

Before the Independent Hearing Panel

In the Matter of the Resource Management Act 1991 (**RMA**)

And

In the Matter of an application to the Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council for resource consent to establish and operate a gold mining activity at 1346 – 1536 Teviot Road, Millers Flat

Reference RC230325 (Central Otago District Council)
RM23.819 (Otago Regional Council)

**Summary Statement of Simon Chapman on behalf Hawkeswood Mining Limited
(Lizard Ecology)**

Dated 13 May 2024

Jeremy Brabant
Barrister
Foundry Chambers
Level 4, Vulcan Buildings
PO Box 1502, Shortland St
Auckland City
021 494 506
Email: jeremy@brabant.co.nz

Introduction

1. My full name is Simon Percival Chapman. I am a terrestrial ecologist with specialist expertise in herpetology. I hold a BSc degree and a Postgraduate Diploma as set out in paragraphs 1-2 of my Evidence in Chief dated 29 April 2024. I confirm that I have continued to comply with the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses in preparing this summary statement.

Summary

2. I assessed the Project's effects on indigenous lizards using a combination of desktop and on-site methodologies.
3. Patches of suitable habitat for indigenous lizards (skinks and geckos) are present on-site adjacent to the Clutha River riparian margin where rocky microhabitats occur on the surface of former mine tailing and sluicing deposits. Some of the microhabitats inspected were observed to be occupied by indigenous lizards.
4. Due to the limited extent of lizard habitat present on-site, the adverse effects of the project on lizards are not considered to be significant at the regional, district or local population level. The species concerned are widespread across large distributions, with population strongholds off-site. My assessment also concluded that the site does not provide significant habitat for indigenous herpetofauna. Based on my assessment of the site and surrounding habitat, I conclude that the proposal's effects on any potential lizard habitat is low.
5. While the Project's adverse effects on lizards are not considered significant in a consenting context, the Wildlife Act provides legal protection for individual indigenous lizards. A Wildlife Act Authority will need to be obtained from the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) to relocate indigenous lizards to suitable habitat away from the Project footprint.

Conclusions

6. The Project is expected to have a low adverse effect on the local indigenous lizard population, but lizard management will still be required under the Wildlife Act which is a separate process administered by DOC.



Simon Chapman

Dated 13 May 2024