

From: Susan Smith
To: Jonty Somers; John Lyall; Oliver Overdyck; John Roberts; Laurence Barea
Cc: Trevor Ellis; Christine Butler; Stephanie Bowman; Anna Ginnaw; Slobhan Quayle; Gen Hewett; Philippa Fox
Subject: Indicative date for Fast-track listed projects being lodged with EPA
Date: Monday, 23 December 2024 4:10:09 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[Updated post COWH - Fast-track process DoC touchpoints summary.docx](#) First attachment out of scope
[FT Master List analysis & prioritisation working \(2\).pdf](#)
Importance: High

Kia ora

I am the new Fast-track Applications Manager and hope to connect with you next year. The purpose of this email is to update you on new information we have received from MfE and a workstream that may occur early next year.

We have received a list from MfE of Fast-track Projects likely to be lodged with EPA during February and early March. The dates have been provided by the Applicants and may change.

One of the projects that may be lodged on 28 February 2025 is Matakau Gold Ltd, Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (FTA107). From the limited information made available they may require DoC input on:

- Conservation Covenant
- Lizards
- Vegetation

I have included a link to information on the MfE website [Fast-track Schedule 2 Projects .pdf](#) and attached a PDF of an initial assessment made by the Fast-track Project Team from the limited information available.

I have also attached a document summarising DoC touchpoints on applications.

Update and expectations of DoC

- The Fast-track Approvals Bill had its third reading on 17 December and will be enacted as soon as it receives Royal Assent. This may be pre-Christmas.
- The Bill will come into effect immediately upon enactment, however, applicants are not able to lodge applications for referral or approvals until 7 February 2025.
- Applicants are required to do some consultation before lodging substantive applications and this may occur from Royal Assent.
- From 7 February applicants for projects listed in Schedule 2 will be able to apply directly to the EPA to have their projects assessed by expert panels.
- The EPA will seek input from DoC on to undertake a completeness check (15 working days for this to be completed) and (if the application is complete) pass it to a panel convener to stand up a panel.
- There is no prescribed time for the Panel appointment.
- The Panel Convener may require a report from DoC after the completeness check.
- The Panel have 10 working days to seek comments from DoC where relevant.
- If DoC have to provide a report, it is required 10 working days after comment is invited.
- DoC will be required to respond to the request for comment within the timeframe set.

During January we hope to stand up a Project Team to look through the information we have in preparation for the application being lodged. Can you please consider who may be the most relevant person (people) to work with on this. **There is no action required now; I will contact you again early next year.**

Merry Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2025.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith (she/her)
Fast Track Applications Manager
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

www.doc.govt.nz



Report FTA107

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Applicant	Matakanui Gold Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Santana Minerals Limited)
Local govt region	Otago
DOC Region	SSI
Sector	Mining & quarrying

Project Description

The Bendigo-Ophir Gold project is to establish and operate an open pit and underground gold mine on Bendigo and Ardour Stations in Central Otago.

9(2)(g)(i)

Triggers

Adequate spatial information to determine topic areas of interest?	N (documented)
RMA / EEZEEA priority	
Concession / permit required	Y
Crown Minerals Act access required	Y?
DOC land transfer indicated	?
DOC covenant / PPL / non-land interest	
Reserve / covenant affected (not DOC-managed)	
Non-FT statute approvals required	?

Likely Project Consent Requirements: New
Broad Topic areas: LandCovenantFisheriesWildlifeHistoric

Report FTA107: Permissions Page 1

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Previous Permissions Applications

108620-FAU (Active) 114902-MIA. 114904-MIA (All active) 70908-AA (returned)

Permissions Priority

Priority: High
Response: Tailored
Reason for Priority: Dependent on species present, mining access permit

Conservation Land or Waters Managed by DOC

Excluded by FTCA / CMA:

Name / CU#: TBD - potentially including Bendigo SR CU# G41108, Bendigo HR CU# G41097, Bendigo CA CU# G41113, Ardgour Crown
Ownership:

Settlement / other reqts:

Covenant / PPL / other: Bendigo Covenant CU# 50098224.9

Report FTA107: Permissions Page 2

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Other

BHV Triage	High
Biodiversity Values	Birds, Freshwater, Lizards, vegetation
Crown Minerals Access:	Y
Wildlife Act permission	Y
Marine Mammals Protection Act:	
FWFR:	
Fish salvage	

Comments/Decisions

Report FTA107: RMA Page 1

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

RMA Priority

Priority: High
Response: Team
Reason for Priority: Threatened species, tenure review, conservation cove

Triage Team Comments

Pre-app, and existing approvals for drilling and Wildlife

RMA DOC Interest

CMA:

Land:

Water:

Discharges:

Biodiversity:

Report FTA107: RMA Page 2

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

EEZEEA

Outer shelf:

Discharge:

Biodiversity:

Non-FT statutory approvals: CPLA?Land Act?

Comments

From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [John Roberts](#)
Subject: Bendigo context - Meeting with EDS on Thursday 2.30-3.30pm
Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 12:07:34 pm
Attachments: [Bendigo location.jpg](#)
[Bendigo - showing covenant area plus pcl.jpg](#)
[Bendigo Covenant - unredacted.pdf](#)
[Unredacted 2023 Amendment to covenant.pdf](#)

From: John Roberts

Sent: Tuesday, 19 November 2024 2:59 pm

To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>; Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>; Rebecca Worthington <rworthington@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo context - Meeting with EDS on Thursday 2.30-3.30pm

Kia ora koutou – fyi some background to the mining proposal at Bendigo Station to support the EDS meeting on Thursday.

Without knowing any specific interest EDS may have, the information below is general in nature and in parts probably more detail than you need. I'm happy to support on the day if needed.

In short, SSI has been across the Matakanui/Santana mining exploration works at Bendigo Station since they began in 2017. This is due to the MOC obligations wrt the s77 Reserves Act conservation covenant over the Bendigo freehold lands. The covenant requires the MOC approval (delegated locally) for any exploration or mining on or under the land. We have not been involved in the plans for the mining phase which we understand are still being worked up in preparation for their application to either into the RMA or FT process.

1. Bendigo Station – general

- Bendigo Station is a high-country station in Central Otago, located generally within an area between the Cromwell-Tarras highway and the Thomsons Saddle road (see maps).
- It has been notable for its historic gold mining, pastoralism and in more recent times for Shrek the very woolly lost sheep.
- An early tenure review process through the mid-1990's resulted in the station splitting into a mix of freehold lands and the creation of the adjoining Historic and Scenic Reserves and the Bendigo Conservation Area, administered by Te Papa Atawhai.
- The freehold lands are subject to a s77 Reserves Act conservation covenant, signed in 2000. See attached. In short, the covenant objectives are to protect

and enhance the natural character, native flora and fauna, ecological character, landscape and historic values of this privately owned land while allowing for its continued farming.

