback do not apply to Project Martha, and consequently that the overall extent of ill-ease in the community about Project Martha will be markedly less than it was for the West Layback in 2008.
- 51 Another auxiliary detail I examined in the technical report was whether the 1992 set of results (i.e. from the first time the survey was run) may have resulted in lower favourability because of the lesser exposure people would have had then to mining, or conversely, that their later more favourable ratings could be explained by greater familiarity with mining. While the hypothesis that "familiarity generates favourability over time" would seem entirely reasonable, that is not supported by the finding that in 1992 the proportion of the public of Waihi who were neutral about mining was very similar to the corresponding proportions in later years. In other words, in 1992 there was no higher proportion of the public neutral about mining than in later years, suggesting that the opinions of residents in and around Waihi in 1992 were already clearly and unambiguously formed among similar proportions of the public as in later years.
- 52 Another detail I examined in the technical report was the extent to which the trends and points identified above would also apply if the answers were included in the analysis only of people living in the town of Waihi (i.e. excluding those living in the "environs" of Waihi). This analysis showed that people living in the town of Waihi are less inclined to have overall favourable opinions about mining than those in the environs of Waihi, although there is no difference in the extent of unfavourable opinions. Despite the somewhat less favourable opinions among people who live

in Waihi compared with the environs of Waihi, the people who live in Waihi are still far more inclined to favourable opinions of mining than unfavourable opinions (for example, averaged over the last five surveys, 60% of people living in Waihi were in favour of mining, compared with 9% not in favour).

- 53 In the auxiliary analysis in the technical report I also describe the opinions of business owners and managers about mining. These are consistently even more favourable than the opinions of the public as a whole, with the percentage of business people overall in favour of mining (77%) being more than ten times the proportion not in favour (6.8% - these percentages are the averages over the six surveys of business owners and managers).

Employee survey

- 54 A survey of employees has been conducted annually by OGNZL (including its predecessors) for a number of years. The survey covers employees of contractors as well as those employed directly by the company. Employees complete a self-completion questionnaire, with their answers anonymous and treated in confidence. Results have been analysed by either OGNZL personnel or by Phoenix. The survey has typically had high response rates (e.g. 71% in 2017), which indicate the findings can be taken to represent all employees with confidence.
- 55 One key purpose of the survey has been to identify the extent to which employees expect they would/will leave Waihi once the mining there is finished, and the implications of departing employees on local organisations, in particular day-cares, kindergartens and schools, and voluntary organisations.
- 56 In my technical report I took the answers employees gave in the survey about their likelihood of leaving or staying in Waihi when mining finishes, and applied three different sets of probabilities to their actually departing, representing low, medium and high impact scenarios. To summarise in this evidence, I have used figures only from the medium impact scenario, though stress that the estimates from this type of analysis could be subject to wide variations, somewhat better indicated by the range of scenarios in the technical report.
- 57 Using this approach to modelling impacts, results from the employee survey suggest that close to 33% of employees would be likely to leave Waihi when mining finishes, being around 126 people from 118 households (those numbers take into account that some households contain more than one person working in mining). Conversely, close to 67% of employees anticipate staying in Waihi when the mining finishes.
- 58 To estimate impact on the local community of departing households, I compared those numbers with Census figures for the Waihi Ward. The households leaving

Waihi would equate to close to 4% of households in the Waihi Ward. (I used Waihi Ward as an indicative basis for this comparison, despite being aware that this may not accurately represent the areas where departing employees would have lived: for example a number live at Waihi Beach and other areas within the Western Bay of Plenty council area not far from the town of Waihi. A very much more complex analysis would have been required to estimate the proportions of households departing based on other area definitions, and I would not expect that would have added usefully to the indicative 4% figure for departing households.)

