

# Report touts mineral sands mine benefits

A proposed opencast mineral sands mine on farmland near Barrytown on the West Coast would provide significant economic benefits for the Grey District and West Coast region, according to a new economic benefits analysis prepared for mining company TiGa Minerals & Metals (TiGa).

Prepared by Wellington-based consultancy Sense Partners, the report said the mine was likely to produce \$63 million of export earnings per year, once fully operational, from producing and exporting gold, garnet, ilmenite and zircon. The report said this would boost Grey District's annual exports by 46 percent.

The report also estimated the mine would create 57 directly employed jobs and 80 new support jobs elsewhere in the economy. Most would likely be filled by local or regional residents.

Overall, the report said the mining proposal's economic benefits to the district and region were "substantial" and outweighed potential economic costs.

"In my view, economic costs associated with the proposal are unlikely to be significant or widely distributed and are limited to potential visual amenity



**Robert Brand**

and noise effects, which have been addressed by other experts," said report author John Ballingall.

TiGa managing director Robert Brand said the company had commissioned research to ensure complete information about the proposal when it went through the resource consent process.

TiGa expects to lodge a consent application with West Coast Regional Council in mid-April and will be asking for public notification.

"TiGa is committed to ensuring mana whenua, the community and key stakeholders have the opportunity to participate in the consent process to ensure everyone is listened to and the process is open and transparent," Mr Brand said.

"As TiGa moves forward with the application, it intends to form close working relationships with the community, including the formation of a working group to better engage with the community on the project following the hearing process."

Core points from the economic impact analysis include:

- 57 directly employed mining jobs;
- 80 support jobs elsewhere in the

economy, the majority of which will be filled by local or regional residents;

- plus the jobs of those employed by local mining and trucking contractors;
- 81 percent increase in mining employment in the Grey District;
- 9.2% increase in mining employment for the West Coast region;
- \$6.6 million per year in directly employed wages, much of which will be spent in the local economy;
- \$27.4 million per year mining operation spending (e.g. equipment hire, repairs and maintenance);
- \$63.0 million of export earnings per year once fully operational based on the production and export of gold (7% of total revenue), garnet (36%), ilmenite (48%) and zircon (9%);
- 46% annual boost to Grey District's total exports;
- 8.3% annual boost to the West Coast's annual exports;
- \$33.7 million of additional GDP per year once fully operational;
- \$1.5 million per year mining royalties paid to NZ Government;
- \$5.5 million per year (on average) business tax to NZ Government;
- \$1.67 million per year (on average) income tax paid by the 57 directly employed workers.