- The conservation covenant has been subject to recent OIA's. A redacted version in the public arena is found at [Bendigo Station - a Official Information Act request to Department of Conservation - FYI](#)

2. Matakanui Gold Ltd

- In 2017 Matakanui Gold Ltd (MGL) sought to undertake initial and relatively minor (6 x 20m long trenches) exploratory gold mining activity at Bendigo Station.
- Condition 3(1)(d) of the covenant states that *the Landowners will not carry out or allow to be carried out without the Ministers prior approval: Any prospecting or mining for minerals, coal or other deposit on or under the land*
- Condition 3(4) requires that *The Minister will have regard to the objectives of this Deed when considering any request for approval under this clause and will not unreasonably decline approval*
- The MOC (delegated to the Central Otago Operations Manager) approved Bendigo Station to allow for this activity to be undertaken, subject to restoration.
- In 2018 approval was given to allow for 50 exploratory drill holes for core sampling, subject to a number of conditions
- In 2019 and 2021 approval was sought for relatively short temporary tracks to be built branching off the established farm roads, including in the 'Rise and Shine' area of the station, to allow for their mobile rigs to access sites to drill their test-cores.
- Given the temporary nature of the activity, the supporting values reports, internal technical advice and conditions of approval to avoid heritage sites, native flora and for restoration to the previous landform and cover immediately upon completion, this activity was given the Departments approval.
- In 2022 more temporary tracks were applied for, with their attention focusing on the 'Rise and Shine' part of the station.
- The 'Rise and Shine' part of the station has its own clause in the covenant specifically to protect public access, allow for interpretation, and to protect from woody vegetation, forestry and tracks.
- In the course of considering the 2022 request it became apparent that only a limited amount of the temporary tracks had been immediately restored, with those remaining being sought to be in-situ for longer than expected, as MGL re-visit previous sites for supplementary drilling, with the extent of this determined as their results are understood.

- While acknowledging this operational reality, Te Papa Atawhai approved only a reduced scope of the 2022 application with notice that no future approvals would be given in the 'Rise and Shine' area of the station, as although in the Departments view while temporary tracks may be acceptable here, more permanent ones are not.
- To provide clarity, the covenant was amended in 2023 to allow for temporary tracks in the 'Rise and Shine' area subject to a suitable restoration and enhancement programme (see attached)
- In August 2024 approvals were given for Minimum Impact Activity (survey/mapping/samples) in surrounding conservation lands.

3. Santana Minerals Ltd and the Bendigo-Ophir Project

- MGL was purchased by Santana Minerals in 2020 [The Discovery — Santana Minerals](#)
- The current interest is focused on the "Rise and Shine" area within Bendigo Station – see [General 2 — Santana Minerals](#)
- 9(2)(b)(ii)

4. Where is the project at?

- The proposal for mining here is in the public arena as a listed FTB project [Fast-track Schedule 2 Projects.pdf](#)
- The project is described as *The Bendigo-Ophir Gold project is to establish and operate an open pit and underground gold mine on Bendigo and Ardour Stations in Central Otago. The project completion and remediation are expected in 2065.* [Project Information — Santana Minerals](#)
- DOC locally has not been involved in the development of the mining phase proposals/application.
- Several OIA request have been made. The DOC website has posted one; and the fyi.org.nz website another

DOC website [Official Information Act responses 2024](#) [Response letter \(PDF, 233K\) \(opens in new window\)](#) [Attachment 1: Monitoring and letter of authority documents \(PDF, 30,632K\) \(opens in new window\)](#) Note: this is a large file

fyi.org.nz [Bendigo Station - a Official Information Act request to Department of Conservation - FYI](#)

- Santana has a presentation that is available to the public; and I understand they have undertaken community engagement. This has included presenting to

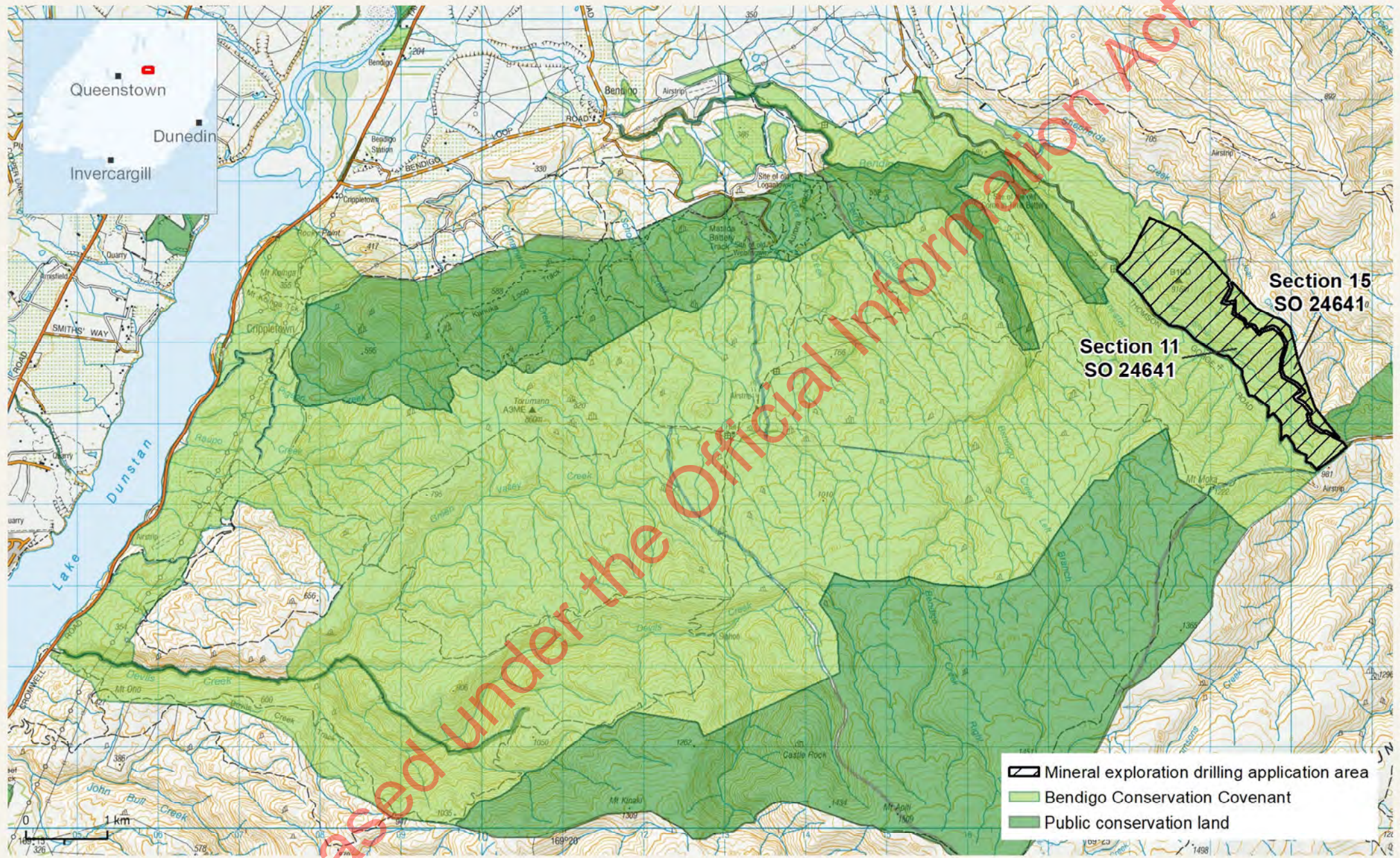
the Otago Conservation Board in public session.

