

MEDIA RESPONSE

12 June 2023

Media inquiry

Laura Mills, Chief Reporter for the Grey Star, has asked for details of TiGa's proposals regarding prevention of harm/disturbance to the tāiko (Westland petrel).

Response

TiGa Minerals & Metals is strongly committed to ensuring that its proposed mine on the Barrytown flats will be an exemplar of how sustainable mining can work with, rather than against, the natural environment.

Managing Director Robert Brand says the company is especially aware of the fact that the tāiko (Westland petrel) is a local and national taonga, and that for TiGa to operate within the bird's rohe is a privilege.

"We are absolutely committed to ensuring our activities do not negatively impact on tāiko or any other native or endemic species."

Brand says TiGa has commissioned avian, water, and vegetation plans which, combined, he believes will have a net positive impact on the natural environment. Activities will include creating a new wetland, pest control, an increase in native vegetation, enhancement of local wetland and riparian areas, and special provisions to avoid negative impact on birds such as the tāiko and kororā (little penguin).

For example, he says, TiGa's *Avian Management Plan* provides for:

- detection and monitoring of breeding birds within the mining area
- protection of any nests from human disturbance and introduced predators
- restrictions on lighting and traffic movements during darkness to avoid effects on tāiko
- management of any grounded tāiko
- monitoring of birds using the site and the adjoining lagoon to inform operational decisions and species management.

"Of course," Brand says, "everyone is aware of the special need to protect the tāiko from light pollution that might confuse the birds and result in them becoming grounded."

He says TiGa's avian management plan proposes that all mining activities adhere to the Australian Government's *National Light Pollution Guidelines for Wildlife*, which are the accepted standard in New Zealand.

These guidelines include pointing all fixed lighting downward, shielding to avoid light spill and use of the yellow-orange spectrum. The company will **not** run its ore-carrying trucks north along the main highway during hours of darkness when petrels are at the breeding colony.



“We also propose to publish an annual bird management report that will measure our success and guide the implementation of any further measures to protect native wildlife, should they be required.”

Brand said he also wanted to clarify the size of the proposed mine and its longer-term plans.

“There’s a lot of talk around that this will be a mine stretching the length of the Barrytown Flats operating for 50 years. That could never happen, given the multitude of barriers standing in the way of extending mining activity north of the site for which we are currently seeking resource consent.

“There will be four discreet areas that we will seek to mine over a 15-year period; the first being the 68ha site subject to the current consent process, which we anticipate will have a five-year life. The land is in private ownership, we’ll be mining to a maximum of 9m deep and in not more than 5ha at a time. As we mine, the land will be continuously rehabilitated behind the machinery so that, by the time each area is finished, it will be very hard to tell where the mine has been.

“At no stage will we be closer to the petrel colony than 4.3 kilometres.”

The full *Avian Management Plan* can be downloaded here:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/644b46b31e5ec64fb7c97fd9/t/645b124bc231872828cf0000/1683690064623/Attachment+M2+-+Avian+Management+Plan.pdf>

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