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Catherine Delahunty,  
Member of Parliament and longstanding member of Coromandel  
Watchdog

Nga mihi nui ki te tangata whenua o Hauraki me tangata Tiriti katoa. Acknowledgements to the Hearings panel of the Thames Coromandel District Council, to my colleagues from Coromandel Watchdog of Hauraki and to all citizens of the Hauraki/Coromandel present. It is my privilege after an involvement with these issues of 34 years to speak as part of an organisation with a proud history and a strong mandate from our local communities.

Over the last 34 years Coromandel Watchdog has been the umbrella organisation for local groups protecting their area from large-scale gold mining development from Colville to Kuaotunu, from Thames to Whangamata. Coromandel Watchdog has been the legal, media, research and political advocacy organisation for our communities and for many non resident ratepayers who support our aims and objectives. □

We have been described by former Parliamentary Commisisoner for the Environment Helen Hughes as one of the most effective environmental lobby groups in this country. Our track record is based on a multi faceted approach to the issues and a strong vision that this area has a future based on protecting the environment rather than compromising it for short term gain. We have consistently engaged nationally, regionally and locally with the legal and planning mechanisms available to us in order to create planning frameworks that will reflect the values of many residents of this area and will protect the taonga that provide us with life, livelihood and heritage. □

Coromandel Watchdog partially derives our mandate to call for mining to be prohibited throughout the district from a survey we conducted in the 1980s. 86% of residents opposed large scale mining and 76% opposed small scale mining, this is arguably a long time ago. However we have seen no evidence that public sentiment has changed either on the Peninsula or in Auckland where 25,000 people marched to oppose mining in Schedule 4 areas like Coromandel in 2010.

As the descendant of Thames miners I am proud to contribute towards a district plan which will recognise the effects of mining on the local environment and will not privilege or foster a land use,

which creates toxic effects and thus costs and losses for future generations. The Matamata Piako District Council, the Waikato Regional Council and the Government spent \$21 million stabilising and reducing the toxic effects of a small mine on Mt Te Aroha, and we have legacy issues in this district as well. We have a duty to future generations to sustain land, water and communities. We can recognise our unique and valuable environment and make it a strength we can share with others or we can fail to learn from our history. The Council and everyone of us here have that responsibility and this is an opportunity to entrench it.

During the review of the Crown Minerals Act in the last term of Parliament the TCDC made a brief but extremely lucid statement to the Select Committee. The TCDC stated that their vision was not to facilitate more mining in the district but to actively promote the heritage and environmental values of the Coromandel. We support this vision and look forward to its full realisation with reference to the mining provisions of the proposed District Plan.

I am Matt Sephton. My parents moved to Coromandel from the East Coast when I was 2 years old. I grew up here and went to school here.

I have lived in other places around NZ, studied, worked and travelled. I've fallen in love with places such as Wanaka, Kaikoura, Taranaki. But Coromandel has always been home. As I was going through school, as good as life was in Coromandel, I felt a underlying expectation that I would leave Coromandel and find a 'better' life. To find better jobs than we have here, more money, a successful career, that I would find a better place.

So after moving around a bit, and then coming back to Coromandel one summer, I was struck by the power of this place. I always knew that Coromandel was a great place, but now I saw - like I'd never seen before - how truly special it is, that here is something magic and unique, here is a something that is worth being part of.

I am a sound engineer. I record and mix music, I travel for live shows, I help with festivals and tours. I also put on events of my own - The Coromandel Arts Tour open art studio event is one that I've been part of for the past 6 years. I also host an annual summer concert, and put on music events with local D.J's and M.C's. I try to be diverse and get involved in things that contribute positively and creatively to the area, which in turn improves my own life here. There are many others who do the same, sculpting their own lifestyles and contributing to the community and culture of Coromandel.

We have an emerging local music scene with it's own identity. Local Hip Hop M.C's are rapping about their own town and their own lives, they have something to say. Come to Coromandel this saturday night and you can hear it for yourself. There are well over 30 successful artists working around Coromandel Town, many of whom are creating viable careers for themselves and many others over the rest of the Peninsula.

