Key to sections of the Official Information Act 1982 under which information has been withheld.

Certain information in this document has been withheld under one or more of the following sections of the Official Information Act, as applicable:

[1] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people

[2] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information

[3] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials

[4] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions

[5] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice

[6] 9(2)(j) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information; to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice; and to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice

[7] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied

[8] Information is out of scope or not relevant.

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Official Information Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [3] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(f)(iv).

In preparing this Information Release, the Treasury has considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act.
Hi Larry

I think the fundamental questions we are asking are

1. Is there a way of operating the Spring Creek mine that would result in a higher NPV than Solid’s current business plan? Clearly, this is not about price assumptions but about alternative mining strategies, different production or productivity assumptions, etc.

2. If so, would Solid be able to operate in this manner, and would it change the current decision to put the mine on Care & Maintenance.

3. If Solid could not operate in this manner, what is the current likelihood of selling to a new owner who could obtain this higher value, and how long would such a sale process be expected to take.

As discussed yesterday, we would be happy to have you personally plus an external expert provide answers to the above. From our perspective, it would be important to have an expert who was familiar with the mine and/or West Coast geology and who had expertise in mine evaluation and economics. We would be happy to use any of Colin Donegal, John McIntyre, or Bernie McKinnon for such an exercise. If neither of these are suitable or available, we can work with you to look for other expertise. I will send details for Colin and John through by separate email.

We would hope that we could complete the above relatively quickly, and would expect you to be able to draw on previous work the company had undertaken. We are keen to have some oversight of how the work is progressing but do not wish to get in the way. Interested in your views on how best we achieve this.

Please call to discuss if required

Cheers

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