



The Schedule 4 Debate

Media Letter

April 12 2010

Dear Sir,

Newmont Waihi Gold would like to thank the many people who have made direct contact with us to seek information on the issues around the current Schedule 4 debate. We have recorded a significant increase in traffic to our website and received many emails. We welcome the interest and the feedback. We are heartened that such a broad cross section of New Zealand is seeking to access information, gain an understanding and enter the debate in a balanced and considered way.

Just as it is important for New Zealanders to scrutinise what we do and how we do it, Newmont Waihi Gold believes that it is important to question the most radical claims made in the media by those who oppose the mining industry.

We continue to seek the opportunity to engage with the public on the current discussion document and assist them in making a submission, whatever position individuals may take on the issue. We believe this is an opportunity to introduce the New Zealand public to modern mining processes – from initial prospecting, through to exploration and the probabilities of locating a potentially viable mine site. We welcome this chance to showcase the new generation of Kiwi miners. This includes the advances made in legislation, technology, environmental monitoring, regulations and consultation required at each stage in the process.

Engagement with people across the spectrum of views, and the transparency now required of mining companies was part of the demands made some thirty years ago by our current opposition in the mining debate. They also demanded and achieved new mining legislation, bonding requirements and eventually the Resource Management Act (RMA). At Newmont we are rather surprised that the same groups opposing mining now wish not to engage with mining companies, and they continue to down play the positive impact of the environmental protection that they fought so hard to achieve.

We can understand that emotions 'run high' at times like this, but it would serve us all to stick to the facts rather than engage in rumour, speculation and scaremongering. It concerns us, for instance, that the children in one school have been led to believe that native bush would be damaged to such an extent that the future of flora and fauna is threatened. It concerns us that residents have been made fearful for the safety of their homes by claims that mining would be allowed in high erosion areas. The RMA exists to address issues such as these. No development of any sort would be allowed in identified areas of risk. Anti mining opponents know this, but choose to wilfully ignore both the current legislation and the facts.

We will continue to invite our opponents to site. We would very much like to show them what modern mining is all about, rather than have them rely on outdated information. We know that people react to fear and uncertainty. That is why we need to debate the issue as widely as possible. Together we could reach an understanding of all that can be achieved for the benefit of all parties by working together.