

Good morning. My name is Fabian Harley and I am a 4th generation resident of Waihi on my dad's side and my mum whose whakapapa belongs to Ngati Tamatera, Ngati Hako and Ngati Porou. I completed my education here and joined the army in 1998. I served in operations in East Timor as a rifle man with First Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment for 13 months. I returned to NZ back to Linton Camp it was then I decided after 4 years it was time to leave the army and come home to Waihi, but I couldn't unless I had employment. I was lucky enough to get a job through Cliff Wiki with Boart Longyear and have been in the drilling industry ever since. I currently work for Alton Drilling as the Underground Project Leader

My submission is in support of Oceana Gold's application for both the Land Use and Resource Consents for Project Martha.

Both my parents and myself have strong ties to the Mine. My dad's father and my mother's grandfather both worked at the mine. My mum and dad are both employed by OceanaGold and have been working for the mines for over 30 years. My younger sister is completing her Accounting degree and worked there as a student and my older brother also worked Underground.

My brothers, friends and I spent our youth exploring around the pumphouse, swimming and eeling in the creeks around Black Hill and Camping on Union Hill and getting in trouble for coming home late. A couple of my friends' parents were anti-miners; but our families all got on well. They supported our sports teams, cheered us on and helped with fund raising. I remember they would go to other mine hearings like this one. My parents were on one side presenting in support and my friends parents sitting on the other side – loud and determined against. But they would all have a cup of tea after – there was never any animosity. Both parents were respectful of each other's views which is why our families are still good friends today. So, we have quite a bit of history with the Waihi mine and I am hoping my children will become 5th generation Harleys and learn the same respect.

In my position with Alton Drilling I am involved with the hiring of new drill crew, we have a steady flow of people coming through the door looking for work. Predominantly young men some with young families looking for long term work and a career that can take them places. A lot of the guys we have employed have struggled to get ahead in the past but now have a steady income and are proud of what they achieved since working for Alton's.

To follow on from this Cory Ibbotson, Director of Alton Drilling has asked me to make a few comments on his behalf in support of the submission as follows;

Alton Drilling Ltd is a NZ owned and operated mineral exploration drilling company, established over 32 years ago. Managing director, Cory Ibbotson, along with his family moved to the Waihi region for work opportunities in 2004 and settled happily into the community. Over the past 14 years the business has grown substantially, starting out with a small team of 15 to now currently employing 140+ staff including administration, workshop team, supervisors, offsiders and drillers. Many of the employees are local to the area, looking to find reliable and decent paid work which will allow them to grow their careers and provide stability for their families. Others are starting families and taking up the opportunity to get into home ownership.

Alton Drilling has also assisted many employees with relocation to the Waihi area for themselves and their families including rental subsidies and providing suitable accommodation. These employees in turn bring benefits for the local economy with their spending and use of local infrastructure.

The business operates on two premises in Waihi, with its main office and workshop located at 7 Seddon Street, Waihi. When a commercial space became available under this building, Alton approached a local community member about establishing an arts & crafts and produce market so that local suppliers

and members could have a place to sell and market their goods. This popular Sunday market has been strongly supported by locals and visitors to the area and been successfully running since February 2018. For the stall holders, the Underground Market has provided an environment that celebrates differences and nurtures creativity. For some, social anxiety and depression has been a key factor in their lives and all have said that the market is a place where people can find wellness. Community responsiveness is one of the core values of the market and this is reflected in the free community fundraising sites offered on a weekly basis. The Underground Market has supported many initiatives including Waihi College Geo trip, Waihi Youth Centre and the Whangamata Hope Walk for Suicide prevention. Future plans for the market is to become a tourist destination, a focal point for visitors who come to the Waihi area.

Alton aims to provide backing for local business as much as possible and has accounts with many Waihi suppliers including Waihi Mitre 10, Seddon St Motors, Goldfields, Edwards Transport and many other companies. As part of the company bonus system, gift vouchers are presented to staff for spending at local businesses and eateries. Sales reps and visiting clients from out of town and overseas are provided with meals and accommodation at restaurants and motels in Waihi.

Alton Drilling has a strong community focus and takes pride in supporting a number of local Waihi projects including sponsoring school trips, sports events and end of year school prize giving awards. Alton also recently donated a container to the Waihi Soccer Club for secure storage of their gear.

The next community venture will be a large mural to run along the front of the building at Seddon St which will celebrate the era of mining in the Waihi area from the past to the current day. This is being undertaken by local artist Shane Walker and will be one of his largest art works to date.

Our experience as contractors to OceanaGold has been excellent. We began our current projects for the company in late 2016. We have found them to be very environmentally responsible in their operations. Regardless of where our drilling sites are located, OceanaGold have shown great respect for the environment and worked with us to put robust controls in place to protect surrounding habitats. We have full confidence that they would continue this respect for the environment under the consents that are currently being applied for.

Alton Drilling's connection with the town of Waihi extends through their employees, the local businesses and community and relationship with OceanaGold. Therefore, in summary, Alton Drilling supports OceanaGold's application for both the Land Use and Resource Consents for Project Martha.

To finish, I ask the Commissioners to allow our town to continue to grow and look in favour of the applications in full.

Fabian Harley

For and on behalf of myself and Alton Drilling NZ Ltd

