

STATEMENT OF POSITION

WATER MANAGEMENT

OVERVIEW

Water is essential to life and underpins the health of people and communities. It has significant social, ecological, cultural and economic values.

Gold mining activities can impact the availability and quality of local and regional water resources through activities such as ground and surface water abstraction and use, water diversion schemes, increased sediment loads from surface disturbance and the potential introduction of contaminants from processing and accelerated geological weathering. Mining activities require considered and appropriate management to minimise or prevent adverse impacts to water resources.

RECOGNITION STATEMENTS

OceanaGold recognises:

- Access to clean water is a basic human right and fundamental ecosystem requirement;
- Water can be degraded to a point where its diverse array of values is irreversibly damaged;
- Values attached to water need to be understood on a catchment wide basis;
- Water management must be a focus of host country policy development and this requires input from all stakeholders including ourselves;
- The greatest threats to water values relate to land clearance, modification of landscapes, pollution and climate change; and
- The International Council of Mining Metals (“ICMM”) Water Stewardship Framework and World Gold Council Responsible Gold Mining Principles outline a robust and globally recognised approach to improve water management by the mining and metals industry.

COMMITMENTS

OceanaGold is committed to reducing its water related impacts through collaboration, partnerships, product stewardship, minimising use and a strong focus on operational control and improving operational performance. OceanaGold undertakes to manage water to meet the compliance requirements of each host country as well as the requirements of the OceanaGold Water Management Framework.

To achieve this, OceanaGold will:

- Collaborate with all stakeholders, including communities, Governments, Industry bodies and recognised research institutions in relation to water management.
- Establish an OceanaGold Water Management Framework including governance standards and operational performance requirements, and continuously review and improve the framework against of the requirements of leading globally recognised Standards;
- Maintain a current Water Management Plan which details how mining activities are managed to prevent adverse impacts to the water resources;
- Undertake annual reviews of Water Management Plans and Corporate audits every three years; and
- For new mining projects, OceanaGold will include water management requirements during the project design.