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| Before the Independent Commissioners |  |
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| Under | the Resource Management Act 1991 |
| In the matter of | a hearing on submissions on the proposed Te Tai o Poutini Plan  Hearing Topics 1 and 2  Submitter: **Phoenix Minerals Limited (S606)** |

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| Statement of Evidence of Chris Meates |
| 2 October 2023 |
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**Introduction**

1. My name is Chris Meates.
2. I am the owner and Director of Phoenix Minerals limited and have held that position since 2010. I have authority to give evidence on behalf of Phoenix Minerals Limited. I am also a Director of DCJ limited, which is a related family mining business, So I can speak on behalf of the family.
3. My previous work experience includes 38 years of mining industry experience through a number of different companies and family businesses.

**Company overview**

1. Phoenix Minerals and DCJ have been operating in Kumara and the surrounding area for the past 30 years or more. Initially our mining activities focused on the Greenstone area inland of Kumara. The permits in this area have been mined off and on for the last 30 years both by Phoenix and DCJ and also a number of tribute/contract miners.
2. Currently mining is undertaken at Callaghan’s and the Greenstone areas near Kumara on land owned by Ngai Tahu Forestry.
3. Phoenix Minerals has interests in the following permits,

* MP 41885 (Callaghan’s)
* MP 60546 (Kumara)
* MP 41743 (Greenstone)
* MP 41756 (Greenstone)

1. Currently the company employs 10 people (8 fulltime staff and 2 part time staff). They are spread between the two mining operations.
2. Phoenix has mainly worked as an owner operator within its permit holdings, but has also utilised mining contractors or tribute miners within its permit holdings where mining works are undertaken on behalf of Phoenix Minerals and a percentage of the gold is paid back to Phoenix Minerals. Phoenix Minerals’ current mining operations are predominately within land owned by Ngai Tahu Forestry, where plantation forestry is undertaken. Rehabilitation in these areas sees the ground returned to a suitable state for planting of exotic forestry and generally works in with harvest cycles.
3. Phoenix is the major employer in the Kumara area and also employs people from Hokitika and Greymouth. The contribution to the local community is significant through these employment opportunities, with highly skilled machine operators able to remain in the district for work. Employment in the community provides benefit to the local preschool, school and retailers.
4. Phoenix Minerals actively supports local community groups including junior and senior sports teams, schools and community events. Like other mining companies Phoenix Minerals has machinery, equipment and expertise for its operations that is also invaluable and could be relied on for emergency repair of community infrastructure.
5. Phoenix Minerals also uses a number of local service providers and contractors to support its mining operations. These include, but are not limited to, fuel suppliers, mobile hydraulic hose suppliers, mechanics, engineering firms, mining equipment suppliers and consultants. Continuation of mining allows for continued employment opportunities and investment in the district by Phoenix Minerals.
6. Previously rock and aggregate has been sourced from Phoenix Minerals mining permits for use in river protection work in particular at the Taramakau Settlement.
7. Mining of its abundant natural mineral resources is hugely important to the Coast and its people. These mineral resources are fixed in location so cannot occur in other locations. For example, Phoenix Minerals have land or other interests which are located within the General Rural Zone, Settlement Zone, Industrial Zone, and Mineral Extraction Zone in the TTPP. Its interests are affected by multiple overlays including the Pounamu Management Area.
8. Phoenix Minerals supports the enabling of mineral extraction in the TTPP, including across the zones above where it has interests.

**Chris Meates  
2 October 2023**