

The Waihi Community Forum (WCF) was formed after the announcement of the Correnso Underground Mine project, situated in the east of Waihi.

Through roles given to the WCF in the Correnso Underground Mine consent conditions and the goodwill programmes initiated by Newmont Waihi Gold (NWG), the purpose of the WCF is to contribute towards a sustainable community for those residents in the Correnso Extended Project Area (CEPA) and those living close to NWG's mining operations.

This forum manages the Independent Review Panel and Property Purchase scheme, administers the Streets Ahead fund and liaises with the community and Correnso Underground Mine consent holder on all issues relating to mining operations in Waihi.

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Now that production blasting has started in the Correnso Underground Mine, it's a good time to remind residents of the purpose of the Waihi Community Forum and to explain what this forum is currently working on. The WCF has also welcomed two new community representatives - Belinda Burke and Tara Parker, who joined the team in June replacing Jennifer Koopu and Dr Tineke Iverson. Both Belinda and Tara live in Waihi East.

It was with sadness we farewelled Tineke and Jennifer. Both members have been an important part of this forum from the start, contributing to the various projects the WCF has been involved with over the last two and a half years. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

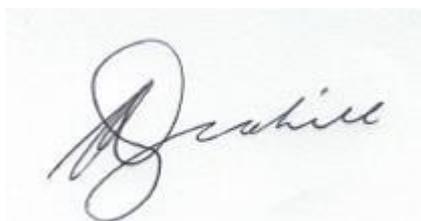
Your current WCF representatives are:

- *Community: Michael Scahill (Chairman), Bhavesh Ranchhod (Deputy Chair), Anne Marie Spicer, Belinda Burke and Tara Parker*
- *Newmont Waihi Gold: Andrea Durie (External Affairs Manager) and Donna Fisher (Company Liaison Officer)*
- *HDC Waihi Ward: Harry Shepherd and Max McLean*

The WCF meets regularly and minutes of these meetings can be found on the WCF website. As you will see in this newsletter, our current focus is on a new Streets Ahead project and on setting up the next round of Independent Review Panel (IRP) property purchases.

Other initiatives include working with Local Government New Zealand on the right to a local share of mining royalties and encouraging the Correnso consent holder to sell certain properties it owns so more funds can be made available to purchase more homes, helping more people to sell their properties in Waihi East (the Property Recycling scheme).

We always value and appreciate your support and feedback.



**Michael Scahill | Chairman
Waihi Community Forum**

PROPERTY PURCHASES & PROPERTY DAMAGE CLAIMS

The WCF has a limited budget of \$4 million to purchase properties not positioned directly over the stopes. This budget includes associated administrative costs and is to last the lifetime of the Correnso Underground Mine or until consent expires (12 years). As this budget is limited the WCF has to be very careful with how and when property purchases are made. After consultation with the community, the WCF agreed the next property purchase round should start no sooner than three months after production blasting begins. Now that production blasting has started the WCF will request applications for property purchases at the end of September and is in the process of appointing a new Independent Review Panel (IRP) which will make all purchase recommendations from applications received to the Correnso consent holder. We will continue to keep you updated on this.

The WCF has reviewed both the Property Purchase Guidelines and IRP Terms of Reference to ensure all property purchase recommendations are made by the IRP extremely carefully. Information on both the guidelines and IRP can be found on our website.

If you have concerns about property damage which you think might be related to the Correnso Underground Mine you will need to approach the consent holder in the first instance.

If a decision has been made which you are unhappy with there are several steps you can take - these are listed on the WCF website under 'Property'.

STREETS AHEAD – WE NEED YOU!

The WCF has decided to set up a pilot community garden scheme on unused land at the edge of Waihi East School and needs your help! We'd like to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in this exciting new project, particularly if you have green fingers, good building skills or simply want to meet others in the community.

The gardens, growing healthy organic vegetables, herbs and fruit trees, will soon be accessible for all to use. The WCF will start work on the proposed larger greenspace when suitable land becomes available.

The community garden and fruit trees will be available to all residents at any time of day. We would like to hear from anyone in the local community interested in joining a community garden subcommittee to help set up and run the gardens.

BBQ and BBQ tables for use at our future greenspace will also become available on the school grounds for all to use after school hours and during the weekends.

TOP UP SCHEME

NWG has confirmed to the WCF that properties in the Martha Exploration Project (MEP) Top-up area, and parts of the historic Golden Link Project Area (GLPA), are no longer eligible for Top Up. In the immediate future NWG will continue to offer Top Up to a smaller area.

NWG External Affairs Manager, Andrea Durie, advises "The Top up area is now more closely aligned to the CEPA boundary, however, it continues to include areas to the north of the project boundary and between the CEPA boundary and the open pit. The MEP area is now excluded, as are those properties on the fringes of the GLPA."

Whilst the Forum is aware that the Top Up scheme is voluntary and was only to last a short time it is unhappy that Top-Ups for the wider area ended abruptly and when some sales contracts were in negotiation. The Forum is in discussion with NWG regarding this matter.

MINING ROYALTIES

The WCF continues to focus on mining royalties in the hope Waihi may one day receive a local share of mining royalties. New Zealand is the only country in the OECD where a percentage of mining royalties are not returned to a community where mineral extraction occurs. Community representatives plan to meet with Simon Bridges in the near future and we will keep you updated on this.

PURCHASED PROPERTY RECYCLING

The WCF has been working with NWG for some time on a purchased property recycling scheme which would enable more properties to be purchased through the IRP programme. The Forum sees property recycling as being beneficial to both the community and the company and will continue to work very hard on pursuing this option with OceanaGold.

SIGN UP TO OUR EMAIL UPDATES

If you would like to hear more from the WCF please email the Forum at wcfinformation@gmail.com with the subject title 'sign me up', or write to WCF, PO Box 54, Katikati 3166.

All subscribers receive regular updates, invitations to workshops, notifications of updates to our website, digital copies of WCF newsletters and press releases.