

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 Johnstone on behalf Hawkeswood Mining Limited
(Operations Manager)**

Dated 13 May 2024

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Introduction

1. My full name is Simon Johnstone. I am the Operations Manager for the Hawkeswood Mining project at Millers Flat.
2. I have eighteen years' experience working for Hawkeswood Mining and have worked on gold mining projects at Olig Station, Waikaia, Blenheim and Thompsons Gorge.
3. I am familiar with the area to which the application for resource consent relates. I have visited the site and surrounds I am on site and am on site most days.

Scope of Evidence

4. My evidence will address the following:
 - a. Consultation;
 - b. Operation of the mine;
 - c. Rehabilitation; and
 - d. Archaeological Authority.

Consultation

5. I have had extensive involvement in project consultation since September 2020, engaging neighbours, community groups, and relevant organisations. Efforts to address concerns raised by entities like the Ministry of Education and Fire and Emergency New Zealand have been made and despite challenges in consulting with Kā Rūnaka, significant efforts, including negotiations and technical assessments, have been invested to address concerns, demonstrating a commitment to comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

Operation of the mine

6. An exploration permit was granted on October 19, 2021, followed by a mining permit on April 17, 2023. Operations await consent and pre-

operational conditions. Recruitment, training, and dredge preparation are necessary before commencement, with no anticipated recruitment delays due to local interest. Updated site plans address feedback, including bunding and site vehicle access adjustments. An erosion control plan, responding to Aukaha's concerns, is drafted, with ongoing refinement planned. We have worked extensively in accordance with various reports (dust, sound, water etc) to ensure we are good caretakers of the land.

Rehabilitation

7. The rehabilitation plan for the farmland project area involves backfilling the mine pit, contouring the ground surface, and reinstating farm infrastructure and the cycle trail. Biodiversity efforts will focus on exotic species removal and native plantings along the cycle trail and riverbank, with ongoing consultation with stakeholders. We have invested time with key stakeholders like the Cycle Trail Trust, Aukaha, etc to be sure we understand and consider their biodiversity requests.

Archaeological Authority

8. An application for the Archaeological Authority was accepted on March 22, 2024, and is currently undergoing processing with Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (NZHPT). Multiple meetings have been held with NZHPT staff regarding the site's archaeological potential management, with my understanding that the proposed approach is satisfactory.

Simon Johnstone

Dated 13 May 2024