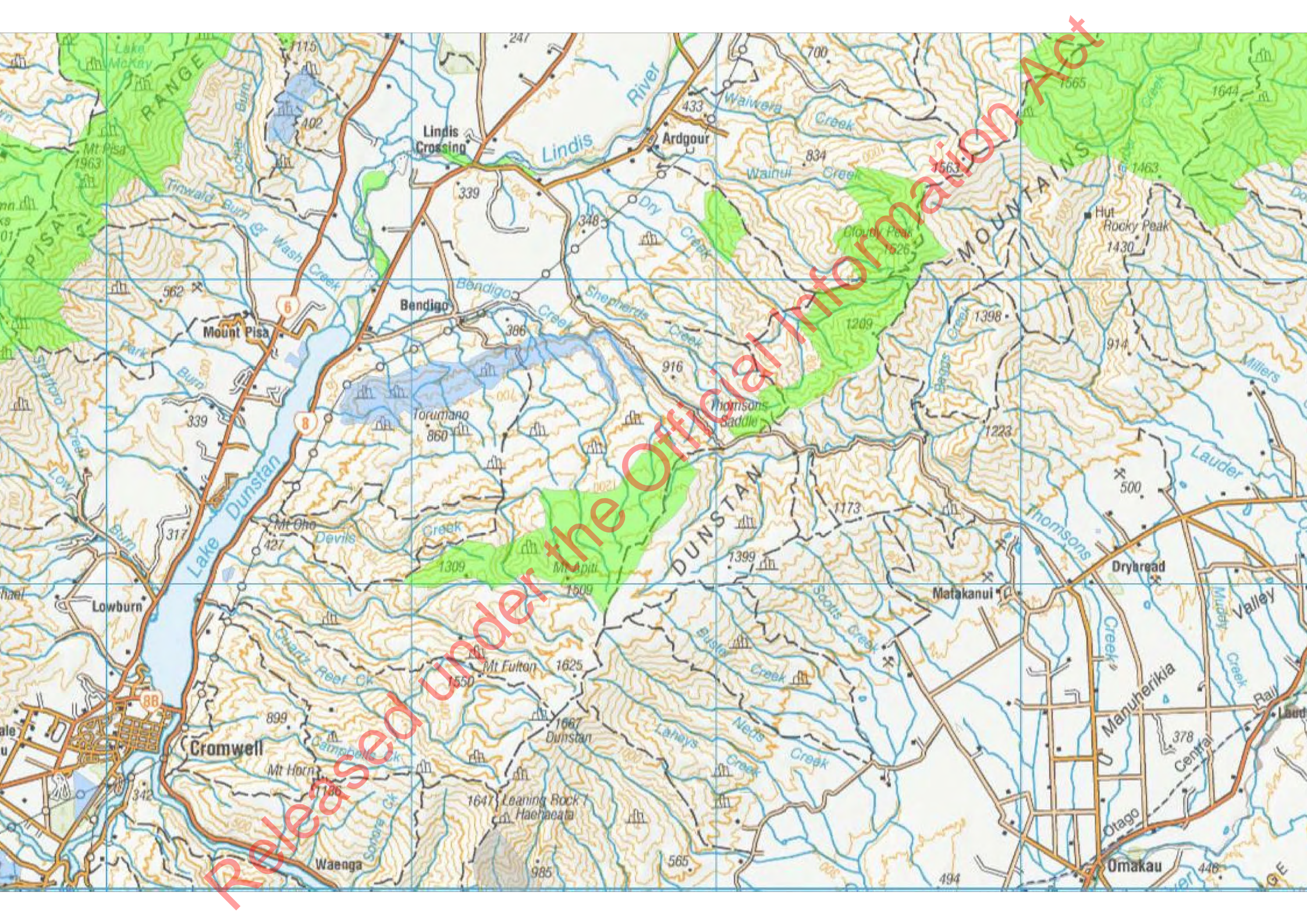
- We await our input into either the RMA advocacy or the FT process

I hope this is of help

John Roberts
Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager
Southern South Island Region
Department of Conservation

Released under the Official Information Act







View Instrument Details

Instrument No	12883825.1
Status	Registered
Date & Time Lodged	05 December 2023 15:58
Lodged By	Andersen, Robin Richard
Instrument Type	Variation of Covenant



Affected Records of Title	Land District
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808256	Otago
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Affected Instrument	Covenant (All types except Land covenants) 5009824.9
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Annexure Schedule	Contains 3 Pages.
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Signature

Signed by Robin Richard Andersen as Grantor/Grantee Representative on 31/01/2024 02:34 PM

*** End of Report ***

Covenant variation not included as it was previously provided to you under OIAD-4049 (item 7) and publicly available on the FYI Requests website

From: John Roberts
To: Susan Smith
Cc: Jenna Sinclair
Subject: Matakauui Gold Ltd, Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (FTA107)
Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 1:39:00 pm
Attachments: image001.jpg
Bendigo context - Meeting with EDS on Thursday 2.30-3.30pm.msg

Hi again Susan – from your email below it sounds as though this one will be one of the first cabs off the rank, so thought I'd send you some background to help with the context for assembling a team as you describe below.

I appreciate this is only one of very many proposals you'll have to manage, so don't want to bombard you with too much detail at this time, but also trying to stay ahead of the game.

It may be that you choose to pass this info on to whoever in your team will lead the DOC response for this.

Jenna Sinclair will very likely be the lead for SSI Ops so it would be good to cc her in from this point for anything on this.

Regards

JR

John Roberts

Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager

Southern South Island Region

1. General Background of our involvement to date

See the attachment sent to Ruth ahead of attending an EDS conference late last year – general info about our role/involvement to date, which mostly has been to consider/authorise the exploratory mining works 2017-24 as a consequence of our role with the s77 Reserves Act Covenant over the lands here. We were also involved in 2023-24 in a separate RMA consent application for an unrelated subdivision adjoining here that included some of the covenant area. Our RMA team managed that process and assembled a team of the usual suspects to understand the values etc – see below. In August 2024 approvals were given to Matakauui/Santana for Minimum Impact Activity (survey/mapping/samples) in the surrounding conservation lands.

2. The Covenant

The covenant was agreed to in 2000 following an early version of the tenure review process. Along with the covenant, the TR process established the adjoining parcels of what are now pcl. Some general media background to the TR outcomes is described in [Rural Delivery](#). The covenant itself is embedded in the email to Ruth attached above. It covers the entirety of the Bendigo station lands, sets out the conservation objectives that the land is to be managed for, and includes specific clauses to protect the particular values of the Rise and Shine area, which by chance is the area of focus for the mining interest.

3. Values information

In terms of background to the values here, there are three different layers of information we hold:

(i) From the TR process of the 1990's

- The 1993 Exchange of Property Rights Report prepared for the CCL Bendigo Station Tenure Review CRR: [DOC-7109853](#)
- The 1993 historic values report "The rich fields of Bendigo" by Jill Hamel [DOC-7118894](#)

(ii) Covenant monitoring reports [Attachment 1: Monitoring and letter of authority documents \(PDF, 30.632K\) \(opens in new window\)](#)

(iii) From the recent 2024 RMA application, some of which included part of the covenant area

- RMA decision support document DOCCM 7471516 [docCM - NC648 out of scope](#) - [Submission DSD](#)
- DG's submission [docCM - NC648 - out of scope](#) - [Submission](#)

(iv) I understand that engagement with iwi will be undertaken separately and doesn't form a part of the DOC input.

