


 WAITAKI
DISTRICT
PLAN
REVIEW

Special Purpose Zone Macraes Mining (SPZMM)

What are the key issues we need to think about?

The area around Macraes Flat has been mined for gold periodically since the mid 1800's but since 1990 has been subject to ongoing large-scale opencast and underground mining, extracting ore. The Macraes goldmine is the largest in New Zealand and since the commencement of operations over 5 million ounces of gold has been produced. The Special Purpose Zone - Macraes Mining SPZMM) covers some 11,200 hectares.

The key issue is how to strike the balance between recognising the economic and social benefits of mining, while ensuring adverse effects on the environment are avoided, remedied or mitigated.



What does it mean for me?

Any lawfully established existing activities would have what is referred to as 'existing use rights' and could continue to operate unchanged.

The land in the SPZMM is in the ownership of Oceana Gold NZ Ltd (OGL). The Existing Mining Overlay recognises existing mining is occurring and would control new mining activities in order to maintain any indigenous biodiversity values and manage effects of noise, vibration, access and lighting on the amenity values of the adjacent General Rural Zone. The Potential Mining Overlay recognises that it is an area which may be appropriate for mining activities provided the activity does not compromise the identified characteristics and values of any sensitive environment.

What are we suggesting in the Draft District Plan?

The SPZMM covers the area around Macraes Flat that is used for gold mining. It is divided into two overlays – the 'Existing Mining Overlay' and the 'Potential Mining Overlay'. The boundaries for these two overlays have not yet been determined.

The Existing Mining Overlay would cover land that has consents already issued for mining related activities (excavation of pits, waste rock stacks, haul roads and the gold processing plant and underground mining).

The Potential Mining Overlay is the remaining land in the SPZMM that has not yet been mined. It may be pursued in the future dependant on prospecting or exploration and financial feasibility. For now the typical land use in this Potential Mining Overlay is pastoral farming.

The SPZMM has early mining features identified that are listed Historic Heritage Items. There are a number of other draft overlays in the area due to the landscape values and indigenous vegetation and habitat present for indigenous fauna, which are likely to be of considerable value.

Permitted activities in the SPZMM would include prospecting, primary production activities, residential activities, recreational activities, building activity and tree planting (provided species do not include any wilding conifers and met planting setbacks). Exploration in the Existing Mining Overlay would be permitted. All other activities in the SPZMM, including mining, would require a resource consent.

Key changes from the current rules

The SPZMM would replace the Macraes Mining Zone from the Operative District Plan. The extent of the zone has increased substantially to both the north-west and south-east of the current zone.

You can view the extent of the draft Special Purpose Zone – Macraes Mining on our website.

Some key differences from the Operative District Plan rules are:

- The relaxation of rules for Recreational Activities (currently restricted to only organised groups or private visits to the Macraes Mining operation).
- Exploration would require a consent in the Potential Mining Overlay.
- Mining would require a consent in the zone with a number of matters able to be considered and made subject to consent conditions – such as disturbance to land effects, the siting of buildings, infrastructure and other equipment or plant, landscaping and rehabilitation and measures to maintain indigenous biodiversity.
- Residential activities would be permitted.

Find out more

You can view the full draft chapter on our website

visit www.waitaki.govt.nz/district-plan-review

or scan for
more info



More questions?

If you have any further questions that aren't covered in this document, or on our website, you can email the Planning Team at planreview@waitaki.govt.nz or call the District Plan Review hotline on 03 433 1661 and leave a message.

Summary of the new rules being considered

Permitted Activities that would not require a resource consent:

- Prospecting
- Primary production activities (with exclusions)
- Residential activity (and residential units)
- Recreational activity
- Tree Planting (where it does not involve wilding conifer species listed in SPZMM-APPP1)
- Exploration in the Existing Mining Overlay
- Building activity (erection of new buildings and external alterations or additions to existing buildings) subject to the General Rural zone standards for height, setback from boundaries etc.

Activities that would require a resource consent:

- Any of the permitted activities that exceed the relevant limits/standards
- Exploration in the Potential Mining Overlay
- Mining (in both overlays)
- Any activity not provided for as a permitted activity