

WAIKAKA GOLD MINES LIMITED

Response to a question posed by Environment Southland to Planner Anita Collie regarding the potential presence of a ‘fibrous mineral’ and risks to human health from exposure of rock and dust as a result of the proposed alluvial gold mine at Waikaka.

By definition, the proposed alluvial gold mine at Waikaka uses only water and gravity for the recovery of gold. The mining process involves the excavation of the overburden clays and gravels using excavator and truck and does not require blasting. There is no broken rock produced.

The gold bearing ore, which is a part of the Waikaka Quartz Gravels, is a quartz pebble conglomerate with minor schist and claystone pebbles, as well as a fine clay matrix, is also excavated and carried using excavator and truck. The overburden is comprised of clays and alluvial gravels, which are removed by the same process. This process does not require blasting, nor breaking of rock.

The screening of the ore in the gold recovery plant is carried out wet so there is no dust emitted by the process.

There have been no fibrous minerals, such as asbestos etc, observed in either the overburden or the basal ore.

The only potential dust which may be emitted would be from trucks operating on the haul roads and this source will be well controlled using dust mitigation methodology which will be defined in the Dust Management Plan to be formulated prior to commencement of mining.

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