4. Key DOC staff that have worked on this in recent times are:

SSI Ops – Jenna Sinclair (Jenna is our Point of Contact with Matakauui/Santana/Bendigo and would very likely be our lead on SSI Ops input)

Legal – Ceri Warnock for the recent RMA; Pene Williams for the covenant and previous work

Historic - Matt Schmidt

Ecology - Richard Ewans; Juzah Zammit-Ross

RMA Planning – Liz Williams; Amelia Ching; Herb Familton

Hope this is of some help

JR

From: Susan Smith <susmith@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 23 December 2024 4:10 pm

To: Jonty Somers <jsomers@doc.govt.nz>; John Lyall <jlyall@doc.govt.nz>; Oliver Overdyck <overdyck@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Laurence Barea <lbarea@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Trevor Ellis <trelis@doc.govt.nz>; Christine Butler <chbutler@doc.govt.nz>; Stephanie Bowman <sbowman@doc.govt.nz>; Anna Ginnaw <aginnaw@doc.govt.nz>; Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>; Gen Hewett <ghewett@doc.govt.nz>; Phillippa Fox <pfox@doc.govt.nz>

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Importance: High

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Merry Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2025.

Ngā mihi

[Susan Smith \(she/her\)](#)

Fast Track Applications Manager

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From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [Rick McGovern-Wilson](#); [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
Cc: [Eleanor Kettink](#)
Subject: RE: Presentations to the Otago Conservation Board from parties with an interest in the Santana/Bendigo mining proposal
Date: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 12:55:00 pm

Thanks Rick – ah yes! I think it was you who I was thinking of where this came from! I think the context is much greater for the NZCA as they will see all of the FT applications that relate to pcl/conservation.

Excluding the projects that might need a Wildlife Act Permit (eg for disturbing lizards), for the OCB there are only 4 projects that I can see intersect with pcl/concessions/covenants; and one of those only involves crossing some marginal strip for access by the looks.

So the scale is much smaller – can't imagine they will need a 'policy' as such for dealing with it.

So unless Susan knows otherwise I can't see why we wouldn't accept the Sustainable Tarra's request to present at the Public Forum.

Yep, from what I understand from Susan something would be lodged by Matakanaui/Santana in Feb.

Thanks Rick for jogging my memory where this came from

Cheers

JR

From: Rick McGovern-Wilson
Sent: Wednesday, 15 January 2025 8:53 am
To: John Roberts ; [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
Cc: Eleanor Kettink
Subject: RE: Presentations to the Otago Conservation Board from parties with an interest in the Santana/Bendigo mining proposal
Hi JR

Suze rang me on Monday afternoon about speaking to the Authority re their concerns about the Santana/Bendigo mining proposal.

The Authority members are pushing back on meeting with them just yet, until such time as they have developed their own policy on dealing with FTA applications and have a process guide in place. They have already held off hearing from **out of scope**

for the same reason. I think it also important to wait until the Department indicates what support, process wise and financial, they are proposing for the conservation boards.

Are you sure about their application being worked up in Feb, as Edward understood it was more likely to be April.

Cheers

Rick

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 14 January 2025 5:22 pm
To: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#) <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Rick McGovern-Wilson <rmcgovern@doc.govt.nz>; Eleanor Kettink <ekettink@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Presentations to the Otago Conservation Board from parties with an interest in the Santana/Bendigo mining proposal

Hi Susan and your team and welcome into the role.

(Hi Rick – just FYI unless you have any wisdom on this query).

Susan - I am aware that you are across the Sanatana/Bendigo FT proposal as one of the first ones likely to be worked up in Feb.

Helpfully, locally we are across the background on this activity, having been involved in authorising their exploratory works under the conservation covenant provisions over the last few years; although we are not across any of the detail about their proposed actual mining phase.

Anyway - the *actual* reason for getting in touch with you is to seek some advice about an approach we've just had from a local community group (Sustainable Tarras) to present their interests to the Otago Conservation Board about this proposal. Boards have a standing agenda item 'Public Forum' designed for this sort of thing

Somewhere in my memory in the run up to the end of the year I recall advice (from somewhere/someone that I can't now find) that we should be cautious about this with FT proposals with boards, noting the Conservation Boards have a statutory role under the FTA and will be invited to comment via section 53(2)(m) and Schedule 6 (44).

As it happens, Santana presented to the OCB in a similar fashion in the 'Public Forum' session back in October.

Given Santana has presented to the OCB and that boards are an independent body appointed to represent the wider public interest, I can't see why we would be concerned or feel there is any conflict about interested parties presenting to boards – in fact I would have thought that would be welcome for them to be better informed – they will still form their own views when the time comes.

But before we go ahead and reply to the request from Sustainable Tarras (see attached) I just thought best to check in with you in case I have missed a memo here.

Thanks Susan and I look forward to working with you

JR

John Roberts

Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager

Southern South Island Region

Department of Conservation

From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#); [Donna Shepard](#); [Jenna Sinclair](#)
Cc: [Charlie Skinner](#)
Subject: RE: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
Date: Thursday, 16 January 2025 5:21:18 pm
Attachments: [Matakanui Gold Ltd Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project \(ETA107\).msg](#)
[RE Presentations to the Otago Conservation Board from parties with an interest in the SantanaBendigo mining proposal .msg](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Hi Amelia – please see attached emails from me the last couple of days on this to Susan and your FT inbox.

Let me know if you want anymore info at this point or if this is what you are after.

In addition to what is contained in the first attachment (the broad outline and key documents and key people who have already worked on this) there are a large number of emails and letters that relate to the exploratory authorisations 2017-24 if you need all those also.

As described in the attached, we have had no visibility (beyond general info on their public facing website) of the proposed mining phase itself and what that might involve/any effects etc. Our work to date has been just on covenant monitoring, authorisations for the exploratory works and the separate RMA proposal on adjoining land.

Your advice about the Sustainable Tarras group seeking to present to the OCB would be welcome in case I have missed some national directive on this given the statutory role CB's now have under the FTA. I have since received a reply from Rick on this wrt the NZCA and noting their scale is much greater than individual boards, I see they are mindful of people presenting to them at the moment until they have some guidance.

Thanks

JR

John Roberts

Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager

Southern South Island Region

Department of Conservation

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:40 pm

To: Donna Shepard ; John Roberts

Subject: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Kia ora kōrua,

The fast-track implementation team is compiling all information held across DOC into one location to assist in the assessment of fast-track pre-lodgement consultation and substantive applications. Several fast-track applicants have indicated they have undertaken pre-lodgement consultation with DOC or are in the process now.

Can you please let us know of communication/consultations that has occurred on the below project/s in your region, if any and send a link/copy to any relevant document for our file.

Applicant: Matakanui Gold Limited

Project Name: Bendigo-ophir Project

Project Summary: The Project is to mine the world-class Rise and Shine (RAS) gold deposit and satellite deposits on both Bendigo and Ardgour Stations. Mining would occur by way of an open pit mine in the first instance, with a later stage for underground mining of the resource as operations advance. The project will also include a variety of ancillary mining related activities, including engineered landforms for sterile rock storage, tailings storage, processing facilities and access roads.