- 59 The technical report goes on to estimate the numbers of children in local day-cares, kindergartens and schools, who live in these households and would therefore presumably depart from Waihi with their parents. The estimates suggest between 50 and 80 children would depart from Waihi with their departing parents, accounting for around 5% of all children at these educational facilities. (I have used the figure of 5% for this purpose, based on totals shown in the technical report, where estimates vary markedly with an exceptionally high result for kindergartens, which I do not consider a useful "outlier".)
- 60 Following a similar methodology I made detailed estimates shown in the technical report of the numbers of departing employees involved in a range of voluntary organisations. As I had also done for educational facilities, I provided these estimates based on both the 2016 and 2017 employee surveys.
- 61 As an example of how to read the tables of these estimates, I would point to rescue volunteer groups, where the skills of mining employees are considered particularly important and useful to the local community. The tables show that using the 2017 employee survey results, a total of 13 employees are active participants in this type of organisation and a further 3 are regular participants. Between 4 and 6 of those 13 employees who are active participants are estimated to depart when mining finishes, while 2 or 3 of the 3 regularly participating employees would depart.
- 62 To estimate the full impacts of mine closure on these organisations, it would be necessary also to take into account the participation of the spouses and partners of departing mine employees. The tables in the technical report include those details, and for example show that rescue volunteer groups could lose another 1 active participant and 1 regular participant when spouses and partners of departing employees are also taken into account.

Conclusions

- 63 Assuming the positive and negative effects of Project Martha are perceived by residents and businesses to be generally of the same types and extents as the effects they have perceived from other mining developments at Waihi, the implications of the findings from the Community Polling Surveys for Project Martha are that:
- (a) It is very likely/almost certain that there will be some "dip" in the extent to which residents and businesses in Waihi regard mining in general favourably following the announcement of Project Martha, even though the balance of their opinions will remain clearly in favour of mining despite that dip;
 - (b) It is very likely/almost certain that residents and businesses in Waihi will initially regard Project Martha specifically, less favourably than how they regard mining in Waihi in general;
 - (c) As time elapses following the announcement of Project Martha the proportions of residents and businesses in Waihi who regard mining favourably are likely to increase. It would be reasonable to anticipate that those levels of favourability would "bounce back" to something like the levels seen over the period 2015 to 2017;
 - (d) The data is less clear about the timing of this "bounce back", which could be of the order of 3 - 5 years from the announcement of Project Martha, although that timing is likely to depend on a range of factors including whether there are subsequent events that overtake people's interest. (Over the duration since the start of mining in the open pit, a new project has been announced approximately every three years on average.) There may also be ways the company could speed up this "bounce back" process, in part by drawing on the findings of this report.
 - (e) I am advised by OGNZL that the Project Martha proposal anticipates that the AEP programme to address perceived impacts of mining on residential amenity will be continued. The surveys indicate that is likely to speed up the "bounce back" process towards the historic "steady state" levels of favourable opinions towards mining. The time required for this "bounce back" may also be reduced to the extent that Project Martha may come to be perceived by the community as closer to "business as usual" rather than a significant new development.
- 64 Analysing the impacts on the local community of some who are currently employed in mining departing when mining in Waihi finishes, informs the "counterfactuals" argument, i.e. providing estimates of some of the effects on the community of Waihi should mining there finish, or when the mining there finishes. Some effects on the

community would derive from employees continuing to live in Waihi, though likely with reduced incomes, which in turn may affect their involvement in and contribution to the local community.

- 65 In the technical report I have provided estimates of the impacts of employees departing from Waihi when mining finishes. The employee survey shows that about a third of employees would be likely to leave the area, comprising about 4% of local households, and accounting for a similar proportion of children in a range of educational facilities: day-cares, kindergartens and schools. The technical report also provides estimates of the numbers of people who would depart from Waihi having previously had varying levels of involvement in local voluntary organisations including rescue volunteer groups.

Response to submissions

- 66 I have reviewed the submissions of Ruth Ordish and Jaun Fisher. These submissions raise issues touching on social impacts and community views, and so they are within my area of expertise to comment on.
- 67 There are three parts to their submission that I have responded to below. In each case I have included the sections of the submitters' document before commenting.

Part 1 of the submitters' document

4. The current Social Impacts Report appears to report with a bias weighted by staff and beneficiaries of mining. It uses the complaints register to demonstrate there is little social impact. It is therefore a dubious piece of work.
5. There needs to be an independent series of surveys regarding social impact, which the Applicant has no input into. I am convinced their social impact report is biased and obfuscates real issues.

