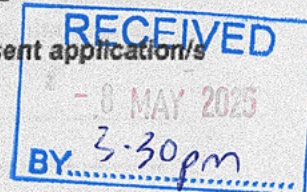


Submission Form 16 to the Otago Regional Council on consent applications

This is a Submission on (a) limited notified/publicly notified resource consent application/s pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991.



Submitter Details:
(please print clearly)

Full Name/s: NEIL JAMES ROY

Postal Address:



Phone number: Business: _____ Private: _____

Mobile: _____

Email address:



I/we wish to SUPPORT / OPPOSE / submit a NEUTRAL submission on (circle one) the application of:

Applicant's Name: OceanGold (New Zealand) Ltd

And/or Organisation: _____

Application Number: RM 24.184

Location: Macraes Flat and of Dunedin

Purpose: Gold mining extensions

The specific parts of the application/s that my submission relates to are: (Give details)



See included page.

My/Our submission is (include: whether you support or oppose the application or specific parts of it, whether you are neutral regarding the application or specific parts of it and the reasons for your views).

See included page

I/We seek the following decision from the consent authority (give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought)

Approve but ensure conditions are met

I/we:

- ☒ Wish to be heard in support of our/my submission
☐ Not wish to be heard in support of our/my submission

If others make a similar submission, I/we will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

☒ Yes
☐ No

I, ~~am~~/am not (choose one) a trade competitor* of the applicant (for the purposes of Section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991).

*If trade competitor chosen, please complete the next statement, otherwise leave blank.

I, ~~am~~/am not (choose one) directly affected by an effect as a result of the proposed activity in the application that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

I, ~~do~~/do not (choose one) wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application.

I do not insist on it

I ~~do~~/do not request* that the local authority delegates its functions, powers, and duties to hear and decide the application to 1 or more hearings commissioners who are not members of the local authority.

I have/~~have not~~ served a copy of my submission on the applicant.

Neil J. Ross
Signature/s of submitter/s
(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter/s)

8-5-2025
(Date)

Renewed forms replacing missing ones

Submission on Oceana Gold application for the mining extensions.

From Neil J. Roy

[REDACTED]

Email

[REDACTED]

I am now retired to Palmerston from our Moonlight farm where our home was five kms from Macraes. I support mining in the area but am perturbed by items in the extension documents including inefficient land restoration, incorrect naming of places and roads, queries on after mining roads in the Coronation precinct and no activity on some previous consent conditions. I was a Waihemo County councillor on the 1988 hearings panel at the first consent application for gold mining around Macraes and remained on the panel at mining hearings as a Waitaki District councillor until 1998. I agreed with the decisions we made but the proposed outcomes of land after mining have not always been accomplished. OceanaGold has on its own accord manipulated or ignored some conditions applied in later hearings. I am not aware any council approval on the outcomes so my reaction is to elaborate on them at a future hearing which will be included in this submission.

The mine workshop precinct is visible six kms away from our old home. Although suppressed by lights around the house the entrance is marginally illuminated by lights from there. Applications indicated night lighting from sites including Deepdell and Coronation mines would be invisible from places like our old home. Due to higher altitudes the locality has superior astrological clarity so I purchased a telescope to enhance my star gazing. The glow from lights at Deepdell and Coronation mines has a detrimental effect on observing the night sky so the predictions were misleading.

My aggravation is aroused by some erroneously place names the company, consent report compilers, newspapers and printed articles have used. From the initial surveying of the township in 1876, Certificates of Title for sections identified their location as Town of Macraes. As some ill-informed individuals had falsely used, in 2011 Waitaki D.C. officers altered a township road sign to Macraes Flat I objected to the changed road sign so after unsatisfactory dialogue with council personally I submitted to the N.Z. Geographic Board who after the advertised procedure decided at a meeting to uphold the Macraes name. Why should there now be deviations? Oceana Gold and an application document refer to mining at Macraes and the settlement of Macraes Flat. There is no mining at Macraes township but mining occurs at Macraes Flat so these names should be swapped.

Rather than being at Macraes the location of Coronation mine should be on Taieri Ridge as apart from a waste rock stack and more recent extensions Coronation mine is on Dunedin City side of the Waitaki District boundary.