Pre-application Engagement: "Already underway".

We think this will make the work of project teams in assessing the application more efficient. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Ngā mihi,

Amelia Taaka

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

www.doc.govt.nz

From: Susan Smith
To: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
Subject: RE: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
Date: Friday, 17 January 2025 1:40:46 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
Importance: High

Hi Amelia

If you can please reply with the following and save all of these to the Fast-track Sharepoint file. Thanks

Kia ora John

Thanks for sharing this, I will place the information in the file for the Fast-track project team to have sight of once that project group is formed.

The key purpose of asking for this now is:

- if we receive a request for pre-lodgement consultation, we know what has been said before and who has been involved to be able to liaise with as required
- if a substantive fast-track application is lodged based on previous consultation, we have the information to undertake the *completeness* check

If the Fast-track project group, once formed, determines they need sight of the emails etc. then they can be compiled at that point (unless they are in a central place I could access and likely to be relevant).

We don't yet have a process around statutory bodies – this is being written therefore I can't offer you any advice. This process should be set up by the time an application is received for this project and will be a consideration of the Fast-track project team.

Thanks for your help with the documents.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith (she/her)

Fast-track Applications Manager

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Sent: Friday, 17 January 2025 10:10 am

To: Susan Smith

Subject: FW: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Hi Susan the below is what I was talking to you about this morning.

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 5:21 pm

To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>; Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

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In addition to what is contained in the first attachment (the broad outline and key documents and key people who have already worked on this) there are a large number of emails and letters that relate to the exploratory authorisations 2017-24 if you need all those also.

As described in the attached, we have had no visibility (beyond general info on their public facing website) of the proposed mining phase itself and what that might involve/any effects etc. Our work to date has been just on covenant monitoring, authorisations for the exploratory works and the separate RMA proposal on adjoining land.

Your advice about the Sustainable Tarras group seeking to present to the OCB would be welcome in case I have missed some national directive on this given the statutory role CB's now have under the FTA. I have since received a reply from Rick on this wrt the NZCA and noting their scale is much greater than individual boards, I see they are mindful of people presenting to them at the moment until they have some guidance.

Thanks

JR

John Roberts

Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager

Southern South Island Region

Department of Conservation

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 16 January 2025 4:40 pm

To: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Fast Track Application Inquiries - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Kia ora kōrua,

The fast-track implementation team is compiling all information held across DOC into one location to assist in the assessment of fast-track pre-lodgement consultation and substantive applications. Several fast-track applicants have indicated they have undertaken pre-lodgement consultation with DOC or are in the process now.

Can you please let us know of communication/consultations that has occurred on the below project/s in your region, if any and send a link/copy to any relevant document for our file.

Applicant: Matakanaui Gold Limited

Project Name: Bendigo-ophir Project

Project Summary: The Project is to mine the world-class Rise and Shine (RAS) gold deposit and satellite deposits on both Bendigo and Ardour Stations. Mining would occur by way of an open pit mine in the first instance, with a later stage for underground mining of the resource as operations advance. The project will also include a variety of ancillary mining related activities, including engineered landforms for sterile rock storage, tailings storage, processing facilities and access roads.

Pre-application Engagement: "Already underway".

We think this will make the work of project teams in assessing the application more efficient. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Ngā mihi,

Amelia Taaka

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

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From: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
To: [Celia Haden](#)
Subject: RE: pre-lodgement with Matakanui Gold Limited. Santana Minerals
Date: Monday, 17 February 2025 11:53:40 am
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.jpg](#)

Hi Celia

Please see link below to the file we created for this. There are some emails we sourced from the regions that may be helpful.

 [Bendigo - Ophir Gold Project FTA 107](#)

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith ([she/her](#))

Fast-track Applications Manager

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries

Sent: Monday, 17 February 2025 9:04 am

To: Celia Haden

Subject: RE: pre-lodgement with Matakanui Gold Limited. Santana Minerals

Hi Celia

out of scope

but no request of

Fast-track re Matakana Gold Limited or Santana Minerals Limited re consultation.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith ([she/her](#))

Fast-track Applications Manager

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: Celia Haden <chaden@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 14 February 2025 5:11 pm

To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: pre-lodgement with Matakanui Gold Limited. Santana Minerals

Kia ora

Could you please let me know if there have been any pre-lodgement discussions with Matakanui Gold Limited or Santana Minerals Limited for their listed project for the Bendigo-Ophir gold mining operation? We have a Ministerial invitation to respond to in the next few days and this would be useful context for the Minister in terms of Departmental involvement to date.

Ngā mihi

Celia Haden ([she/her](#))

Principal Advisor Issues and Resolutions

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Conservation House Wellington | Whare Kaupapa Atawhai

Level 3, 18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

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From: [Kim Morgan](#)
To: [Jenna Sinclair](#); [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#); [Charlie Sklenar](#)
Cc: [Siobhan Quayle](#); [Joanne Liew](#); [John Roberts](#)
Subject: RE: Mining at Bendigo
Date: Friday, 21 February 2025 4:06:08 pm
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Kia ora Jenna – will give you a call – will be easier on the phone.

Short answer is – local offices should not stop its role in understanding any impacts on biodiversity or heritage no matter what consenting pathway is used.

When a FT application is made we then have a statutory and advocacy role which can be cost recovered. Work we do before that is not cost recovered.

Kim

From: Jenna Sinclair
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 3:46 pm
To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries ; Charlie Sklenar
Cc: Kim Morgan ; Siobhan Quayle ; Joanne Liew ; John Roberts
Subject: RE: Mining at Bendigo

Kia ora Susan,

Thanks for your response,

I believe Santana are on the Fast Track list?

The Heritage survey we are discussing would be for the whole Bendigo site which Santana intend to turn into the Open Cast mine.

So just checking if we are okay to contract a heritage survey for the area, whilst acknowledging there is a fast-track application in the works?

Jenna

From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 1:51 pm
To: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Kim Morgan <kmorgan@doc.govt.nz>; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>; Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>; Joanne Liew <jliew@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Mining at Bendigo

Kia ora Jenny

Thanks for the email and it is topical as Joanne Liew is also in contact with Santana and copied me into an email yesterday. We don't have a Fast-track project lead for this as the fast-track team hasn't received a request for pre-lodgement consultation for this project. I can't advise on whether to seek advice from the expert below. The Fast-track timeframes are tight and planning ahead, as you are, sounds very sensible to me.

I am not sure I am being helpful however in short, I think this is not about whether to seek the expert input, but more on how to pay for it.

The things you need to consider is how we cost recover under Fast-track and what if the applicant doesn't file the application and it doesn't enter the Fast-track process. The process for this is on our website [Fast-track: Permissions](#). Once this process is initiated, we can cost recover, for all pre-lodgement work completed by DOC.

Once an applicant has requested pre-lodgement consultation (via forms on the website) we can start recovering costs, alternative is the cost of the expert is covered from other budgets. I know other areas of BHV have set up contracts with specialist they think they

may require input from, at short notice, so that once required under Fast-track they can access these resources easily.

