



April 28 2010

Let's see what's not there

The Schedule 4 debate is about a stocktake of minerals that might be in the earth beneath our conservation estates.

While it would be useful to know what minerals are there – wouldn't it also be useful to know that - in lots of cases - there isn't anything there at all?

The debate is about allowing prospecting and exploration on conservation land – not mining. Most people are able to understand that prospecting and exploration is a long process and does not always lead to mining. Most people also are aware that all prospecting activities have little or no impact on the areas of interest and that exploration drilling has minimal impact for a short time.

Approximately 300 kilometres of exploration and resource definition drilling has been undertaken in the Coromandel area over the last 30 years and the result is Martha, Favona and Golden Cross.

Generally only one in every thousand exploration prospects ever becomes a mine.

That's a lot of crosses and very few ticks. That's lots of places that don't warrant any further mineral investigation.

Some people might find that reassuring.

188 words

For further information:

Communication Officer
Newmont Waihi Gold
07 863 9819
linda.willoughby@newmont.com