



Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao

7 (2)(a)

Form 13 – Submission on application concerning resource consent that is subject to public notification or limited notification by consent authority

Date: Thursday 19th June 2025

To: Environment Southland

Name of submitter: Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao on behalf of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc.

Postal Address: 7 (2)(a)

Hokonui Rūnanga is not a trade competitor of the applicant for the purposes of section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991.

The specific parts of the application that our submission relates to are the entire application.

This is a submission on an application from: Waikaka Gold Mines Limited – APP-20242608 for multiple resource consents to establish and operate a gold mine at 972 Waikaka Road, Chatton North, Southland.

Details of application: The purpose of the consent application is to allow for the mining of gold-bearing wash from depths of 20m to 50m, using a dry, open-cut method, with a total mining area of approximately 85ha over 7-8 years. The operation will involve dewatering, on-site processing, discharge of treated water to the Waikaka Stream, overburden stockpiling, temporarily diverting

sections of local streams, and undertaking site rehabilitation. The application includes the following activities:

- 1) Water permit to take, dam and divert surface water from Waikaka Stream.
- 2) Water permit to take and use groundwater for the purpose of dewatering the mine pit, gold processing, dust suppression and site rehabilitation.
- 3) Land use consent to install, use, maintain and decommission a bore.
- 4) Land use consent to disturb the bed of Waikaka Stream and Shepherd's Creek to dam, divert water flow and the rehabilitation of a channel.
- 5) Discharge permit to discharge cleanfill onto land.
- 6) Discharge permit to discharge treated stormwater, gold processing return water, and dewatering water into the Waikaka Stream.
- 7) Discharge permit to discharge stormwater, gold processing return water, and dewatering water into land through settlement ponds.
- 8) Discharge permit to discharge contaminants to air from mineral extraction processes and associated overburden storage.

WGML engagement with Hokonui Rūnanga

Waikaka Gold Mines Limited have been engaging with Hokonui Rūnanga Inc. regarding the application since early 2024. In May 2024, Waikaka Gold Mines Limited met with Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao to discuss the updated project proposal. Waikaka Gold Mines Limited indicated that their preference was to engage and consult with stakeholders prior to the application being lodged to ensure that stakeholders are included in the process and able to provide feedback. Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao indicated that a cultural assessment could be completed for the application.

No details of what the cultural assessment might involve were discussed at this time. This was to be determined between Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao and Waikaka Gold Mines Limited at a later date. Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao also recommended that Waikaka Gold Mines Limited focus on the rehabilitation of this site post-mining, including stream bed rehabilitation, stream diversions rehabilitation, mined areas and overall site rehabilitation, and riparian area plantings and rehabilitation.

Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao received the full consent application and supporting documents in September 2024. The application was lodged with Environment Southland and Gore District Council in August 2024.

Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao have continued to engage with Waikaka Gold Mines Limited through 2024 and 2025. Staff members have reviewed the full consent application and supporting documents, drafted a cultural values statement, and conducted multiple visits to the proposed mine site. A cultural impact assessment is being drafted currently, and Hokonui Rūnanga Kaupapa Taiao expects that Waikaka Gold Mines Limited will continue engagement with Hokonui Rūnanga once this is completed.

Hokonui Rūnanga

The takiwā of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc. centres on Māruawai – the floodplains of the Mataura River, encompassing the modern-day township of Gore and includes shared interests in the lakes and mountains between Whakatipu-Waitai (near Martins Bay) with those from Waihero south.

Hokonui Rūnanga hold rangatira over and kaitiaki responsibilities towards all whenua and wai within their takiwā. Mana whenua interests are not limited to places within the takiwā which are identified as “culturally significant sites.” Across the takiwā, there are places and resources which have different values and uses depending on whakapapa, attributes, and historic and contemporary activities and events. It is the role of Hokonui Rūnanga Inc. to ensure that all activities across the takiwā that may impact taonga and natural resources are conducted in a way that does not cause any adverse impacts.

Hokonui Rūnanga has centuries-long customary associations, rights, and interests in and around Māruawai and its taonga (resources). These associations are both historical and contemporary, and include whakapapa, place names, mahinga kai, tribal economic development, and landholdings. There are many important taonga tuku iho, sites, ara tawhito (ancient trails), and resources across the takiwā. Regardless of the condition these may now be in, or the value on which the wider community places on them, they remain important to Ngāi Tahu identity and sense of connection with place. Hapū and whānau retain particularly strong historical and contemporary links with mahinga kai sites in the takiwā, especially where customary practices can be and are continued.

Waikaka Stream

The Waikākahi Stream (incorrectly named Waikaka) has historically been a significant source of mahinga kai for Ngāi Tahu. Kākahi is the Māori name for the New Zealand freshwater mussel (*Echyridella menziesii*), which was and remains prevalent in the Waikākahi Stream, hence where the name derives from. The Waikākahi Stream is a freshwater, spring-fed stream within the Māruawai area. It is shallow and rocky-bottomed, with stony beach areas at some bends. It is home to trout populations and was historically a habitat for taonga mahinga kai species such as kākahi and tuna. In recent years, water quality data has shown high levels of *E. coli*. In some areas, the Waikākahi Stream shows signs of channelisation and is bordered by willows and other introduced species that are primarily recognised as weeds.

Species known to inhabit the Waikākahi Stream include, but are not limited to, kākahi, tuna, waikōura, galaxiids, and upland bully. Migratory species, such as tuna, are of particular importance because they require uninterrupted passage to complete their lifecycles. Populations of manu (birds) and mū (insects) also rely on the wider Waikākahi Stream habitat to survive.

Submission:

Hokonui Rūnanga **opposes** this application.

The reasons for opposing the application are as follows:

- 1) The proposed activity does not align with the cultural significance of the Waikaka Stream and its surrounding environment.
- 2) The proposal does not address the potential adverse effects on mana whenua of significant land use changes to an area of cultural importance.
- 3) The proposal does not address the potential long-term adverse impacts on cultural values, such as those on taonga species.
- 4) It is the view of Hokonui Rūnanga that activities that further modify the Waikakahi Stream from its natural state, degrade the ecological health of the waterway and its ability to provide habitat for taonga mahinga kai species, or detract from the naturalness and tranquillity of the area, should be discouraged.

We seek the following decision from the consent authority:

To decline the resource consent application.

Hokonui Rūnanga wish to be heard in support of our submission.



Signature of submitter (or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter)

Electronic address for service for submitter:

Phone number:

Contact person: