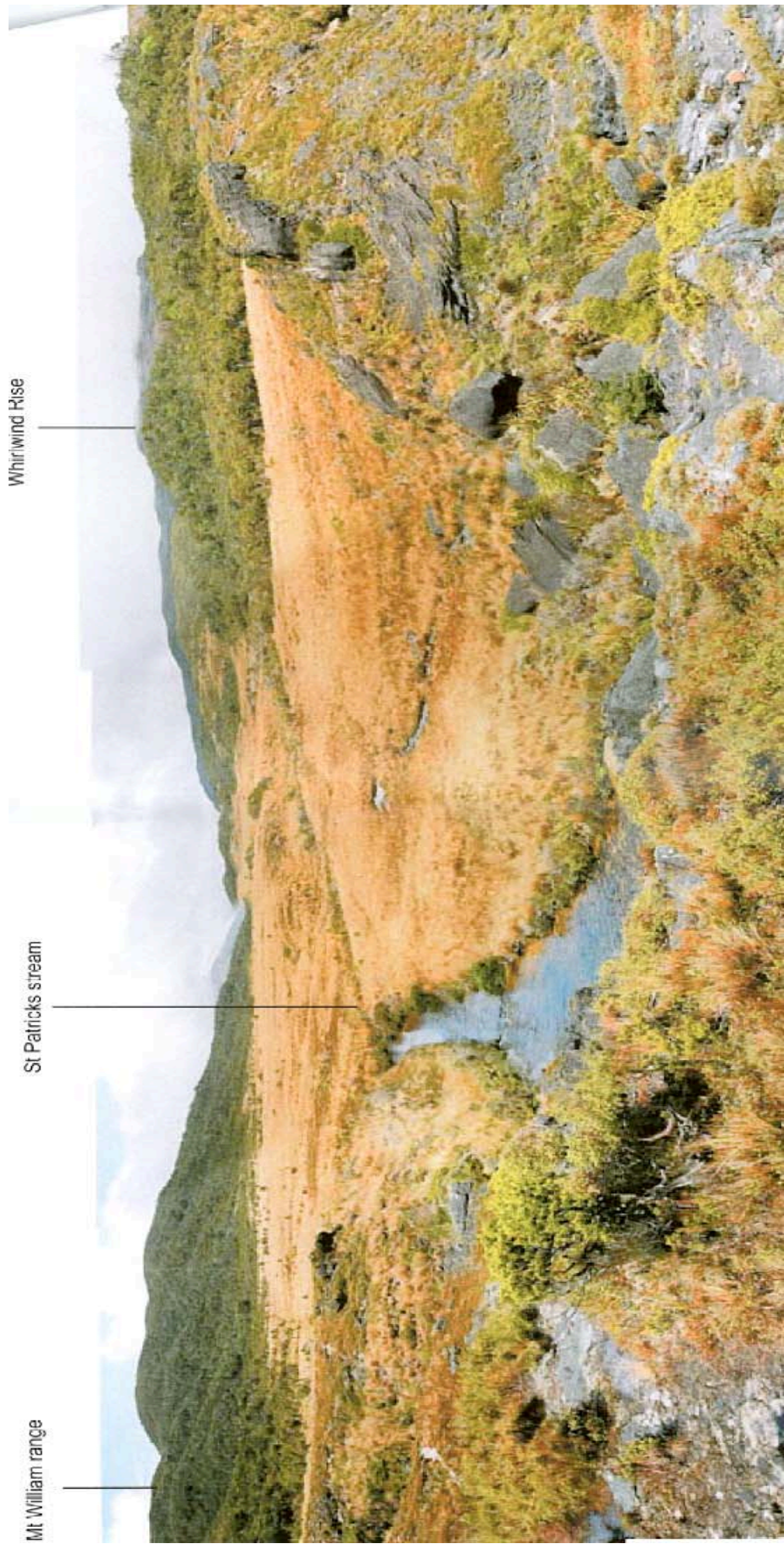


Mining project resource consent approval: (Is) The Agony Over?

**2005 Minerals Conference
Auckland
16 November 2005**

Rob Robson
Manager, Petroleum and Minerals Policy



Happy Valley: site of Solid Energy's Cypress Coal Resource

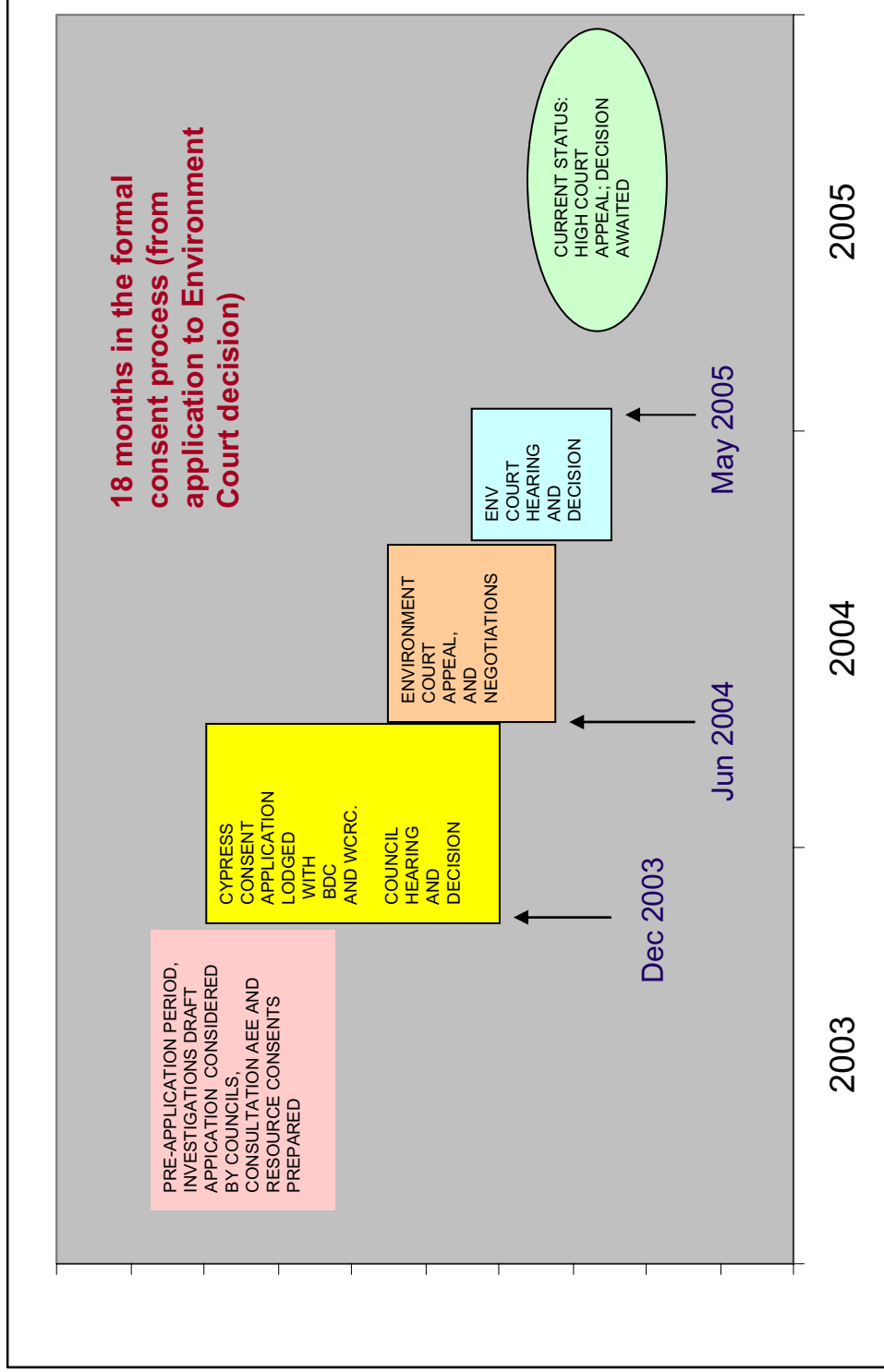
Ministry of Economic
Development

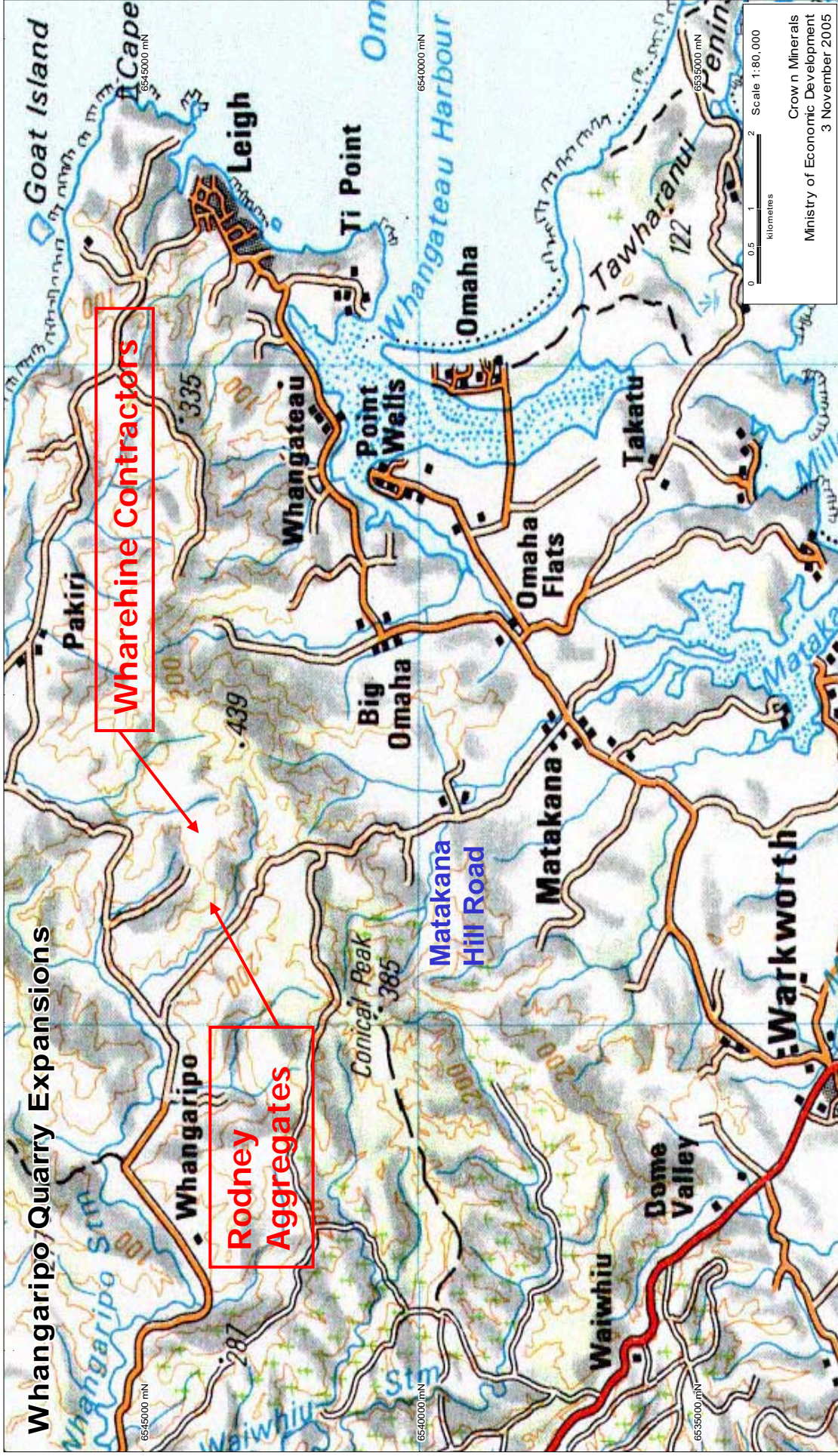
Manatū Ōhanga

Crown Minerals



Cypress coal mine approval timelines





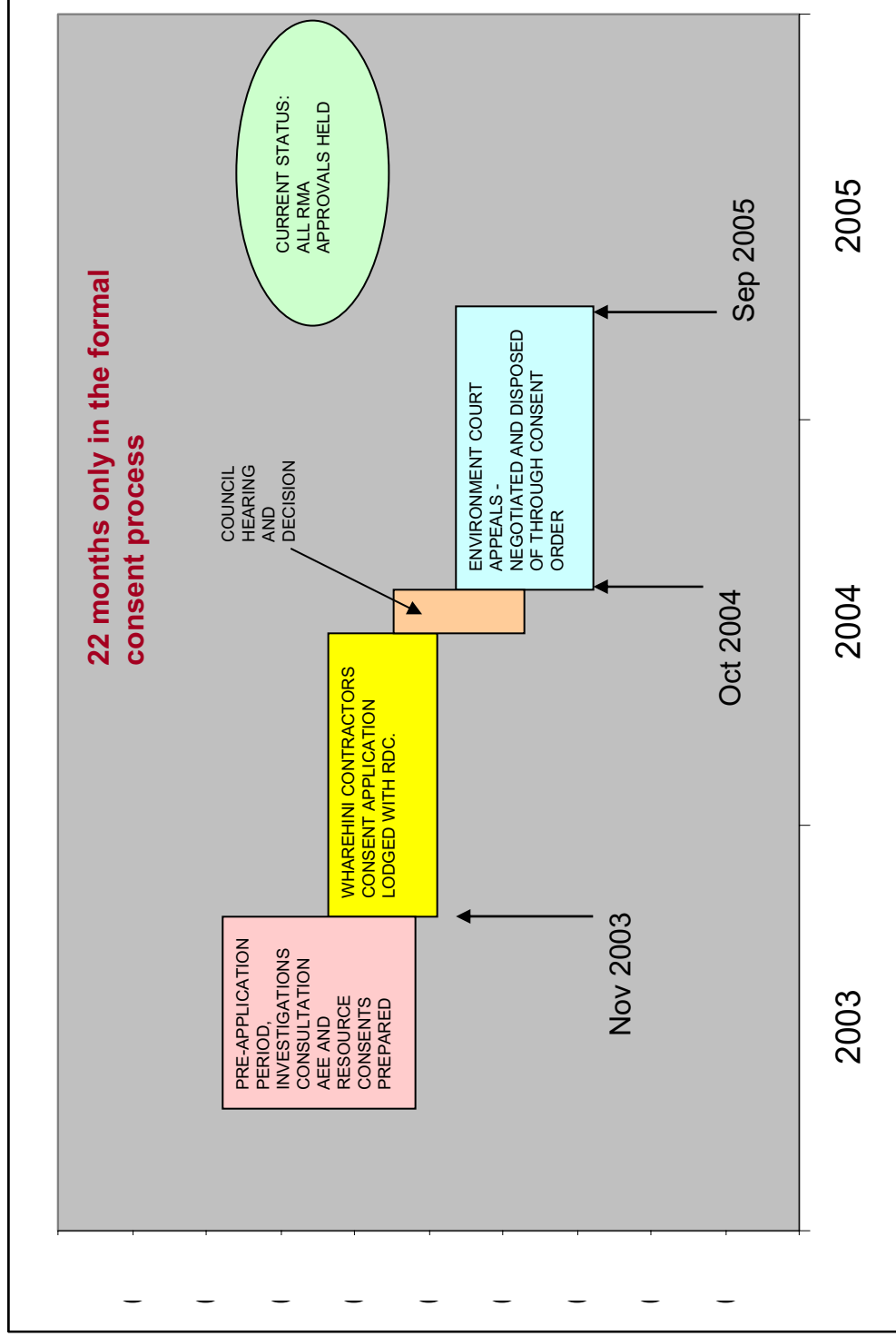
Wharehine Contractors

Rodney Aggregates



Wharehini Contractors' Whangaripo Quarry

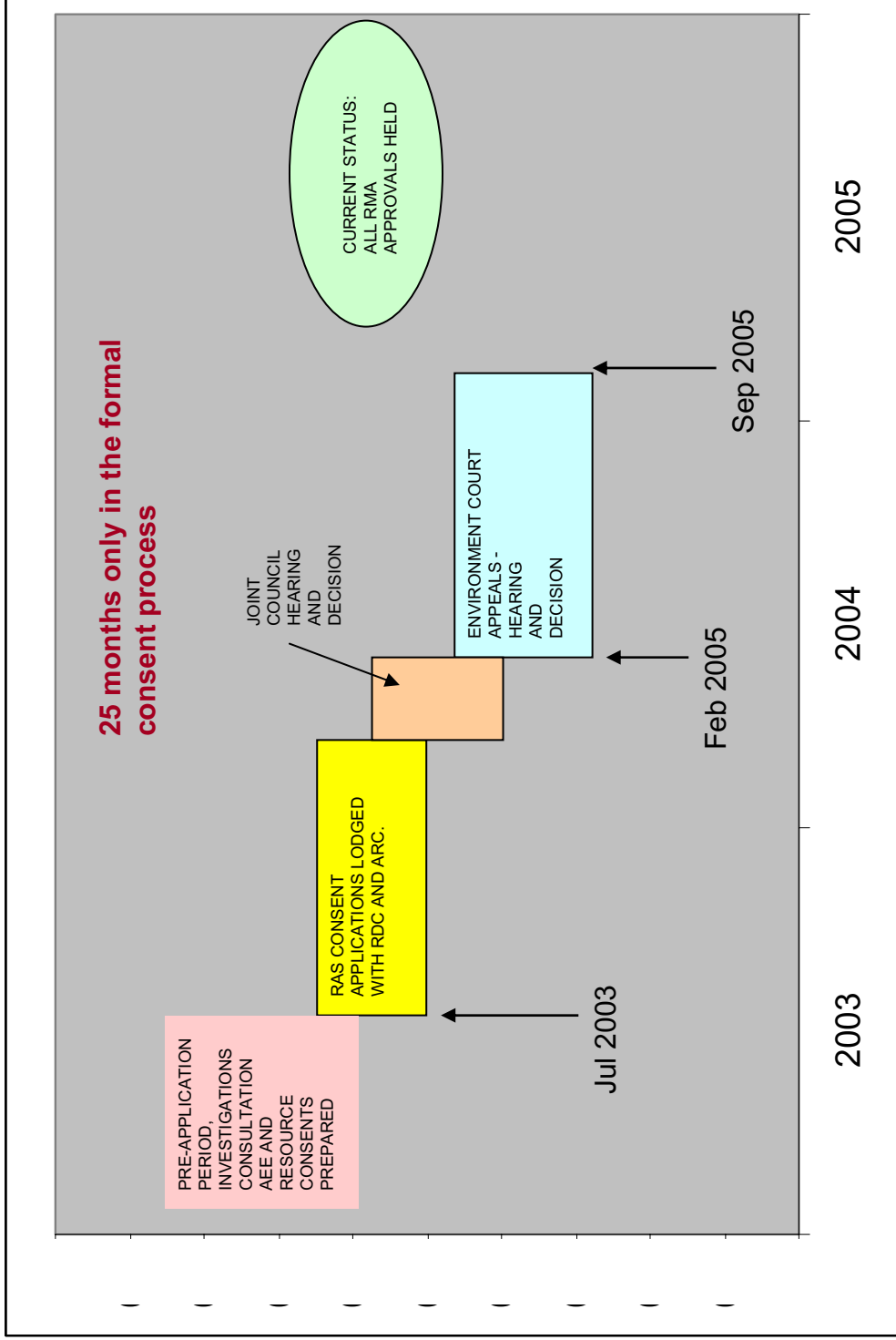
Wharehini Contractors Limited Whangaripo Quarry extension approval timelines



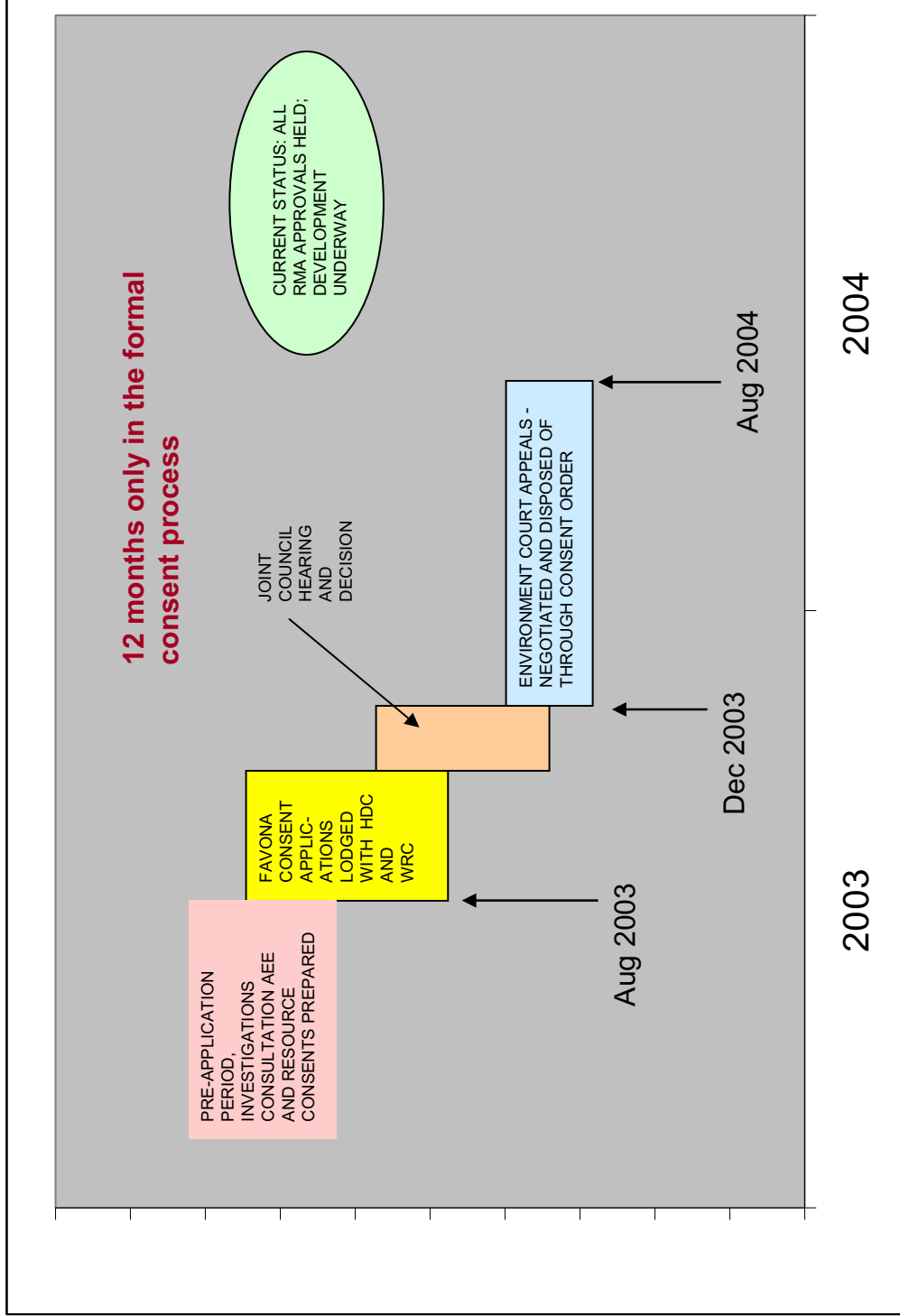


Rodney Aggregates' Whangaripo Quarry

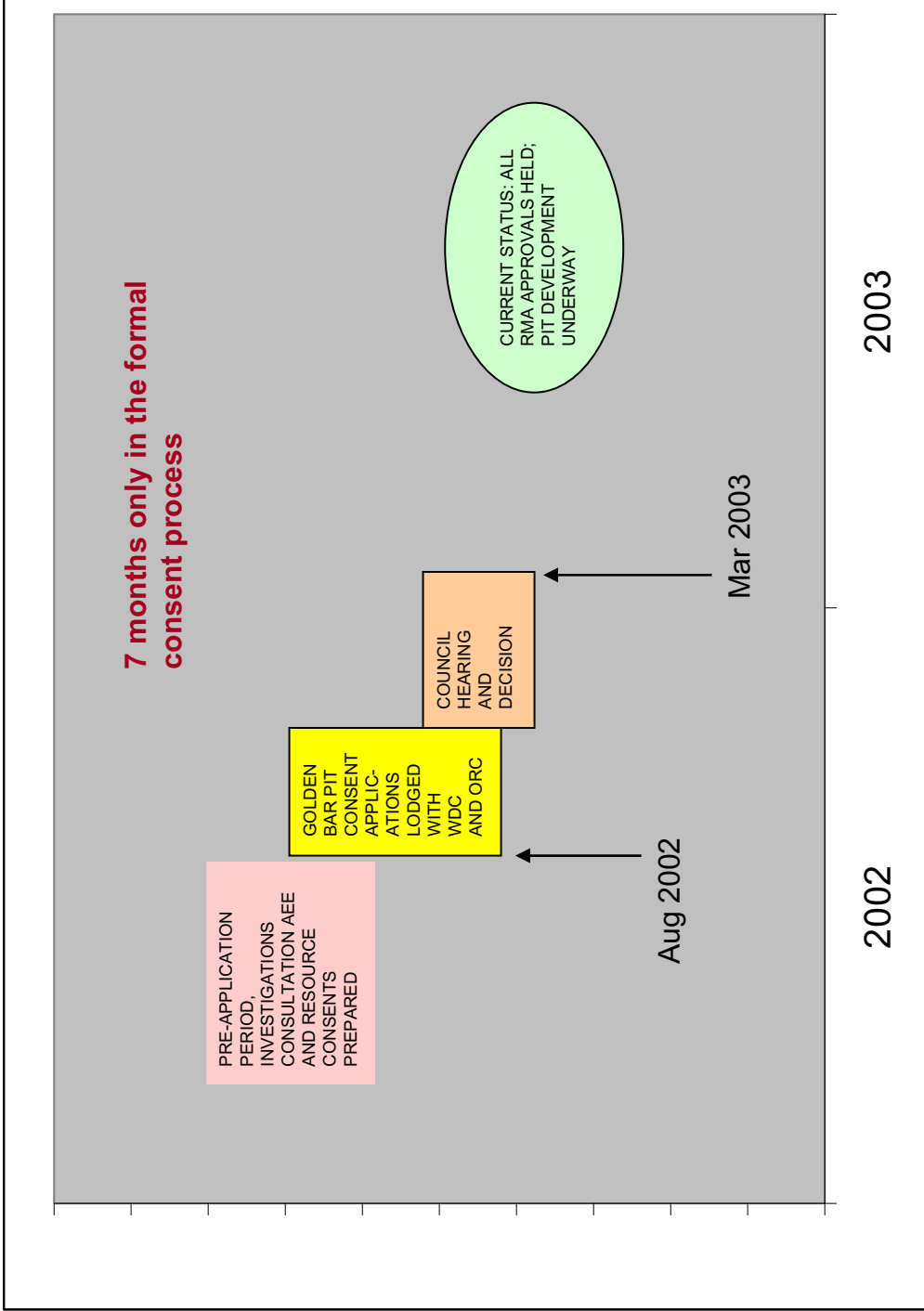
Rodney Aggregates Supplies Whangaripo Quarry extension approval timelines



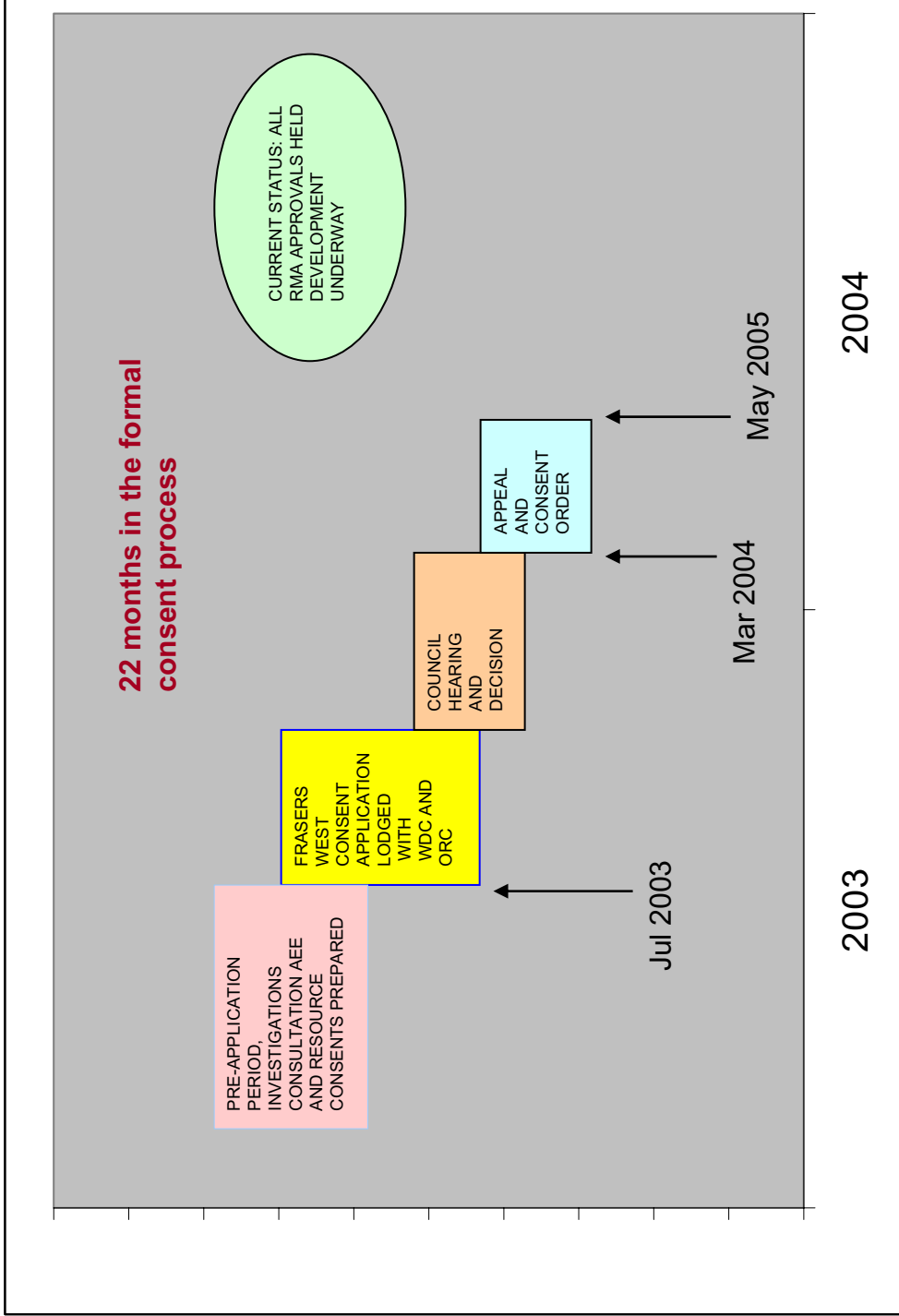
Favona underground project approval timelines



Golden Bar Open Pit approval timelines



Frasers West waste rock stack approval timelines



Stakeholders' views on what causes delays

1. Opportunistic objectors
2. Inappropriate objections from 'special interest groups'
3. Submissions (solicited) in support
4. Delays in the Hearing Committee delivering its decision
5. Inappropriate objections from [s274] 'parties to Court proceedings' who are not directly affected.
6. Appellants that are reluctant to engage in mediated resolution or refuse to name their technical experts/witnesses.
7. Statutory interest groups whose separate statutory authorisations may dictate changes to the consent terms.

Conclusions / recommendations

- **Turn-around times** for mining project resource consent approvals have shortened in recent years to between **1 and 2 years**.
- **Short-term nuisance delays** during the statutory process do occur that commonly relate to inappropriate submissions.
- The consent process commonly, but not always, achieves the **best environmental outcome**.
- Court's approach is that the **local policy response** in district and regional plans, towards **utilisation of minerals**, ought to carry some significance in consent outcomes.
- Council consents staff and their consultants are **highly professional** and have strong customer service ethics. However staff **turnovers** are problematic.