Art inspired by the environment, inspired by our culture, and by our past. Artists such as Barry Brickel reinterpret our mining history to help guide a new future, driven by environmental and artistic values.

There are young artists, musicians, sports people, surfers, families, people who are proud of this place and want to live here, they are creating livelihoods, jobs and careers, building families, contributing positively to the community and developing a unique Coromandel identity.

I feel that Coromandel is on the cusp of realising the true potential of what

we have here. We can foster this, to encourage a collaborative, creative and healthy future. Great things are happening in Coromandel Town and in other areas of the Coromandel and if we continue we can create a future that is entirely our own.

Our cultural landscape and our economic landscape go hand in hand. We already have solid foundations in our diverse local industries - fishing, aquaculture, adventure sports, tourism, music and art. We have a strong local culture and if we encourage this, if we build on this, then a strong economy will follow.

Mining does not contribute to this.

Moreover, mining is in stark contrast to the values that these industries have grown from. Mining will threaten the cultural and economic value of what has already been created. People move to Coromandel for all sorts of reasons, but chief amongst them is the natural environment, proximity to clean water, things like the good fishing, great surf. People come here to have space, to live healthy lives.

Mining threatens the environment that supports fishing and adventure sports. It threatens the environment that artists turn to for inspiration. It spoils the water that we depend on for our food, ruins the views that brings tourists out with their cameras. Mining will suck the pride and vitality out of Coromandel.

Mining is a monolithic industry, once established it can expand unabated and consume the life of a town. When was the mine at Waihi supposed to be filled with water to form a lake? I think I was told about that plan 20 years ago, still they keep digging further. Now they are digging under peoples homes. It consumes all that it crosses.

Gold it is a finite resource, one day it will run out. What would be left when it ends. If we base our prosperity on just one industry. We may be left with a deserted ghost town. Can we expect that the mining companies have any commitment to the lives of the workers who find themselves jobless and underskilled. Can we expect that the mining companies will feel any responsibility for personal and environmental mess that they leave?

Mining may create jobs and create some income for a few people but we don't just want any work just for the sake of working. The jobs offered by mining are not the sort of jobs that we want to see in Coromandel. Top paying jobs go to skilled geologists and hydrologists, people from out of

town. Coromandel locals would for the most part be offered low paid, low skilled, low enjoyment, depressing mindless work. The sort of work that does nothing to encourage real and genuine community development. The youth of Coromandel are capable of so much more than shovelling mud and clay.

People come to Coromandel for the incredible natural environment. Wainuiototo, Cathedral Cove, Colville Bay, the islands off Coromandel. Both coasts are amazing to journey through, with special pockets to be found from north to south and many high quality natural landscapes and recreation opportunities in between on land and in the bush.

For all the money that goes into promoting Waihi as a tourist destination it does not compare to any of the beaches on our coasts. The walk up Castle rock is infinitely more exciting than the hole at Waihi. Gold mining is simply not a good attraction, I've never heard anyone genuinely recommend a trip to Waihi to see the mine.

I see a Coromandel that people want to be part of. A town with a creative and supportive community, with a diverse range of jobs, with a healthy and clean environment and responsible interaction with our landscape.

If we allow mining to happen in Coromandel, then the great things that are already developing will be heavily compromised. People will no longer be proud of calling Coromandel home, it will be less appealing as a destination, it will be less appealing as a home. People will leave, and others will think twice about coming here in the first place.

We do not want mining in Coromandel, and equally we do not want prospecting and exploration. While you can argue that prospecting and exploration are minimal impact, they bring with them the same stress and tensions. They create conflict, a culture of battling and fighting, a climate of uncertainty and instability and divisiveness within the community. We want a productive, cooperative and creative cultural landscape in Coromandel, from which people can look to the future with optimism, rather than fear of what our grandchildren will inherit.

This is not about stopping progress, this is about acknowledging and embracing the real value that lies in our established and always growing local cultural landscape. Outdoor pursuits, fishing, camping, clean water,

fresh food, art and music. These are our strengths, mining will compromise all of these, it will weaken our diversity and it will weaken us as a community.