Let me know if I can help further.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith (she/her)

Fast-track Applications Manager

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: Kim Morgan <kmorgan@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Friday, 21 February 2025 9:06 am

To: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Mining at Bendigo

Morena Jenna

Just sending this to the fast track email and will discuss with Susan the FT Applications Manager and get back to you.

Kim

From: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2025 11:40 am

To: Kim Morgan <kmorgan@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Mining at Bendigo

Kia ora Kim,

Just touching base with you RE all things Bendigo and Santana,

I have been working with Santana at the district level for the last few years.

At the district level we have considered and provided approvals under the conservation covenant for exploration work. As well as minimum impact activities on the neighbouring PCL.

Given the ongoing work and some of the exploration activities (separate to fast track) that are occurring our Heritage Advisor Matt Schmidt would like to get some further heritage survey work undertaken (see down a few emails).

However, the district is conscious of other things at play- so would like to seek your advice on this in advance of organising anything.

Let me know what you think- or give me a bell to discuss.

Cheers,

Jenna

From: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 20 February 2025 11:18 am

To: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Mining at Bendigo - being prepared re: defending heritage values in Covenant areas

Thanks all, I agree with both – expert external advice on the heritage values in relation to continued exploration and, given the potential for fastrack, that any work we commission is managed closely with that team.

JR, great to get your advice on this.

Charlie Sklenar (she/her)

Operations Manager Central Otago | Pou Matarautaki

Wānaka Mount Aspiring National Park | Tititea

Phone: +64 s.9(2)(a)

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From: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 3:27 pm

To: Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Mining at Bendigo - being prepared re: defending heritage values in Covenant areas

Thanks Matt,

I think it would be best if we checked this approach with the DOC fast track team, to avoid any crossovers.

/look like we are trying to assess a fast track application that hasn't yet come in.

Happy to have thoughts of others

J

From: Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 19 February 2025 3:01 pm

To: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Mining at Bendigo - being prepared re: defending heritage values in Covenant areas

Kia ora all

I have been looking over the locations that Santana mining will likely focus on for their future mining and more extensive drilling.

9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

Thoughts?

Na

Matt



Dr Matthew Schmidt

Senior Heritage Advisor | Kaitohu Matua Taonga Tuku Iho

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Ōtepoti | Dunedin Office, Level 1, John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street, Dunedin

Ph. [**s.9\(2\)\(a\)**](tel:s.9(2)(a)) | Email mschmidt@doc.govt.nz | doc.govt.nz

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From: [Susan Smith](#)
To: [Siobhan Quayle](#)
Cc: [Gen](#); [Joanne Dixon](#); [Grace Masterton](#)
Subject: RE: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project
Date: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 10:36:57 am
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image004.jpg](#)
[image005.png](#)

Hi Siobhan

Grace has checked and the payment hasn't been received yet. We will send an email today to remind them we have sent the invoice are waiting on payment and once we receive this we will assign a Project Lead and be in touch re next steps.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith ([she/her](#))
Fast-track Applications Manager
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: Susan Smith
Sent: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 10:12 am
To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Gen [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[REDACTED]>; Joanne Dixon <jdixon@doc.govt.nz>; Grace Masterton <gmasterton@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Kia ora Siobhan

Gen is sick today so not available.

Update on this project

We have received a request for pre-lodgement consultation on this project and sent them the Cost Estimate to commence our engagement. A project Lead has not been assigned – all communication to date has been with Grace on

- Obtaining the project description
- New customer form
- Invoicing for the cost recovery estimate payment

Once they have paid the cost recovery estimate a Project Lead will be assigned. Looking at the workloads this is likely to be Gen however it will depend on when they pay the cost recovery and if Gen is back in this work this week as she also has leave at the end of the week.

Below is a link to the project description they have provided.

 [BOGP Project Description - AEE - 20 Feb 25 DOC FTA Consultation.pdf](#)

I will get Grace to check if the payment has come in today and let you know.

Ngā mihi

Susan Smith ([she/her](#))

Fast-track Applications Manager

Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 11 March 2025 9:23 am

To: Gen [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) >; Joanne Dixon <jdixon@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Susan Smith <susmith@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Importance: High

Hi Gen – are you the Bendigo project lead? I need to find a time for us to meet with [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) from EDS on it – was supposed to happen last week but slipped off my radar

Cheers

S

[@Joanne Dixon](#) can you please find me and Gen a time to pre-meet on approach and then a time with [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Thanks

Siobhan

From: [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@eds.org.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@eds.org.nz)>

Sent: Monday, 10 March 2025 9:39 pm

To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@eds.org.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@eds.org.nz)>; Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Excellent thanks all!

From: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>

Date: Monday, 10 March 2025 at 8:01 PM

To: [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@eds.org.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@eds.org.nz)>

Cc: [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@eds.org.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@eds.org.nz)>, Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Re: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Apologies [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) I had thought a meeting was being set up. I'll follow up when I am in the office in the morning

Siobhan

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [s.9\(2\)\(a\)](#) <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@eds.org.nz](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@eds.org.nz)>

Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 6:49:52 PM

To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@eds.org.nz>; Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Hi Siobhan,

Can you please advise when you're free to talk this week? There's a lot to discuss and quite a bit of action happening behind the scenes (it seems) that we'd like to get abreast of please.

[Port of Auckland resubmits fast-track application after little blue penguin setback | BusinessDesk](#)

Thanks

s.9(2)(a)

From: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@eds.org.nz>
Date: Tuesday, 4 March 2025 at 6:25 AM
To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Hi Siobhan,

Are you free for a chat this Friday?

s.9(2)(a)

From: Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>
Date: Monday, 3 March 2025 at 10:54 PM
To: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@eds.org.nz>, Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fw: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Can I suggest you catch up with Siobhan who is closer to the action?

Ngā mihi

Ruth

Ruth Isaac

s.9(2)(a)

From: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@eds.org.nz>
Sent: Monday, March 3, 2025 10:12:37 am
To: Ruth Isaac <risaac@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo gold mine & other FT project

Hi Ruth,

I trust you had a nice weekend.

Do you have 30mins next week to chat about FT projects? Keen to get an update on your engagement with the EPA and whether any progress has been made on Bendigo (experts engaged for review etc).

Ngā mihi

s.9(2)(a)

s.9(2)(a)



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From: [Marie Payne](#)
To: [Donna Shepard](#); [Aaron Fleming](#)
Cc: [FastTrackApplicationEnquiries](#)
Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request
Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 1:53:45 pm
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Kia ora Donna/Aaron,

Firstly, apologies if you have already seen a few emails relating to this flying around today. I understand John Roberts is on leave and we are trying to prepare for pre-lodgement consultation for the fast track application of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

The applicant has provided a couple of documents directly through to the fast-track team and I would like to start to co-ordinate the fast-track approach (acknowledging that there is lots of pre-existing information/knowledge). Our fast-track process is that we review the request from the applicant/receive a deposit, review docs and info provided and then establish a fast-track project team/context meeting.

As there is a high level of interest in this project and as the applicant has flagged an end of April lodgement date we are keen to get moving (noting though we have not yet received a deposit for pre-lodgement consultation alongside the request from the applicant).