- 68 The reports the submitters refer to have all been prepared to high professional standards. The reports themselves document the bases on which information has been prepared, in a fully transparent manner, so are open to scrutiny. The reports conform to the stringent standards required for social impact and survey reports, including standards set by the appropriate professional bodies and covering issues including the needs for objectivity, freedom from bias, and accuracy. A number of these reports have also been scrutinised by independent experts and have not been found wanting.
- 69 In my opinion there are no grounds for asserting that the social impact reports are "biased", "dubious" or "obfuscate real issues". Rather these reports are rigorous and conform well with best practice professional standards for reports of this nature.

70 **Part 2 of the submitters' document**

14. The current application claims it addresses cultural wellbeing by negotiating/consulting with iwi. Perhaps that is valid as far as it goes. I personally think it only part way addresses cultural concerns, but cannot easily articulate the remedy required to go further. I would state however that normalizing gold mining in this town is not culturally acceptable. In fact prison type fencing, air vents spewing gases, trucks driving around with pink flags, etc. And worst of all, 3xdaily blasting, dust, noise, having blasting under ourhomes....is all normalised at schools, within the community, etc. This is NOT a normal village experience. They should apologise to the community annually, and desist from such propaganda.

71 This part of the submitters' document states that "normalising gold mining in this town is not culturally acceptable".

72 The surveys described in the section above show that public acceptance of mining in Waihi has increased over time, and that the minority of the public of Waihi who are not in favour of mining has become smaller over time. A related trend is that while the public of Waihi tend to be less supportive of mining shortly after the announcement of new mining projects and developments, that initial dip in supportiveness does not persist, and that supportiveness returns to original levels over several years, of the order of three to five years.

73 While those findings do not directly address the question of what may be culturally acceptable or not, i.e. from an ethical or philosophical point of view, the surveys do show **empirically** that "normalising" of mining has happened and does happen over time in Waihi.

Part 3 of the submitters' document

15. A robust social resource needs to be provided (resourced but not controlled by the company) to provide substantive and useful support for those who are adversely affected by mining. My own personal experience, and knowledge of others, tells me that people are affected differently. And some people are particularly impacted and need readily accessed support. This should extend to full support to stay, or to get out.

74 This part of the submitters' document states that "some people are particularly impacted and need readily accessed support".

75 The surveys discussed above provide opportunity for people to express any concerns they may have about mining, and I am aware that the company monitors these results closely. Surveys do not identify individuals who may need support, but they do provide a useful measure of the proportion of people in Waihi with concerns about mining and its impacts. The surveys do show that a small minority of people in Waihi have strong concerns about mining: this proportion ranged between 5 and 8% over the period 2015 to 2017. So I would completely agree that "some people are particularly impacted" by mining. I would not discount that their experience is real to these people, though I would make the point that surveys deal with perceived impacts. However, as a survey research professional, I prefer to

take the view that "perception is reality", a theme which I have heard echoed and vigorously promoted within OGNZL. The ways in which OGNZL supports people in the community who feel particularly impacted by mining is discussed in the evidence of others, particularly Kit Wilson and Donna Fisher.

- 76 In the course of Phoenix's work for OGNZL, I was invited to contribute data to, and to review a peer-reviewed and published paper by the CSIRO (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation) in Australia¹, which concluded that:

"The community engagement processes and mechanisms developed through extensive engagement around the proposed Correnso mine effectively adopted a multi-stakeholder approach that brought community, government, company and other stakeholders together in a participatory and collaborative engagement";

"The commitment by NWG [Newmont Waihi Gold, the operator of the Waihi mine over the period leading up to the approval of Correnso] to ensuring the community 'had a say' in the process, providing options for the community to consider and adapt, and proactively addressing fears and key issues, such as property values, were central to embedding fairness in those processes";

"These innovative procedures played a critical role in maintaining trust between the community and NWG".

- 77 These comments from an independent organisation with strong academic credentials show clearly that the mine operators have been sensitive to the needs and concerns of the community, and able to facilitate and co-create processes that address the submitters' concerns in an exemplary way.

- 78 Furthermore, the reliance of the CSIRO on the survey data I provided to them as the basis for this published paper is one more vindication of the quality of the survey data: the CSIRO would obviously only rely on high quality survey data.



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¹ Resources Policy, Volume 52 (2017) pages 245-254.