## **Mining Coromandel Peninsula from an Ecological Perspective.**

- **Geologically young/ steep sided valleys/ shallow low lying valleys, many impacted by high tide events**
- **Maritime climate from Hauraki Gulf influences and Pacific Ocean weather streams produces severe weather events with intense rainfall and runoff**
- **Regardless of the increased re-vegetation cover over passed 40 years impacts from these events have been serious. Witnessed by the “Weather bomb” especially along the Thames Coast and the more recent Port Jackson coastline farms, roads and bridges damage. In most cases there is no way to predict the severity of these events.**
- **Re-vegetation does however mitigate the downstream effects, in most cases and helps reduce silt inundations around coastlines**
- **It would be extremely difficult for the mining industry to factor in safeguards against these effects; in fact nearly impossible. There have been several ‘once in 50yr/100yr’ flood events in the past 30 years. The maths doesn’t add up.**
- **Underground mining/opencast mining/tailings/tailings dams/toxic waste leachates: there isn’t any way to minimize the potential disastrous impact of these should a weather event strike them, not based on the evidence so far.**
- **On another point: water:- clean water, healthy streams /wetlands/and estuaries are all part of an improving legacy for Coromandel communities. There is an increased environmentally aware practice through all communities, both maori and pakeha of improving and safeguarding all our waterways. The flow-on effects of these are improved rivers and drinking water; high quality coastal fisheries (cleaner water) and the guaranteed quality for the likes of our mussel industry.**
- **Can the mining industry guarantee quality beyond doubt for any of the above? My guess would be no they cannot.**
- **For the northern Coromandel-an area I have been working in for the past 30years- there has been such dramatic changes. Since the 1970’s when hill country farm subsidies were stopped, farms on the poorer soils steep country quickly became uneconomic and**

were retired. The consequence of this has seen a 50% plus increase in forest revegetation. As mentioned earlier this has helped improve water quality and decrease siltation impacts. On a less measurable scale it has improved the scenic and recreational values of the area and this is evidenced by the increased public user groups and tourists. It has become the cultural draw card of the Coromandel. Local communities continue to enhance and promote this image.

- On a more measurable scale it has seen a dramatic turn around in biodiversity species including many rare and endangered. North Is. brown kiwi, Archey's frogs, and Pateke (brown teal) to name a few. Since the 1980's community groups have worked alongside DOC to help make this happen. Increased fish in our streams. Fish feeding and breeding back in our small protected estuaries and a prolific birdlife.
- These things are visible and tangible and appreciated by all who have their eyes opened to it. This is part of a very long term investment and a long lasting legacy for future generations. The health of the land/the waterways/the coastlines/the communities who live within them appreciates in intangible value over time too.
- All our communities reap the benefits of this.
- Not so mining which is a short term investment with limited short term gains and a long term detrimental impacts in geological and meteorologically unstable environments such as our own. There are few who reap benefits and definitely not our local communities.



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Name: Nathan McCauley

Position/job description: Shore based fishing guide & youth worker

Residence address: 2099 Colville Road, Colville 3547

I have worked over a decade as a deck hand in the fishing industry and have also operated as a fishing guide for 5 years specialising in shallow water shore based guiding. For the last three years I have taken kids fishing as part of a youth program.

My submission as follows:

The areas I fish are spectacular scenic spots that not only provide great safe fishing, but also showcase the great biodiversity right at your feet.

These fishing spots rely on healthy riparian systems that provide the food that the fish I target feed on, such as whitebait, crabs and small estuarine fish.

I believe any toxic mine waste would destroy this fantastic fishing asset.

I am not a trophy guide. My clients fish are for the table and they would run a mile if the fish were found to be from polluted waters.

Contamination from mining activities would end my guiding. It would also end the gathering of shellfish, which is a resource that a lot of people rely on.

My work with the youth group has shown me that even though children aren't officially a stakeholder group in the division of our marine resources, they should be. Fishing is a big and important part of many kid's lives here.

Most kids fish near their homes, whether it's the creek at the back of the house, the estuary down the road or the rocks down from the batch.

They generally don't have access to the equipment and deep-water fishing that most adults do.

It's essential that streams, estuaries and shallow coastal areas have strong biodiversity and that these values are kept and enhanced.

