

### **Summary statement of Alison Paul, 31 August 2023**

1. I have worked for Oceana Gold (New Zealand) Limited (**OGNZL**) since 2004 and I am currently the General Manager Corporate and Legal Affairs. One of my responsibilities includes having oversight of the regulatory environment within which OGNZL operates.
2. I am also the Chair of Straterra, a group representing the New Zealand minerals and mining sector, which advocates publicly and to the Government for recognition of mining and minerals; and a member of the Mines Rescue Trust Board which undertakes statutory functions under the Mines Rescue Act in the provision of emergency response services to mines, and tunnels under construction.
3. Mining is locationally constrained, which means that it needs to locate where the mineral deposits are found. Because of this, and the scale of the operations, mining the mineral resources of the world class Macraes goldfield at times unavoidably impacts on biodiversity, heritage values and wetland or other freshwater values. As I explain in my evidence, the water and discharge permits held by OGNZL are vital to the operation of Macraes Mine. OGNZL hold over 200 resource consents, with the majority of these being from the Otago Regional Council. The mine and its activities do not fit easily within the confines of the regional rules, and therefore multiple consents can be required for one activity.
4. As I explained in the hearings on the non-freshwater parts of the PORPS, to ensure the mine can continue to operate, it is crucial to retain access to the full effects management hierarchy. This means having policies that retain important values through a combination of avoidance and, where impacts are unavoidable, mitigation, offsetting and compensation to achieve “no net loss” or a “net gain” overall. This is equally true for freshwater values as well.
5. In my opinion the Otago Regional Council seems to be reluctant to accept that not providing a consenting pathway for mine at Macraes would lead to the premature closure of the mine. After being involved in numerous projects at Macraes I can say

that the ability to mine and produce all the benefits at a local and regional level has depended upon the ability to secure all the necessary consents. If the company cannot obtain even one of the necessary consents then the next stage of mining cannot proceed. This means that the freshwater provisions of the PORPS need to be alive to and provide a consenting pathway for OGNZL to apply for all necessary water and discharge permits.

6. Closure of the mine would lead to a significant loss of jobs, a loss of wages as well as a loss of combined spending. OGNZL employs over 600 people in the Otago regional and Annual combined spending within Otago (wages and purchases from suppliers) was \$123 million in 2021. Economist Shamubeel Eaqub has prepared economic evidence which discusses this in more detail, however my take home message is that the mine is Macraes Mine is a large employer and an important contributor to Otago's economy and the communities of Dunedin, and the Waikouaiti and Waihemo wards.