

fyi-request-31413-
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15 August 2025

Whare Kaupapa
Atawhai/Conservation
House - 18 Manners
Street, Box 10420,
Wellington 6140
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5384

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 27 June 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. I would like all correspondence, reports, documents, meeting minutes, file notes, etc, you have on record regarding the proposal to develop a series of open cast goldmines in the Bendigo Ophir - Dunstan Mountains area by Matakanui Gold / Santana Minerals. Regardless of whether they are associated with fast track consenting or any other process.*
- 2. From May 26, 2025 until present day.*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

On 24 July 2025, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request by 15 working days due to the large quantity of information sought and the consultation necessary to make a decision on the request.

Your request is being addressed with two separate responses (due to who holds the various information being sought), and I understand that Aaron Fleming, Regional Operations Director, sent you some information in scope of your request on 14 August 2025.

Please find attached the remaining information in scope of your request. Unless otherwise noted, this response covers the period 26 May 2025 until the date of your request – 27 June 2025.

Please note the information and documents provided to DOC by Santana Minerals Ltd reflect a specific point in time and may not represent what is now held by DOC. I note further information is currently being assessed for release for a further request for official information (OIAD-5481).

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents in the document schedule, subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- information provided in confidence, under section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information where release would prejudice the ongoing supply of similar information.
- Free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,

- Confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice, and
- Legally privileged information, under section 9(2)(h) – to maintain legal professional privilege.

Additionally, the following document falls in scope of your request as an attachment to Item 1 in the below document schedule. The content of this document is commercially sensitive, and a decision has been made to withhold it in full under section 9(2)(b)(ii):

- 19 May 2025 - *SML MGL Memo DOC Information Request - Final*

In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the OIA and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

This letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Siobhan Quayle
Director Regulatory Systems Performance
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	29 May 2025	Email correspondence <i>Formal Notification Letter - Santana Minerals</i>	Released in part
1A	29 May 2025	<i>Santana Formal Consultation Letter - Department of Conservation</i>	Released in part
1B	19 May 2025	Email correspondence <i>DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP</i>	Released in part
2	5 June 2025	<i>Bendigo Ophir Gold Project - Fast-track Triage DRAFT</i>	Released in part
3	9 June 2025	<i>DOC Response Santana Minerals Ltd</i>	Released in full
4	11 June 2025	Email correspondence <i>Bendigo Ophir Gold Fast-track project potential timelines</i>	Released in part
5	16 June 2025	<i>Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Treaty Settlements Table</i>	Released in part
6	24 July 2025	<i>Bendigo FT Project Team - kick off meeting slides</i>	Released in part