

Not in scope

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 5:45 pm
To: Will Young <wyoung@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Media request - exploration permits - Santana-Bendigo

Hi Will - meant to cc you in

JR

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 5:45 pm
To: Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>; Vicky Waddon <viwaddon@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Pauline Marshall <pamarshall@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Media request - exploration permits - Santana-Bendigo

Hi Siobhan –

The enquiry from the ODT is :

Kia ora,

We know that Doc has turned down Santana Minerals or its subsidiary for further permissions to explore for gold in the areas of Bendigo and Ardgour stations in central otago within a) conservation covenanted land and b) conservation land, after earlier permissions were granted.

*Can you please give us an up to date statement on **what has been turned down and when and why**, noting the information already in the public domain on this matter, which you are aware of due to OIA requests.*

Deadline - end of tomorrow (wednesday 10)

For a reply tonight as sought from up the line, see below.

Some context is that we have been withholding information sought via OIA requests wrt the latest (SRX) exploration proposal (eg. that they withdrew) because they are to wrap that into their Fast Track application, which they viewed as commercially sensitive until such time as their FT application is made public.

So somewhere along the line we may have released an email noting the history of this one – the ODT has seen something to this effect.

Hi Vicky – just to have our own visibility of things, are you able to help here with confirming we did release something as described above? Perhaps it was in one of those summaries of emails rather than anything in substantive form - Thanks

In the meantime we need to make a response to the ODT, which states more accurately that:

- *Following engagement with DOC, Santana withdrew their most recent application for further exploration works in the Bendigo covenant area. We have not received an application for exploration activity on conservation land in the Bendigo area*

Thanks

JR

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

Sent: Monday, 28 July 2025 4:54 pm

To: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Pauline Marshall <pamarshall@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: FYI - Santana - withdrawal of SRX Resource Drilling Application

A well-managed response, thanks very much team
Siobhan

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

Sent: Monday, 28 July 2025 4:46 pm

To: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Pauline Marshall <pamarshall@doc.govt.nz>; Siobhan Quayle <squayle@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FYI - Santana - withdrawal of SRX Resource Drilling Application

Kia ora koutou – see attached reply from Santana re-their BAU SRX application.

At the end 9(2) notes:

MGL acknowledges DOCs position on the SRX Resource Drilling proposal and requests that the application be withdrawn. This work will be included in the Fast-Track process. Thank you for your time in preparing your response to MGL and we look forward to working with DOC into the future.

Thanks very much for your help everyone to bring this part to a conclusion.

Hi Marie – I see that s9(2)(a) must be taking over from s9(2)(a) Is there anything you seek at this time wrt the FT process that I could helpfully introduce in my very brief reply back to s9(2)(a)

Hi Pauline – any development with s9(2)(a) wrt the newly proposed, yet to be defined exploration works in the Bendigo Historic Reserve?

Ngā mihi

JR

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 11:39 am
To: Nicholas Dunn; Rogan Colbourne; Warren Chinn; Carl Jones; Darcy Liddell; Liz Williams; Pene Williams; John Roberts; Matt Schmidt; Clare Fleming; Debbie Lewis; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE; Mandy Tocher
Cc: Richard Ewans
Subject: RE: Bendigo Weekly Catch Up - Project Team

Hi all,

Just a friendly reminder to log all your time spent on this project (n/a to external consultants). Any issues/questions with this please reach out.

Kind regards,

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 8:08 am
To: Marie Burton; Nicholas Dunn; Rogan Colbourne; Warren Chinn; Carl Jones; Darcy Liddell; Liz Williams; Pene Williams; John Roberts; Matt Schmidt; Clare Fleming; Debbie Lewis; s9(2)(a); Mandy Tocher
Cc: Richard Ewans
Subject: Bendigo Weekly Catch Up - Project Team
When: Thursday, 11 September 2025 11:00 am-11:40 am (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hey,

Just moving this reoccurrence from 12pm, every week I will aim to send out an update and mini agenda prior to the meeting so that it peoples time is utilised as efficiently as possible.

Kind regards,

Marie

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

s9(2)(k)

Dial in by phone

s9(2)(k)

For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)



Department of Conservation

Te Papa Atawhai

[Org help](#) | [Privacy and security](#)

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:33 am
To: Nicholas Dunn; Rogan Colbourne; Warren Chinn; Carl Jones; Darcy Liddell; Liz Williams; Pene Williams; John Roberts; Matt Schmidt; Clare Fleming; Debbie Lewis; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE; Mandy Tocher
Cc: Richard Ewans
Subject: RE: Bendigo Weekly Catch Up - Project Team
Attachments: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hey all,

Just a quick summary of agenda for todays meeting, I imagine it will be a shorter meeting.

General updates

-

- More information provided by the applicant on proposal as per Sally's email yday (attached)
- Working on collating feedback for applicant – ongoing and will circulate ASAP to make sure experts happy with our summary back to the applicant prior to providing it

Concessions/Access arrangements

- Providing feedback on some concessions application information they have provided
- We also need to look at the specific effects of the proposed activity – however I will flag this with the applicant first as they have to provide this information as part of their application. May be a bit of work here for our experts to look at the concession/access arrangement activities and evaluate the specific effects of them activities on Wildlife/Biodiversity/Heritage/Recreation perspective (i.e. moving a track, construction, removing willow trees).

