

Before the Hearing Commissioners  
Appointed by the Grey District Council  
and West Coast Regional Council

Under the Resource Management Act 1991

In the matter of Resource consent applications by TiGa Minerals and Metals  
Ltd to establish and operate a mineral sands mine on State  
Highway 6, Barrytown (RC-2023-0046; LUN3154/23)

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**Summary Statement and Rebuttal Evidence of John Stacey Ballingall**

2 February 2024

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**anderson  
lloyd.**

## Summary of evidence

- 1 My name is John Stacey Ballingall.
- 2 I prepared a statement of economics evidence dated 19 January 2024. My qualifications and experience are set out in that statement of evidence.
- 3 I repeat the confirmation given in that statement that I have read and agree to comply with the Code of Conduct for Expert Witnesses in the Environment Court.
- 4 My role in relation to TiGa Minerals and Metals Limited's (**TiGa**) application (the **Application**) has been to provide economics advice since 2020.

## Summary

- 5 I consider the proposed mining operation will deliver significant regional economic benefits. Any economic costs are not likely to be significant.
- 6 The proposed operation will generate export revenue of \$63.0 million per year once fully operational or \$274.4 million over the 5 years of establishment and operations of the mine under the current resource consent application.
- 7 This would boost the Grey District's exports by around 38% per year and the West Coast region's exports by around 7%.
- 8 The mine will directly generate around \$33.7 million of additional GDP per year once fully operational, or around \$146.1 million over the life of the mine.
- 9 This would lift the Grey District's GDP by 3.8% and the West Coast region's GDP by 1.5%.
- 10 In addition, the proposed operation will buy goods and services as inputs to production of around \$27.4 million per year, much of which will go to local businesses.
- 11 The mine will directly create 57 full time equivalent jobs, and support a further 80 indirect jobs elsewhere in the economy.
- 12 This would see employment in the Grey District increase by 2.0% and employment in the West Coast region rise by 0.9%. Based on information from TiGa, I understand these jobs will be for locals, not 'fly-in-fly-out' workers.
- 13 The 57 new direct jobs will generate \$6.6 million per year of additional wages in the region, at an average of around \$116,000 per job compared to the regional median wage of \$53,730.

- 14 The proposed operation will deliver around \$33.0 million of government royalties, business tax and employees' income taxes over the mine's lifetime.
- 15 In my opinion, any potential economic costs related to a temporary decrease in dairy support land, a decrease in tourist numbers and an increase in housing costs are unlikely to be material. The peer review of my evidence by Mr Tim Heath concurs with this assessment, and I have seen no quantified estimates to the contrary.

#### **Response to submission of Mr Volk**

- 16 Mr Volk raises concerns about the impact of the proposed operation on tourists' experience and hence the West Coast's reputation as a holiday destination. My evidence shows that from an export perspective, the West Coast would need to see more than a quarter of a million fewer international visitor nights per year as a result of the proposed mining operation in order to be net worse off.
- 17 Mr Volk is also concerned about tourism sector workers seeking higher paid jobs related to mining. I would suggest this is not likely to happen given the specialised nature of the mining roles.
- 18 Further, to the extent it did happen, then those workers are becoming better off and would be better able to support their families.

#### **Conclusion**

- 19 Based on my economic analysis, I consider the proposed mining operation will deliver significant regional net economic benefits to the Grey District and wider West Coast region, and the project meets the regional benefit criteria in Regulation 45D of the NESFW.

**John Stacey Ballingall**

Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024