Marked on maps as Trimbells Creek, my understanding is its origin name was Trembles Gully. In times long gone Trembles was an ailment where infected sheep would prosper if left unmolested but any mustering would induce a state of trembling that withheld their mobility. Numerous sheep with this complaint grazed at this location on Deepdell Station so the area was consequently identified as Trembles Gully. My grandfather and several others went there with horse drawn drays to slaughter the affected sheep and retrieve their skins. To complete the task, they camped out on a very frosty night and used the fresh skins as bedding but when the skins overheated them so they spent some time cooling off in the tussocks.

A comment has Macraes Road on SH 87 between Middlemarch and Hyde. Hyde-Macraes Road commences at SH 87 so this data is inaccurate. Flows in coal creek and mare burn should be Coal Creek and Mareburn and mentioned on page 107 in Leaseholder is Filiburn but it should be Fillyburn.

Documents on the mining application and various printings have falsely located Oceana Gold mines as being in North Otago. From the coast at Shag Point the long-established southern boundary of North Otago follows the summits of Horse Range, Kakanui Range and Hawkdun Range. Most of Waihemo County became part of Waitaki District after the mining proceed began in the late 1980s but mining was never in North Otago. If it is necessary East Otago should replace it deleting North Otago.

On recent maps the road meeting Macraes Road across from the tailing impoundment is Hocking Road but it really is Cranky Jims **Gully** Road. The name source was a rather eccentric miner they nicknamed Cranky Jim who in the 1870s worked in the nearby gully. Waitaki D C had the road signed as Cranky Jims **Creek** Road but the road did not initially cross the creek so Cranky Jims Gully Road is historic, authentic and accurate.

A kilometre from Cranky Jims Gully Road the unformed Hocking Road linked Shag Valley and Macraes Flat. The road name was derived from Francis and Mary Hocking residing at Dunback who land holders of adjacent sections. A fence above a steepish slope now blocks the realigned entrant from Macraes Road so no road signage is necessary.

Previously granted consents for additional mining beside Golden Point and Horse Flat Roads made the conditioned ridgetop tussock reserve no longer publicly accessible. It is much smaller than documents portrayed and I have doubts if any plantings have survived. Will the reserve always remain there?

Replacing Eddie Gaytan's waterwheel to near his mine site was a condition from several years ago. The two worded surname came from Eddie's father Louis Gay Tan who returned to China. There is now mown grass and tree plantings beside what is now Golden Bar Road. Where is the waterwheel?

A condition requiring old gold sluicing equipment in the dredge hole to be salvaged and displayed nearby beside Macraes Road. It has remains where it was with its disintegrations becoming more obvious. An insignificant feature was installed that ignores the now historic sluicing gear but why does it remain abandoned. Mining does not affect two of these so-called sight seers' attractions why have the conditions not been implemented?

Due to conditions Golden Point Road is supposed to be conveyable to public traffic with heavy mine vehicles delayed during this process. Depending on who the gate keepers are I have been turned back on some occasions from both ends of the controlled road. Although unsurveyed about 120 years ago the rated land it passes through having its area slightly reduced when the road was formed so it is a public thoroughfare Gate keepers told me to backtrail and take Macraes and Horse Flat Roads but the extra distance is equivalent to travelling to Dunedin from Macraes Road by taking SH 85 over The Pigroot to Maniototo and continue via Alexandra and Milton to Dunedin. Few OGL staff would be enthused using this significantly longer alternative.

Documents on Frasers Waste Rock Stack Water Compliance Site has the culvert mapped as a ford. This culvert floods flow over on Nth Branch Waikouaiti River on Ross Road was constructed at the boundary in the early 1980s by Waihemo and Silverpeaks Counties. There is now has an illegally locked gate beside this site on Ross Road near the old China Flat gold diggings but it should be properly identified as a culvert.

The temporary roadway from Matheson Road descending the ridge to Horse Flat Road across from Deepdell North Pit may be infrequently used but why does not appear on any mine extension maps.

The temporary roadway north-west of Coronation mine appears to be overrun by mining. There was a locked gate onto its entrance west of the Sisters Peaks summit that was open after my complaint. The mine bypass may be seldom used but is it omitted from the Coronation extension?

The proposed road line for Matheson Road on Taieri Ridge across land in Coronation mine site is also missing from maps. Documents have a planned no exit road venturing onto Coronation mine site at its completion but it does not link with Matheson Road either east or west on its pre mining route. When Coronation mine was applied for the hearing panel gave approval to my submission on the continuation of Matheson Road. When mining in the area is completed. I am unaware of anything that may have legitimately removed Matheson Road from a feasible 4WD road line along Taieri Ridge that should be negotiable at least for dry weather conditions.

