Westland Mineral Sands Ltd – Applications for West Coast Regional Council Resource Consent RC-2023-0133 and Westland District Council Resource Consent RC240013 – Submission

Pursuant to s96 of the Resource Management Act 1991

Submitter Details	
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Signature	
Date	28 / 03 / 2025

We **support** the applications referenced within this document and do **not wish to be heard** in support of this submission at any hearing that may be held.

We wish to receive electronic copies of the s42A Officer's Report and Decision.

We have served a copy of our submission on the Applicant as per s96(6)(b) of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Reasons for Submission

Buller Electricity Ltd (BEL) supports the WMS Group's resource consent application for the Mananui mining project due to the following reasons:

1. Regional Economic Growth and Infrastructure Development:

The Mananui project is expected to generate up to 70 well-paid jobs across engineering, geotechnical, and maintenance roles, contributing \$37.9 million annually to the West Coast economy. The investment in upgrading the Port of Greymouth will further strengthen regional infrastructure, ensuring the continued economic sustainability of the region.

2. Alignment with Sustainable Development Goals:

WMS employs sustainable mining practices, ensuring minimal environmental impact by using surface mining techniques that avoid the use of chemicals and progressively rehabilitate the land with topsoil replacement and native planting. This approach aligns with BEL's commitment to supporting projects that drive sustainable, long-term growth for the West Coast.

3. Environmental Safeguards and Commitment to Ecological Protection:

Comprehensive environmental assessments have been conducted, and WMS has developed robust water and traffic management plans. Measures include creating ecological buffer zones near Māhinapua Creek and ensuring the protection of indigenous vegetation and surrounding wetlands, which reinforces BEL's values in protecting local ecosystems.

4. Community and Iwi Engagement:

WMS has demonstrated a strong commitment to working closely with local iwi (Te

Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio) and the wider community, ensuring that the project respects cultural values while addressing environmental concerns. This ongoing consultation reflects the importance of ensuring projects of this scale benefit the community while preserving cultural heritage.

5. Support for Critical Mineral Production and Export Growth:

The Mananui project focuses on extracting high-value minerals such as titanium (ilmenite), garnet, and rare earth elements that are essential for modern technologies, renewable energy solutions, and medical devices. This contributes positively to New Zealand's export growth and positions the region as a hub for high-value mineral production.

we seek the following decision from the Consent Authorities:

That the application be granted in its entirety.