Given the history of this project, it would be very helpful if you are able to suggest someone who is able to provide project history, a summary of recent engagement and who is aware of the critical issues DOC may focus on in this process, prior to establishing a wider context meeting. Given the tight timeframes involved with the fast-track projects it would be great if I could arrange a catch up with someone before the end of the week – potentially tomorrow?

Please feel free to call, my details are below.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Mobile: s.9(2)(a)



From: [Grace Masterton](#)
To: [Marie Payne](#)
Subject: RE: Bendigo Gold Mine
Date: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 2:18:00 pm
Attachments: [image001.jpg](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kia ora Marie,

Yes the applicant was made aware that the pre-lodgement consultation process will not proceed until the initial estimate cost recovery invoice has been paid.

Ngā mihi,

[Grace Masterton \(she/her\)](#)
Permissions Advisor
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

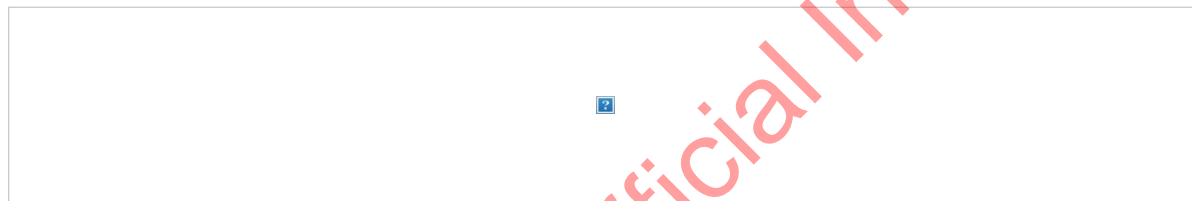
From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 2:03 pm
To: Grace Masterton <gmasterton@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Gold Mine

Thanks Grace, has any one made the applicant aware we don't start our process until payment is received?

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

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From: Grace Masterton <gmasterton@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 1:45 pm
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Gold Mine

Kia ora Marie,

Yes – those two docs are the only two we have received directly from ^{5.9.12/18} regarding this application.

The deposit remains unpaid as of 10 minutes ago. Will let you know when this changes.

Ngā mihi,

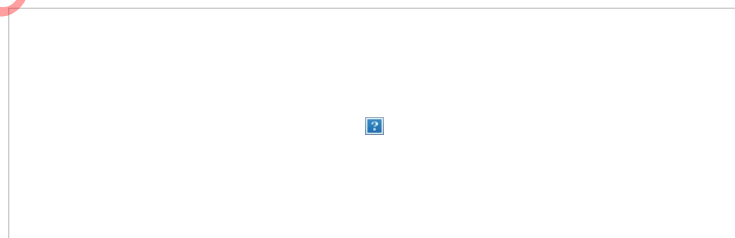
[Grace Masterton \(she/her\)](#)
Permissions Advisor
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 1:25 pm
To: Grace Masterton <gmasterton@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo Gold Mine

Hey Grace,

Just want to double check as I dig into this FT project – I can only find two docs sent by the application e.g the AEE one in teams and the pre-lodgement consultation form.

Nothing from Susan as well they haven't paid deposit – just want to check to see if that has changed?



Kind regards,

Marie

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

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From: Marie Payne
To: John Roberts; Jenna Sinclair
Cc: FastTrackApplicationsEnquiries
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request
Date: Wednesday, 16 April 2025 6:44:32 pm
Attachments: image001.jpg
image002.png
image003.png

Hi John,

It has been a very busy time so apologies for not getting in touch again sooner. Just to update that the applicant has only since informed us they are working on providing us with more information to inform pre-lodgement consultation (they said the next couple of weeks last week).

Until we have this we can't do too much more. I am on leave for a week but if you need any further info please email the fast track team cc'd in.

Kind regards,

Marie

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143
www.doc.govt.nz



From: Marie Payne
Sent: Friday, 28 March 2025 3:53 pm
To: John Roberts; Jenna Sinclair
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request
Kia ora John,

Firstly, huge apologies for my delayed reply here, it's been a very busy week, and I am just going through my emails.

It would be great to give you a call next week say hello and give you a brief update – I spoke to the applicant earlier in the week, nothing much has changed but I have reiterated that we need more detail about their proposal - the applicant has also now paid their pre-lodgement consultation deposit.

Jenna has provided some excellent information to date (all the best with your travels if we don't touch base again), as we haven't been provided with any application documents, we have not had anything further to share yet.

I'll arrange a call for early next week – any questions in the interim please let me know.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne
Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
Mobile: s.9(2)(a)



From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 25 March 2025 10:18 am
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Hi Marie – just touching base with you now that I am back on deck; and noting Jenna is on short-time now before she heads away, which by the way is a great pity for us!

So good to have you appointed for this mahi.

It looks like Jenna has provided a lot of good info below.

FYI - See also attached for links to the values information we currently hold, and some other context including those who have worked on this previously.

As Jenna notes, there are two live phases at present – the upcoming FT that you are leading; plus their proposal for further exploratory works being handled locally.

To answer your query below if because of Part 3 Schedule 6 (Conservation Covenants) of the FTAA and wondered if what they are seeking will align with all of those requirements e.g. Clause (g) If the covenant was granted in favour of a local authority or other body under section 77 of the RA the written consent of that local authority or other body is required) under. Will be an interesting area to get further advice on.

- This is moot really as the covenant is specific - MOC approval is required for any exploration or mining on or under the land.

I look forward (?) to this as it rolls out....

JR

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 13 March 2025 12:20 pm
To: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Thanks so much for your time and knowledge Jenna.

I was just in the process of summarising, but I think you have captured this largely below. I have updated the context doc following our meeting and have drafted the attached comms to the applicant (if you wouldn't mind flicking your eye over this – it would be much appreciated). [Pre-lodgement Context Document.docx](#)

The next step will be establishing a DOC project team – but I think we will need further info from the client before we can do that with much value.

I was having a quick look at the requirements of Part 3 Schedule 6 (Conservation Covenants) of the FTAA and wondered if what they are seeking will align with all of those requirements e.g. Clause (g) If the covenant was granted in favour of a local authority or other body under section 77 of the RA the written consent of that local authority or other body is required) under. Will be an interesting area to get further advice on.

Thanks again,

Marie

Marie Payne
Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Mobile: s.9(2)(a)

From: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Thursday, 13 March 2025 11:26 am

To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Kia ora Marie,

Thanks for your time,

Good timing with me drafting handover notes- here is some of the info discussed, let me know if I can supply anything further.

Jenna

Contacts:

Richard Ewans (Technical Advisor) has carried out several site visits assessing botanical values, and is familiar with assessing spring annual habitat (threatened plant species).

Matt Schmidt (Senior Heritage Advisor) has assessed heritage values.

John Roberts (Stat Manager) has history of the site and approvals granted.

Pene Williams (legal) has worked on the district with covenant approvals.

Ceri Warnock (legal) also has familiarity with the covenant through a separate RMA process (subdivision application)

Liz Williams (RMA) was the planner on the subdivision application, so is also familiar with the covenant.