By the application post mining rehabilitation of mined areas, waste rock stacks, and tailings impoundments into stock grazing pastures would be comparable with what existed before mining altered the landscape. This has been dealt with in previous consent hearings but those contemplating the outcome of the applications can only guess as to its future accuracy.

My farming at Moonlight required provision for stock grazing on land varying from the Deepdell Creek gorge to the tops of Taieri Ridge. It encompassed two now freeholded quarry reserves on schist or basalt rock and surrounded Shark Hill quarry but contained many hectares of the best farmland in the Macraes Flat, Moonlight and Nenthorn environment.

higher productive grass species established following cultivation or spraying and direct drilling after several years become overwhelmed by poorer grazing varieties including brown top, sweet vernal and yorkshire fog so re-establishment is necessary to maintain the stock carrying capacity.

Disregarding underlying rock, the steeper slopes on waste rock stacks have and surrounds of tailings impoundments cannot be cultivated or direct drilled so what was initially sown will be diminished by inferior species. In late March we travelled along Golden Bar Road but stopped to watch a large bulldozer spreading soil down the slope on Frasers Waste Rock Stack. It contained numerous rocks but consent reports indicated this was comparable with soil the replaced pastures grew in. It seems indisputable that pasture rehabilitation predictions will not equate to what eventuates.

The wind speed diagram identifies the Vickery house at Hyde Street in Macraes but this family has not resided there for 30 or more years. The map is decades outdated which jumbles those who now live in Hyde Street so it is logical for documents to use current maps.

A report indicates removal of the wind gauge beside Macraes Road that measures a similar volume of dust as another gauge close to Redbank Road that is less than a kilometre away. The site of this gauge is not prone to mine dust as its prevailing winds to it do not blow across the mined areas or from waste rock stacks. This would occur if the gauge was placed beside Macraes Road near the haul road overbridge and closer to Innes Mills Pit. That would give a fairer reading of dust created by the mining process.

Controlling invasive weeds on mine property is dealt with but clumps of broom and gorse are conspicuous on Tipperary Tailings Impoundment and waste rock stacks so what is stipulated in consent conditions is not being adequately attended to. The authorities should approve what conditions dictate by it attention from the mining company.

At the beginning of my submission, I commented that I wasn't opposed to the mining extension. Nevertheless, many hectares of mining remnants will on the landscape in the forthcoming future when mining is completed. The millions of ounces of retorted gold have an extraordinary financial return but being replenishable it will not replace itself. Owing to its terrain, altitude and other factors the area before mining only carried a moderate stocking rate but its future foreseeable production could be assumed as comparable. Post mining circumstances and rehabilitation have yet to accomplish the prophesied re-establishment criteria for land so much of my submission requirements are to ensure this occurs. My earnest desire is that with support from the local district's community the consenting councils within an appropriate time approve the required mining or post mining conditions.

Added page to Otago Regional Council submission form.

I support the application but object to segments that do not comply with their predicted outcomes approved at previous consent hearings.

The following items cause my concerns.

Excessive mine lighting at night. Inaccurate place and area naming.

Inferior mine & waste rock stack replenishment. Wind gauge removal.

Neglected condition compliance on plantings between Golden Point and Horse Flat Road, Gaytan's waterwheel & hydraulic sluicing equipment.

Golden Point Road closure to public traffic that denies conditions.

Culvert on Ross Road incorrectly identified on a map as a ford.

Temporary roadway between Matheson Road and Horse Flat Road is not shown on recent maps. No Matheson Road completion on ridge after mining.

Temporary road through Coronation mine precinct appears to have mining residue dumped on it making it impassible to public traffic.

Post mining rehabilitation of mined areas and waste rock stacks will not support the farmed livestock that previous applications foresaw.

Controlling invasive noxious weeds is inferior to consent requirements.

Neglected gorse and broom should be eliminated or it will produce significantly increasing long term infestations on the infected land.

I support the application but from previous consents, conditions have not always been complied with so administering authorities must insist conditions are complied with in a feasible time span. If required perhaps the applicant should deposit sufficient finance to cover the cost of other individuals accomplishing the anticipated consent condition outcomes that have been manipulated or ignored.