# Tasman Mining Media Release

18 July 2018

### Blackwater Project Agreement with OceanaGold

Tasman Mining ("**Tasman Mining**") is pleased to announce the signing of an Agreement with OceanaGold Corporation ("**OceanaGold**") for the future development of the high-grade Blackwater gold deposit near Reefton on the west coast of New Zealand's South Island ("Blackwater" or the "Project").

Under the Agreement, OceanaGold is supporting the early stages of project establishment through seed financing for the development of an underground decline to the base of the historic workings at Blackwater. The deposit was continuously mined successfully from 1908-1951 and produced approximately 700,000 ounces at a recovered grade averaging 16g/t gold.

Once the underground access is completed, Tasman Mining will establish underground drill chambers and undertake a drilling program to convert the majority of the current Mineral Resource to the Indicated JORC category to support a mining decision. Tasman Mining's objective is to establish an underground mine with a small surface footprint. Tailings from the mine would be stored underground within the mine.

A Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) completed by OceanaGold on Blackwater in 2014 concluded development of the project would be environmentally, technically and economically viable and produce 570,000 ounces over an initial 10 year mine life, averaging 50-60,000 ounces of annual production at an All-in Sustaining Cost (AISC) of US\$594 per ounce. OceanaGold's PEA estimated the Project has an Inferred Resource of 0.9 million tonnes grading 23g/t gold, for 700,000 ounces. The Project has remained in OceanaGold's pipeline inventory since then, with the smaller production scale relative to other operating and development assets stalling a development decision.

To date, more than NZ\$18 million has been spent on exploration at Blackwater and it is estimated that a future development would require a further investment of more than NZ\$500 million in capital and operating expenses, generating close to NZ\$1 billion in export revenue.

Around 30 direct jobs would be created during the decline development and underground drilling phase and approximately 100 direct jobs (not including contractors) over a ten year mine life.

Under the terms of the Agreement, Tasman Mining has the exclusive right to purchase Blackwater from OceanaGold upon Tasman making a decision to develop the mine.

Mark Le Messurier, the founder and Managing Director of Tasman Mining, said:

"Tasman Mining has been established with the aim of building a new gold and copper miner and our agreement with OceanaGold for the Blackwater project is the ideal foundation from where we launch that ambition."

"OceanaGold has provided the blueprint for running safe, sustainable, environmentally responsible and highly profitable gold operations in New Zealand and Tasman Mining will emulate their success at Blackwater."

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"Through a three to five year exploration program focused on drilling the deposit from underground, Tasman Mining will assess the potential to develop a modern, underground mine at Blackwater which would bring significant local economic benefits."

Chief Development Officer for OceanaGold Mark Cadzow stated: "OceanaGold is pleased to be supporting the advancement of another long life New Zealand gold project and is a strong supporter of the project and Tasman Mining. We believe by placing the Project under the management of Mark Le Messurier, a successful, highly experienced leader in underground mining, Blackwater will be given every chance of becoming the next significant gold project in New Zealand"

Tasman Mining has established a strong relationship with OceanaGold in finalising the Agreement.

Tasman Mining is committed to the care of the environment and to the consideration and support of the stakeholder community, before and during and after the development of the Blackwater Project. We place great importance in implementing and sustaining high standards and in building stable partnerships within the community.

#### For more information, please contact:

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#### **About Tasman Mining**

Tasman Mining is a New Zealand incorporated company established by Mark Le Messurier for the purposes of building a new gold/copper miner. The Company will pursue opportunities where it is able to apply its skill set and experience in the development and profitable operation of mining projects across a range of regions.

www.tasmanmining.com

#### **About Mark Le Messurier**

Mark is a mining engineer and executive with 35 years of experience in hard rock base metal and precious metal mining. He most recently served as the Chief Operating Officer of Evolution Mining for six years from its foundation in 2011, a leading Australian gold miner with a current market capitalisation of approximately AUD\$6bn. Mark has extensive experience in building and operating modern, underground mining operations.