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Sunday 31 October Newmont Waihi Gold Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newmont Waihi Gold has been conducting exploration programmes over the lower Coromandel for many years.

We are continuing business as usual.

The company is looking for high grade gold deposits capable of being mined by underground methods with a small surface footprint.

Exploration methods include mapping, soil sampling, measuring ground resistivity and hand sampling of rock for analysis.

Exploration drilling sometimes follows. Drill core provides a wide range of information on sub-surface geology.

A drill rig operating in an area does not mean that a mine will be constructed. There has been over 300,000 metres of core drilled in the Coromandel region over more than thirty years. Statistically, only one area drilled in every thousand results in a mine.

When the rig leaves the site is rehabilitated. Paddocks are returned to pasture. In bush areas the ground is layered with plant material such as manuka slash and native seedlings are planted.

The company has access arrangements with relevant landowners and occupiers and consents from appropriate regulatory authorities. All activities must comply with Resource Management Act consent conditions; various district plans, and council regulations. Iwi are also consulted. We also keep in contact with local ratepayers' groups.

Newmont Waihi Gold has in the past and continues to invite concerned groups to meet with us or to visit a drill rig and view the operation first hand. This is regularly refused or ignored.

We once again extend an open invitation for these groups to contact us to arrange a suitable time for them to visit us to view our operations, discuss Newmont's exploration programmes, and visit an operating drill rig.

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