Our strong fishing culture is only going to be healthy and sustainable if it has strong guardianship values. The next guardians will be our children.

If kids aren't exposed to a functioning marine environment around them and have access to it, then it will be hard for them to take on a functioning sustainable guardianship role of the resource that will be critical in the years to come.

By threatening the physical environment, toxic mining also undermines the connection that our children, and the children of the many families that come here for holidays, have with the environment.

We need the District Plan to take leadership to ensure our environment, which means so much to us, and our visitors, is not sacrificed for the financial benefits of external companies. A healthy environment is of infinite value and many of the locals rely on it for our livelihoods and it is the reason so many people have holiday homes here or come here for holidays.



Hi my name is Peter Anderson. I have lived in the Whangamata area since the late 1960's.

I am married with two school age children, have been making surfboards for 32 years and am on the BOT for Opoutere School.

My reason for opposing mining in The Coromandel.

We built a new house two years ago on a two acre block at Opoutere. We grow most of our own vegetables and have an extensive orchard of fruit and nut trees.

As a family we enjoy the pristine beaches, and the walking and mountain biking available in area.

The prospect of having a mine start up in our area, with large trucks carrying ore out of the area and large machinery in, is abhorrent to me. It is bad enough dealing with the logging trucks as a motorist, but as a cyclist also, it can get a little hairy. This area seems to be becoming more and more popular with cyclists due to great riding options available in the area coupled with the close proximity to beaches.

My other major concern is the potential poisoning of the groundwater. The opening up of rock at subterranean level can increase leaching of heavy metals into the groundwater. This will affect river quality and eventually the sea, leading to shellfish and fish being overexposed to these minerals. Our water supply, like many in our area, comes from a bore.(Our particular one being 72 metres deep). So the prospect of not being able to use this water is very worrying.

On a business level my business has many facets. We are the largest blank importers (this is the core of a surfboard) in the country. As well as other products that we import, and sell, to surfboard manufacturers throughout NZ.

I have a CNC cutting machine business and cut surfboards for 10 other manufacturers from Gisborne to Auckland.

I am one of the largest board builders in NZ. I am the largest in regard to custom ordered surfboards – tailor making surfboards for individual surfers throughout the country. Meaning I have a lot of customers physically driving to my factory to pick up their boards.

To be honest with you, my business would be more viable if I didn't live in this area. The freight costs to get our products around NZ are very high and high petrol prices

also affect our customers who come to pick up their boards. All of this definitely affects our sales. For example possibly working out of Hamilton and living in Raglan would be a better option for my business. However I continue to run my business here and employ two local full time staff members with families and two part time workers – Why? Because I love the area and when asked, I am proud to say I come from “The Coromandel”.

To give you an insight on what it is like living at Opoutere. I start my day with a stretching regime early in the morning. That’s nothing new. Except my background music isn’t something off I-tunes, but the dawn chorus of Bellbirds, Tui’s, Kaka’s and many other bird species that are flourishing at Opoutere. The other day we tried to count all the bird species that we see regularly in our area. We got to over 30.

It is a truly amazing sound and it is getting better every year due to our personal pest control and, as of this year, The Opoutere Resident and Rate Payers Association, who have launched a huge campaign to rid the place of rats, stoats and possums etc

It is a special place and a glimpse of what the whole Coromandel could become.

As a businessman I have developed a brand over many years. My brand has been based on building good quality boards for passionate surfers and made here in The Coromandel. I could make a lot more money getting my surfboards made in China (move away from my core values and Brand) – it has been done by other manufacturers, however their labels seem to last about two years and then suffer a severe decline in sales.

“The Coromandel” is a Brand. It is the Jewel of NZ. One of the “Must Sees” for tourists visiting NZ.

I have aligned my business with this brand, as have many other small businesses that employ similar staff numbers to me, up and down the Peninsula. If you let mining into The Coromandel you may get a couple of good years (if there are any financial spinoffs for the TCDC) but the Brand will eventually die.

Firstly - From the exodus of current residents who are morally against mining. There are some interesting people in this area. From the many artists etc, to the passionate environmentalists who live here because of what it is.