Letters of Authority:

[2024 DOC-7821364](#)

[2023 DOC-7264800](#)

[2022 DOC-7183973](#)

[2021 DOC-6786520](#)

[2019 DOC-5708418](#)

[2017 DOC-3193176](#)

Current happenings

• **Tranche 2**

Background:

Bendigo Station

Bendigo Station was originally a pastoral lease (area owned by the Crown), this land went through tenure review.

Tenure review was a voluntary process that gave lessees an opportunity to buy land capable of economic use, while land with conservation values was protected and restored to full Crown ownership as conservation land.

The Bendigo Station tenure review was concluded over 1993 and 1994.

It is understood that John Perriam was generally supportive of the Crown's desire to protect areas of conservation significance within the then Bendigo Station and reached an agreement with the Crown, in cooperation with Landcorp, DOC and the newly reformed Central Otago District Council, to establish a range of conservation areas, conservation covenants and to enable public access.

Conservation Covenant – recent copy attached

- Established between the MOC and the Perriam Family (Bendigo Station) in 2001. The objectives of the covenant relate to protecting the heritage and ecological and landscape values of the site.
- The covenant sets out clauses related to what can occur on site.
- The Rise and Shine area of the covenant is host to particularly valuable heritage values and has higher levels of protection for this reason.
- Covenant monitoring: Photo point monitoring carried out yearly (however there is some gaps) [DOC-2793613](#)

Covenant Variation – Rise and Shine area

- It was identified in 2022 there had been authorities granted by DOC that allowed for tracking within the rise and shine on the basis these tracks were temporary. There were two issues with this;
 - The Covenant specifies no tracks are to be created through the rise and shine area.
 - The definition of temporary was never set. So these tracks have essentially been permanent, a number of them are yet to be rehabilitated.
- To resolve this issue, the Department and Bendigo station went through the process of varying the covenant, the covenant now states;
 - Temporary tracking can be carried out subject to a restoration and enhancement plan.
 - Note. This only applies to the Rise and Shine area- not the covenant as a whole.

PCL

- There are several patches of PCL surrounding the farm which are host to a variety of ecological and heritage sites of significance.
- Santana have been granted MIA (Minimum impact activity) permissions for this area.

Special Grazing Lease

- There is a special grazing lease over the covenant held by the Perriam family, I don't know much of the detail for this- but just an FYI.

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 2:49 pm

To: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Kia ora Jenna

Thanks for the prompt response. I will put a catch up in your diary now. I will also share the team's folder with you where the info they have provided so far has been provided.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Mobile: s.9(2)(a)

From: Jenna Sinclair <jsinclair@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 March 2025 2:31 pm
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Kia ora Marie,

Aaron has flicked this on to me,

I've been pretty heavily involved with Santana/Matakanui gold at the District level.

I'm free tomorrow between 10-12 and 1-3pm,

Jenna

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 1:53:43 pm
To: Donna Shepard <dshepard@doc.govt.nz>; Aaron Fleming <afleming@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - DOC contact request

Kia ora Donna/Aaron,

Firstly, apologies if you have already seen a few emails relating to this flying around today. I understand John Roberts is on leave and we are trying to prepare for pre-lodgement consultation for the fast track application of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

The applicant has provided a couple of documents directly through to the fast-track team and I would like to start to co-ordinate the fast-track approach (acknowledging that there is lots of pre-existing information/knowledge). Our fast-track process is that we review the request from the applicant/receive a deposit, review docs and info provided and then establish a fast-track project team/context meeting.

As there is a high level of interest in this project and as the applicant has flagged an end of April lodgement date we are keen to get moving (noting though we have not yet received a deposit for pre-lodgement consultation alongside the request from the applicant).

Given the history of this project, it would be very helpful if you are able to suggest someone who is able to provide project history, a summary of recent engagement and who is aware of the critical issues DOC may focus on in this process, prior to establishing a wider context meeting. Given the tight timeframes involved with the fast-track projects it would be great if I could arrange a catch up with someone before the end of the week – potentially tomorrow?

Please feel free to call, my details are below.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Mobile: **s.9(2)(a)**



From: [John Roberts](#)
To: [Marie Payne](#); [Pauline Marshall](#)
Cc: [Charlie Sklar](#)
Subject: DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP
Date: Monday, 19 May 2025 10:01:54 am
Attachments: [image002.jpg](#)
[image003.png](#)

Thanks Marie – good to know.

From our end - pretty sure you know this but just in case - in parallel and outside of their FT package, **tranche 2**

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

WRT that, and for our upcoming response to their FT package - am just looping in Pauline who has come back on board to this work at this end.

Thanks

JR
John Roberts
Pou Ture Whenua, Statutory Manager
Southern South Island Region
Department of Conservation

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 9:02 am
To: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP

Hey John,

FYI the response below from **s.9(2)(a)**

Kind regards,

Marie

On behalf of the Fast Track Applications team
Te Papa Atawhai | Department of Conservation

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 - 32 Manners St | PO Box 10 420, Wellington 6143

www.doc.govt.nz



From: **s.9(2)(a)** <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@santanaminerals.com](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com)>
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 8:35 am
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP

Good morning Marie,

You have been on my mind! Indeed, the submission date has been pushed back until June (late) and we are crazy busy as you could imagine.

We are just about ready to send through the information you requested. It has taken longer than I planned but we are nearly there.

Many thanks for checking in, I will be in touch.

cheers

s.9(2)(a)
Environment Manager
M: **s.9(2)(a)** <[s.9\(2\)\(a\)@santanaminerals.com](mailto:s.9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com)>

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 19 May 2025 8:26 am
To: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@santanaminerals.com>
Subject: RE: DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected email.

Hi Mary,

It has been a few weeks since we last caught up so I just wanted to check in, in relation to the below. Previously I understood you were working on providing some further information which was specific to the DOC approvals being sought.

I note that the intended lodgement date initially provided was the 29th of April, so also wondered if you were working towards a revised target lodgement date.

Happy to set up a meeting/discuss further and answer any questions etc...

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne
Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
Mobile: s.9(2)(a) [REDACTED]



From: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries
Sent: Wednesday, 19 March 2025 4:00 pm
To: s.9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@santanaminerals.com>
Subject: DOC Pre-lodgement consultation request BOGP

Kia ora s.9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Thank you for the pre-lodgement consultation request submitted. I (Marie Payne) will be the DOC fast track application lead for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

I have reviewed the information provided to date and request and to move forward it would be helpful if you could provide some more information around the fast-track proposal.

- Specific detail around each permission/activity for which an approval is being sought from DOC e.g. a Wildlife Approval would need to be specific to species and activity. Concessions should detail specific activity/location etc...
- Background information to support that approval e.g. draft application documents/external assessments and reports
- Identification of any requests/application currently underway with the permissions team/local office

Without more specific further information we would be unable to provide feedback in relation to the DOC approvals being sought.

I acknowledge that you have been working with our local office previously for different approvals. As a fast-track request, I will be co-ordinating DOC's response to all of the approvals/permissions you identify as part of the fast-track application.

Our financial team has also noted no consultation deposit had not been received as of late last week, if you are able to progress this to enable us to proceed when further information is received that would be very helpful. If you have already, please confirm and I can follow up.

I am on leave tomorrow but happy to give you a call and walk through DOC's fast track process/answer any questions you may have at this point (my details are below).

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne
Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
Mobile: s.9(2)(a) [REDACTED]



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