

**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)

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**Summary Statement of Nigel Goodhue on behalf Hawkeswood Mining Limited**

**Air Quality**

**Dated 13 May 2024**

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## Introduction

1. My full name is Nigel David Goodhue. I hold the position of Environmental Scientist at Air Matters Limited. My qualifications are a Master of Science Degree from the University of Waikato as set out in paragraph 1 of my Evidence in Chief (**EiC**). I confirm that I have continued to comply with the Code of Conduct for expert witnesses in preparing this summary statement.
2. My scope of works included peer reviewing the Dust Management Plan (**DMP**) and undertaking an Assessment of Environmental Effects (**AEE**) to support the Air Discharge Consent sought from Otago Regional Council. I am familiar with the area to which the application for resource consent relates including a visit to the site and surrounding area on 19 October 2023.

## Summary

3. The focal discharge to air from the proposed activity, and the emphasis of the AEE was particulate matter, more commonly referred to as 'dust'. A range of activities onsite have the potential to generate particulate matter including removal and transport, stockpiling and replacing overburden/topsoil and vehicle movements on accessways.
4. In general, the surrounding land use (receiving environment) is considered as having a low to medium sensitivity to the effect of dust in accordance with the MfE (2016)<sup>1</sup> guideline. The exception to this is residential dwellings and accommodation facilities adjacent to the site, which were identified in the AEE as having high sensitivity.
5. My assessment of potential dust effects followed the MfE 2016 guidance. An initial screening evaluation using appropriate separation distances was undertaken, followed by a more detailed consideration of identified adjacent sensitive locations. Potential for adverse effects at sensitive receptors to the north-west and south-east of the mining site were identified. This assessed risk level is based on there being no mitigation or active monitoring of controls.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry for the Environment (2016): Good practice guide for assessing and managing dust.

6. Hawkeswood Mining Limited is proposing a range of best practice mitigations and controls to minimise the discharge of dust from the site operations. These dust mitigation measures are described in my EiC and captured in the DMP. Continuous real-time dust monitoring is proposed to be undertaken on site to monitor the effectiveness of the controls. The range of best practise controls are considered sufficient to mitigate the effects on all the identified higher-risk receptors.
7. To provide an additional level of control for any unanticipated acute events, such as very high wind conditions, Sensitive Receptor Management Zones (**SMZ**) are proposed where dust generating activities are within 400m to high-risk sensitive receptors. These SMZ, with their additional controls, are captured in the DMP.

### **Matters Arising**

8. A number of submissions identified potential adverse air quality effects as a result of the activity. I have addressed these matters in my evidence and provided clarification where required. In conclusion the matters raised by submitters can be adequately addressed through the existing mitigations measures to ensure the potential effects remain less than minor.
9. I am also aware of air quality expert evidence that was provided in support of a submission by the owners of 1334 Teviot Road. This submission (and evidence) has now been withdrawn. However, I make a few general comments on the matters raised in the expert evidence.
10. In regards to dust management over the active working area, Hawkeswood Mining Limited have proposed an extensive range of best practise controls including the use of high-volume water cart and dust suppressants, stabilisation of bunds once established, progressive rehabilitation of grass areas post-mining and inclusions of an area limit relating to the high dust generating activities. Pattle Delamore Partners technical review agreed with the conclusion reached in the AEE that the proposed controls were appropriate to mitigate dust effects from the entire active working area.

The processing of the target alluvial material in the dredge is undertaken as a wet screening process and will not be a source of dust. Thus, the “crushing” of

aggregate, which has the potential to generate additional dust and was referred to in the withdrawn evidence, does not form part of the proposed activity.

11. A number of proposed conditions were included in the withdrawn evidence that I consider are not appropriate. I support the proposed conditions contained in the Otago Regional Council's and Central Otago District Council's Section 42A Recommending Reports. The only exception is the two matters as outlined in my EiC.

## **Conclusions**

12. Based on the assessment of effects, and subject to the proposed best practice mitigations being implemented, the effects of nuisance and health-related air discharges from the site can be appropriately managed and mitigated to a point of having less than minor effects on the receiving environment.
13. This conclusion is supported by the Technical Review undertaken by Pattle Delamore Partners and reflected in the Otago Regional Council and Central Otago District Council Section 42A Staff Recommending Reports.



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**Nigel Goodhue**

Dated 13 May 2024