(for example I was reading the latest summertime magazine with the really interesting article about earthship building.) And in that article it is mentioned that the TCDC have been extremely helpful in facilitating their project which shows me that we have come to a fork in the road with two possible outcomes in direction of the Coromandel. You can’t have both mining and sustainable living. One contradicts the other.

The second detrimental effect will be on tourism. I have many tourists coming into my factory (especially at this time of year) Many are young, just finished their degrees and have never surfed before – but – having seen our beaches and clear water want to give it a go. Many of them comment on the clear felling of trees as it does not seem to be done any more in Europe. One German person told me. As part of his environmental paper for his degree they used NZ as an example of what “not to do” to the environment.

So to sum up, I know a lot of these sort of major decisions are probably made with “handshakes” at Government level behind closed doors but this is your chance to draw a line in the sand and say “No Thanks” – Not in The Coromandel. Let’s develop this region into a sustainable area full of diverse and interesting people and creating a place that will attract many more thousands of people to come here and experience this place and or take residency here.

Thank you.



Waihi's story - Collette's speech

My name is Collette Spalding, I am the co-ordinator of the Distressed Residents Action Team who have supported mine impacted residents for the past 20 years in Waihi.

Thank you for taking time to consider the information I have provided, please do not think for one minute I consider TCDC to be as arrogant as we have found our council to be with regard to considering the concerns and issues raised as a result of mining in our town.

The true cost to the community as a result of mining operations can be horrendous.

Not only have private properties near mining operations suffered a loss of ambiance and value, homes all over town have been effected by devaluation as a result of mine effected homes bringing the average price of property down and also as a result of the publicity when the house complete with children was swallowed up by hole in 2000. Thames like Waihi has lots of underground historical mining sites, these area may become vulnerable if any de-watering of these old mines is required.

Confidence in the property market over the past 20plus years is still low despite a range of scheme's put in place by the mine, council and their supporters. The only fair option is to purchase at a fair market price plus compensation, sadly this is still not occurring at an acceptable rate. We have found the mine cannot afford to purchase all the homes they effect, therefore locals are subsidizing the industry.

Many buy in Waihi to enjoy their retirement, sadly as they are home all day they can become the worst effected and

cannot wait to leave town once they can secure a sale. This affects our community groups and the culture of Waihi as we have a large turnover of people coming and then going.

Some investors and properties that the mine has brought have allowed properties to get into disrepair and their tenants can cause upset for our permanent residents.

The cost of repairing infrastructure damaged by the subtle ground movement all over our town due to de-watering is an unknown cost as our council does not disclose this information. One example is our award winning streetscape project. The main street which won the award has deteriorated to the extent the paving has been lifted and been replaced with tarseal. We have lost several public roads and residential areas thanks to mining in Waihi with no compensation paid to community or council.

The cost of enforcement, consent processes and appeals has also cost locals and council many millions of dollars, a cost that again has been passed on to ratepayers. On top of the obvious costs, many members of the community have lost huge amounts of income because of the numerous hours spent working on submissions, lobbying and community organising.

Sadly many of our concerns have been ignored over the years as the mine is often working within it's consent conditions as the consent conditions are very generous. Once the consents are granted the mine is legally allowed to cause the nuisance they do, most never oppose the conditions out of ignorance, they are unaware before hand what the consequences of the consent conditions might be.



In Waihi's case ground settlement of 90mms-300mms was predicted therefore any movement within that range is considered as predicted, the effects on homes was never predicted by the home owner who in most cases was unaware this was being imposed on themselves and their properties.

Our council have usually relied on the mining companies "experts" to propose the conditions as most councils do not have mine experts in their midst nor the funds to employ independent experts of their own to check what is being proposed is fair for both the industry and community that is hosting the operations.

Issues with air quality have still not been adequately addressed in Waihi and can never be as Environment Waikato is based in Hamilton so are not available to witness the daily dust deposits outside the mines boundary or from the tailings dam. They usually inform Newmont if they are coming to monitor, coincidentally Newmont Waihi Gold makes less dust on the days EW visit.

