

TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGICAL EFFECTS

OVERVIEW

An assessment of terrestrial ecology has been conducted within the footprint of the proposed Project Quattro and its surrounding area. This study included terrestrial vegetation, frogs, lizards, birds and long-tailed bats. Whilst the study is yet to be finalised, it found that the environment that the proposed mine and infrastructure will sit in is largely a modified rural and residential setting. The exception being two fragments of vegetation adjacent to the Tailings Storage Facilities which are identified in the District Plan as Significant Natural Areas (SNA).

KEY EFFECTS

VEGETATION

Project Quattro would require the removal of approximately 16 ha of planted native vegetation and approximately 12.4 ha of naturally regenerating vegetation. The level of effect attributed to Project Quattro has been determined on the ecological value of the impacted area and the magnitude of the effect. Generally, all terrestrial ecological values of the vegetation communities within the project area are low or less. There are some notable species present.

The study found that if the project was to be approved, the loss of planted and naturally occurring vegetation would have low or less level effects that could be remediated and enhanced through replacement planting representative of the existing vegetation and formal protection of the SNA. This is because the special species found present are

not affected by the proposal. The loss of naturally occurring native vegetation would typically be an effect requiring biodiversity off-setting. However, the effects of the proposal in this case, given the low, to very low values present, does not require off-setting. Nevertheless, OceanaGold Waihi plans to manage any residual terrestrial ecological

effect through an offset programme.

FROGS

No native frogs were identified.

SKINKS

Moko skinks are localised in a small area on the outer northern edge of both fragments of the Significant Natural Area and the north-facing edge of a separate pine block in





KauriBank

The KauriBank project began in 2003 in recognition of the historic loss of kauri trees around the Waihi area. This project has seen the provision of thousands of kauri in various groves around Waihi. Each grove of trees planted is counted and entered into a KauriBank register, map and aerial photograph. The database is updated regularly as the growth of each grove of trees is monitored.

between the two fragments.

There were no Moko skinks identified within the area affected by Project Quattro.

LONG-TAILED BATS

Historic and current bat surveys do not record any long-tailed bats, and they are not considered likely to be present in the Project Quattro area. While they are unlikely to be using the area currently, it is acknowledged that their flight paths may change over time. Therefore, if the project was to go ahead pre-clearance surveys for bats would be undertaken as a precautionary management measure, where vegetation removal involves large trees, including pines.

MANAGEMENT MEASURES

We will apply an effects management hierarchy to ensure that the adverse effects associated with Project Quattro are as small as is practicable.

Where residual adverse effects remain, we will assess opportunities to undertake additional actions to offset or compensate for those effects where they are more than minor.

Our objective is to achieve no nett loss of ecological values as a minimum outcome, and to achieve an

enhancement of ecological values where appropriate and practicable.

Proposed mitigation measures for the potential effects include:

- A Biodiversity Management Plan that provides for:
 - Removal of exotic species such as pines and wattles, and re-planting with native species;
 - Extending areas of native plantings to replace any areas of loss.
 - A focus on de-fragmenting the remaining ecological features.
- Implementation of a predator/pest control programme.
- Enhancement of Moko skink habitat and providing an appropriate lizard habitat as part of the rehabilitation of Gladstone Hill.
- Relocation of five scheduled trees, subject to an assessment of the practicability and likely viability once re-planted.

CONCLUSION

For the most part, the area Project Quattro sits within is of low terrestrial ecological value. The proposed impact on these areas is considered to be a very low to low level effect that would not normally require a terrestrial offset, but given the

potential of the Significant Natural Area, this is what has been recommended and accepted by the Company. The impact on other smaller planted areas could be mitigated through replacement planting that is representative of the existing vegetation.

Given their absence in the surveys of the affected vegetation communities, frogs, Moko skinks, and bats were all considered unlikely to be present within the areas directly impacted by the proposed Project Quattro.

We welcome your input into developing Project Quattro.

If you have an idea, concern, question or opinion, we want to hear from you. You can contact us through our website;

www.waihigold.co.nz
or visit us at our Project Information Office;
86 Seddon Street, Waihi.

Or use our Community Engagement Line;
0800 924 444