

**Submission from the Waihi Community Forum Community
Representatives**

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The Waihi Community Forum:

- 1 The Waihi Community Forum (the Forum) was formed after the announcement of the proposed Golden Link Project including the Correnso underground mine in the east of Waihi.
- 2 The Forum is made up of five representatives from the community, two representatives from OceanaGold Waihi, and two from Hauraki District Council.
- 3 In regards to mining, the Forum's position is neutral. Through roles given to the Forum in the Correnso resource consent, and goodwill programmes initiated by OceanaGold Waihi, the purpose of the Forum is to contribute towards a thriving and sustainable community for those residents in what is now the Correnso Extended Project Area (CEPA) and ratepayers living close to mining operations.
- 4 Current Forum duties include:
 - appointing and managing the Independent Review Panel(IRP);
 - administering the Property Purchase Fund.
 - administering arbitration through the IRP for the 'We Break We Pay' policy;
 - consulting with the community on property purchase criteria;
 - developing initiatives through the 'Streets Ahead' scheme; and
 - reporting on and receiving comments from the community on issues relating to OceanaGold Waihi's operations.

- 5 The Waihi Community Forum is well established, has a Terms of Reference, website, email address, contact number and Facebook page.
- 6 Now that consents have been lodged with Hauraki District Council by OceanaGold Waihi for Project Martha, and given the Forum's relevant experience with current mining and community representation in Waihi East, it will represent the wider Waihi area, with new community representation from the Project Martha areas. This has the support of both Hauraki District Council and OceanaGold Waihi.

Project Martha:

- 7 The Forum notes OceanaGold Waihi's Project Martha Property Policy and asks that panel supports similar conditions to Correnso Underground Mine Conditions of Consent regarding:
 - Property Damage (Correnso Consent condition 21b)
 - Property Programme (Correnso Consent condition 46a – 61)
 - Community meeting (Correnso Consentcondition 62)
- 8 The Forum requests that the OGNZL voluntary programme 'Streets Ahead' will become a Project Martha consent condition. The Forum Community Representatives disagree that Streets Ahead does not mitigate the effects of mining, as stated by Kit Wilson at paragraph 24 of his statement of evidence. The purpose of 'Streets Ahead' is to enhance the area affected by mining and the Forum has completed several Streets Ahead projects to date, including Home Improvement grants, a Waihi East Community Greenspace at Waihi East School with a public playground upgrade and free public BBQ, Cherry Blossom tree planting on two main roads in Waihi East and, most recently, the creation of a basketball court at Morgan Park, designed specifically for our rangitahi which will be open all day.
- 9 The Forum requests that the OGNZL voluntary programme "Top Up" will become a Project Martha consent condition. Introduced in March 2012, Top Up is designed to avoid

distortions in the property market due to adverse perceptions of mining effect. It encourages ongoing private property ownership. This scheme has been useful in Waihi East when property prices dropped in price and property owners found it harder to sell their home. Top Up ended in 2016 when property values were more stable. However, Top Up was pulled suddenly by the Consent holder, and without consultation with either the community or the Waihi Community Forum. The Forum requested the consent holder reintroduce Top Up with proper notification of its end and that it ended within a reasonable timeframe, which the Consent holder did. The Forum knows of at least two families who missed out on a Top Up and were disappointed with the Consent holder's handling of this situation. This illustrates one of the reasons it should be a consent condition.

As OceanaGold Submitters have already pointed out, the Forum also expects a similar drop in property prices to that seen soon after the Correnso Underground Mine announcement. It also notes, in Doug Saunders written submission (point 16), that "The critical mitigation for managing and reducing these effects for Project Martha is the continuation of the AEP and the reintroduction of the Top Up policy." The Forum would like assurance this scheme will be managed well, and that the area covered by Top Up is clearly defined. The Forum also believes Top Up should be available for residents in the 'North Wall' area of Project Martha.

So that this vital scheme is protected, the Forum would like to see reasonable criteria for Top Up included in the consent conditions.

- 10 The Forum supports the Amenity Effects Programme (AEP) and would like to see this included as a Project Martha consent condition for residents. The Forum would also like to see this extended to Commercial Properties. Commercial Properties will be affected by vibration much like residential properties and there will be a loss of amenity.

- 11 The Forum notes that the Project Martha area includes local businesses and believe these businesses should also benefit from the AEP. No business owner or operator should be adversely affected by mining activity by the loss of amenity - many owners will be working at their business during office hours and/or have concerns blasting could drive away customers. We are aware of specific businesses that will be interrupted by the effectiveness of vibration. Forum disagrees with the evidence of Kit Wilson, at paragraph 20 of his statement of evidence.
- 12 The Forum supports a Property Purchase Scheme for properties directly above production blasting, both residential and commercial.
- 13 The Forum supports property purchases for properties situated above a spiral decline.
- 14 The Forum requests a Property Purchase scheme for the wider affected area, as operated for Correnso. The Forum feels strongly that the Property Purchase scheme added significant value during the Operation of Correnso. Attached in Appendix A, is an extract of a letter received by one of the families purchased under the Correnso scheme.
- 15 The Forum has concerns over the amount of residential and commercial property owned by the consent holder and requests a proper Property 'Divestment' strategy be included in consent conditions so that the community has assurance that, whatever the consent holders 'good intentions' the Waihi property market is vulnerable to a large amount of property flooding the market.

Appendix A

My husband and I would like to thank you so much for helping us. We have now bought a house in Mackay St. It's just round the road from where my husband is at Waihi Hospital Rest Home so I'm able to walk around to see him. One of the best things about the new house is that I have been able to have a ramp put up to the back door and have the bathroom adapted, so that my daughter and husband can both get in. Your help has changed our life. It has given us a way forward that we would not have had. Thank you so much.