This industry has dis-empowered many residents in Waihi, has cost them financially, has affected their health and divided families. Time spent on this issue is energy taken away from family and community is irreplaceable and can not be measured in monetary terms.

I urge you to think very carefully before allowing this industry into your community, as it will not provide jobs for locals, unless you have a community in situ that are currently unemployed mining experts already. In Waihi we are decile ten on the social deprivation scale and the average wage in Waihi is only 2/3rds of the average wage across the rest of the Waikato region.

Newcomers moving to town to work may not have the same morals or community focus as their loyalties lay elsewhere with their families in their own hometowns. The emotional stress of working 12 hour shifts can be seen to have an anti-social effect on many of the mine workers which we end up bearing the damage from.

Managing the by products of the mining industry is a commitment that will be required forever but the mines cheque book may not last forever or existence may not. This will mean any remedial works needed in the distant future could become the responsibility of the council/ratepayers of the day. There is no plan B if the tailings dams in Waihi fail. The tailings will enter the waterways, including the Ohinemuri river if ever there is a collapse, meaning your community could be disadvantaged as a result of our activities here in Waihi, including the firth of Thames and the Hauraki Gulf. This is not an anti miner looking for worse case scenarios, I consider I am a realist and reality is that mother nature is unpredictable.

Sadly the short term advantages of this industry often far outweigh the long term reality. Any monies offered as security will not be adequate to cover the true cost of clean up and in Waihi's case bonds are not actually sitting in Hauraki District Council's bank account accruing interest that could benefit the community.

Thames/Coromandel is an amazing area that attracts thousands of tourists each year. I suggest as a result of the conversations I have had with tourists over the past 20 years that the conservation of natural assets is something they come here to experience they can generally visit toxic polluted work sites in their own back yards.

I was lucky enough to grow up in the northern part of the Coromandel Peninsula and when I was seven my family moved to Auckland for better education opportunities. During the years I spent at school in Auckland, travelling abroad, and university in Wellington I grew to understand how fortunate I am to call the Coromandel home and the international and national value and reputation this place has a haven, for it's outstanding landscapes, as a natural playground, as a place that hasn't been tarnished by the modern world.

I chose to move back here as I think that Coromandel has the makings of a truly modern place, somewhere we can live closely with the natural world, somewhere we can still drink from some of the streams and somewhere we grow a diverse local economy which can be resilient in a unstable world economic market. Somewhere if we look after our environment it will continue to look after us.

Which is why these past three years have been spent working to support the further development of healthy and sustainable social, economic and environmental systems with organisations such as Coromandel Watchdog, CLAIM, Northern Coromandel Forest & Bird, Colville Social Services, the Coromandel Pier Project, the Coromandel Peninsula Youth Collective and having recently set up a Youth Centre in Coromandel Town.

Through working with these community groups I have learnt how many others share my point of view and also moved here to live in better relationship with the natural world.

I have also learnt how many people oppose mining operations for substantive environmental, social, economic and spiritual reasons and how those concerns combined over many decades has now entrenched a culture which cannot allow the exploitation of the land or waters for toxic gold mining activities.

This culture is reflected in the Coromandel Blueprint completed in 2009 by our District Council, the Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and Hauraki Whaanui with the communities of the Coromandel.

I refer you to page 7, Community Aspirations where the list includes:

- "About biodiversity  
protect and enhance the biodiversity of the Peninsula, including:
  - marine and coastal areas
  - indigenous vegetation and fauna
  - wetlands
  - the ecosystems on land or in water where biodiversity lives.
- About landscape and natural character  
Protect and enhance the natural character of the Peninsula, especially our outstanding landscapes, landmarks and the coastal environment
- About physical resources

ensure that human activities do not compromise the important resources of the Coromandel's physical environment, including:

- water quality, quantity and mauri
  - sustainable use of soils and the sea
  - air quality.
- About the economy  
foster economic development which complements the diverse character of the Coromandel.

And on the following page:

Economic growth...can be achieved through:

....

supporting economic opportunities that protect environmental values”

This document shows the dominant culture of the Coromandel is one of respecting and wanting to live with not exploit the natural world. By understanding that it is also understandable why there is such strong opposition to mining activities here and how the social and cultural well being of our communities is disrupted by mining activities.

