

[REDACTED]
fyi-request-32097-
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03 November 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai
Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street,
PO Box 10420,
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz

Ref: OIAD-5593

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 25 August 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 4 open cast mines, underground mine, industrial cyanide processing plant, permanent waste tailings dam, engineered land forms and miners caravan park 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 July 19, 2025 until present day.*

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

On 19 September 2025, we extended the timeframe for responding to your request to 17 October 2025, due to the substantial volume of information sought and the time required to compile a response. On 17 October, you were advised that decision on your request had been made, but additional time was needed to finalise material for release.

Santana Minerals is required to provide certain materials to the Department during the pre-application phase for assessment. Some of the reports submitted are highly technical and contain commercially sensitive information. In the interest of transparency, high-level summaries of selected reports have been prepared and are being released under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA.

The Department must carefully balance the release of official information with the need to preserve Santana's ability to complete and lodge an application. Our intention is to avoid prejudicing that process.

The summaries, along with the remaining information within scope of your request (including correspondence and additional documents), are listed in the document schedule below and attached as Appendix A. Where applicable, email attachments are included beneath the relevant email chain, unless they are addressed elsewhere in the document, have been withheld in full, or have already been provided or declined in response to previous requests covering the same subject matter.

Some information in the material provided is withheld under 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.

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.

Please note that email chains previously provided in earlier correspondence have been excluded from this instalment to avoid unnecessary duplication and review.

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	19 July to 25 August 2022	Email correspondence	Partial release
2	14 August 2025	Word document: <i>Technical Expert Assessment – Darcy Liddell – Permissions Ad</i>	Partial release
3	22 August 2025	Word document: <i>Fastrack - Matt Schmidt review of heritage assessments</i>	Partial release
4	24 August 2025	Word document: <i>MEMO - Fast Track – FTA107 – Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project – freshwater advice – N Dunn 240825 - DOC-10432564</i>	Partial release
5	Various dates	Technical report summaries	Summary