Where prospecting or exploration permits have been granted and acted upon in our community there have been huge demands upon our communities resources, including volunteer hours and economic investment. Resources that could otherwise be invested into activities that enhance and develop our district are instead being used to simply protect it from one of the most destructive and un-strategic industries on earth.

I have seen first hand the strain a community suffers when mining permits are granted in the area. I have witnessed and personally suffered huge amounts of stress and anxiety, as our future becomes an uncertain battlefield between the desires of mining corporations and our families.

And this is just at the prospecting stages.

Some of the social and cultural effects after and during full scale mining are set out in the report by the Pembina Institute report titled: “Boom and Bust” where it states: “When mine closures result in sudden unemployment and loss of income, social problems often follow. After a series of mine closures in Elliot Lake, Ontario, domestic disturbances tripled, weapons use and demand for social services increased, and student enrolment dropped. In short, the community's overall wellbeing was “seriously and negatively affected.”

Booms can also generate social problems, in some cases because of a sudden rise in disposable income. Examples include higher rates of alcohol and drug addiction, youth delinquency and distrust among community members.”

And the Waihi story further shows the social disruption mining causes in the Coromandel context.

I want refer you to the purpose of the RMA under section 5 where cultural and social well- being are provided for.

If all mining activities were prohibited throughout the District it would mean that any mining proposal would then go through a plan change proposal, meaning proper consideration and compulsory consultation.

The sheer number of submissions against mining in the District Plan shows that prohibited status would be an accurate reflection of the long and well articulated values of the community of the Coromandel.

It shows the need for proper deliberation around even one mining application. This community is incredibly engaged and wants to be involved and informed about any mining activities. A status other than prohibited and requiring anything less than a plan change process fails to acknowledge the severity of the social and cultural impact of mining for the community. A district plan should as a guiding principle reflect the concerns of its constituents.

If mining was given a prohibited status rather than the cost of proving a mining proposal inappropriate being borne by the community, the mining company would have to prove it's acceptability and the council would be better positioned to conduct their own investigations and decisions can be made with proper consideration into the communities values and other developments taking place or planned in the area.

To show in the adequate status of the current proposed plan I will use two examples:

One is that which has surface mining and underground mining in rural and rural lifestyle zones are discretionary activities, discretionary activities are non notifiable, which would allow for a open cast mine to be built right next door underneath to not only my home but the homes of many other residents of the Coromandel without any notification or consultation. It also would allow for underground mine right underneath our homes. Many people move to the Coromandel to buy lifestyles blocks and live rurally and our quality of life and for many people there abilities to make an income would be hugely impacted by the industrialisation, noise, vibrations and draining of the water table from both activities and the visual and air pollution from a open cast mine.

Second, the discretionary status for mining in conservation zones would mean we could end up with a situation like what we have in Karangahake where a consent that was granted by the council without notification and there has been huge backlash and amounts of stress and panic within the community.

I am fully aware that asking for complete prohibition of mining activities may sound

like a radical or extreme request but it is in fact the most sensible and prudent position for the District Plan to have. Otherwise the communities of the Coromandel are condemned to having to fight, to live in fear of the gold price going back up and the push for mining strengthening – it should be noted that this current permit boom was fuelled by the 2008 economic crisis and we all know how unstable the global economic market continues to be – to having our resources drained by holding the mining companies at bay whilst we are trying to build the future we want. Even one mining operation has huge implications for the surrounding communities and I believe Coromandel communities deserve better, the land and waters deserve better. Why risk this place and for an industry that does little good for our regional, national and international community.

Put this somewhere?? As you heard earlier an overwhelming majority of gold extracted is just used for jewellery and I believe most of the rest goes into vaults underground with only a small amount going into technological and medical. The need for our technological and medical needs could be met instead by recycling what gold we already have extracted, lying in vaults or landfills meaning there is no justification for further mining.

For each gold ring approximately 20 tonnes of waste is left behind. The figures to do this calculations come from the US Geological Surveys which can be found on [www.minerals.usgs.gov](http://www.minerals.usgs.gov).