Meetings

Applicant has asked for a meeting with our project ecologists (wildlife) – see times and dates suggested below, have also asked them to confirm scope – can the Wildlife Advisors let me know what will work for them?

Monday 22nd September- anytime between 11am and 4pm
Tuesday 23 September - midday- onwards
Wednesday 24 September- anytime between 10am and 3pm
Thursday 25 September - any time after 10am
Friday 26 September any time after 10am

Engagement with councils

- Seeking to set up a meeting ASAP
- Some key conversations will be – areas of mutual interest/freshwater & landscape assessments

Biodiversity – sub meeting

- Have set this up starting next week – idea will be that we discuss technical detail in this meeting and then can bring key points to the group meeting – lets see how this works as we go

Recreation advisor

- I have requested – capacity an issue so just working through this

Any questions please let me know.

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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From: Marie Burton

Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 8:08 am

To: Marie Burton; Nicholas Dunn; Rogan Colbourne; Warren Chinn; Carl Jones; Darcy Liddell; Liz Williams; Pene Williams; John Roberts; Matt Schmidt; Clare Fleming; Debbie Lewis; s9(2)(a) Mandy Tocher

Cc: Richard Ewans

Subject: Bendigo Weekly Catch Up - Project Team
When: Thursday, 11 September 2025 11:00 am-11:40 am (UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington.
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hey,

Just moving this reoccurrence from 12pm, every week I will aim to send out an update and mini agenda prior to the meeting so that it peoples time is utilised as efficiently as possible.

Kind regards,

Marie

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

s9(2)(k)



Dial in by phone

s9(2)(k)



For organizers: [Meeting options](#) | [Reset dial-in PIN](#)



Department of Conservat
Te Papa Atawhai

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From: John Roberts
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 4:23 pm
To: Meg Embleton-Muir
Cc: Marie Payne; Sally Clarkson
Subject: Rec Values - FW: In confidence - Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now - includes brief legal comments
Attachments: Draft DOC Concession and Conditions for Access Route to CIT Battery (5 Sept 2025).docx; Draft DOC Concession and Conditions for Ardgour Rise (5 Sept 2025).docx; Draft DOC Concession and Conditions for SH8 and Ardgour Road Intersection (5 Sept 2025).docx; Draft DOC Concession and Conditions for Willow Clearance (5 Sept 2025).docx; RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now ; Bendigo Station CRR - Application for exchange of property rights - 1993.pdf; Bendigo Station Conservation Covenant.pdf

Hi Meg – thanks for joining the team - see the 4 x concession proposals – the CIT Battery and the new road to Thomsons Saddle being the key ones where rec values come in.

See Matt Schmidt's feedback attached about the CIT proposal

There may be a recent Santana produced Rec Values report (that considers the wider covenant area for which we will be making comment on also) to support their FT application that is available for our viewing – Sally or Marie best placed to point you at that if this is the case.

See the PDF attached that is the original summary of values at Bendigo that informed the early version of tenure review back in the 1990's. There is mention of rec values on pages 13-14. Although very dated in some ways perhaps not much has changed – the values associated with the access provided by the Thomsons Gorge road – 4WD access over Thomsons Saddle and access to the surrounding conservation areas for heritage appreciation (including on Bendigo Station as allowed for in the covenant especially in the Rise and Shine Area) walking etc

JR

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 12:37 pm
To: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Tracey Grose <tgrose@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: In confidence - Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now - includes brief legal comments

Hi both – see these draft proposals from Santana for activity they seek on pcl in the Bendigo area

- Changing the access to the Come In Time Battery to go through the Bendigo Historic Reserve
- Changing the alignment of the Thomsons Gorge Road from the valley to move it to the north via Ardgour Station s9(2)(b)(ii)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

- Willow removal through the Bendigo Historic Reserve and associated MS of the Bendigo Creek

Only received this midday yesterday, so things are moving at pace with our initial (high level) feedback to be back with the applicant ideally on Friday.

See comments already below from me and Pene.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Any thoughts on the CIT track realignment ? (see my comments below)

High level feedback at this time – eg anything that necessarily precludes what they seek or values so high they have a problem?

Thanks

JR

From: Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 6:03 pm

To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now - brief legal comments

Kia ora Marie rāua ko Carl,

s9(2)(h)

As indicated by my auto reply message, I am trying to focus on my major piece of work due Friday, and I won't look at this again unless there is something specific you point me to with a specific request.

Kind regards/ Kā mihi,
Pene

Pene Williams ([she / her](#))

Senior Solicitor | Rōia Matua – Legal Services | Ngā Ratonga Ture
Dunedin | Ōtepoti Office

s9(2)(a)

Level 1, John Wickliffe House | 265 Princes Street | Dunedin | P O Box 5244 | Dunedin 9054

www.doc.govt.nz



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

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 5:18 pm

To: Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>


Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: FW: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now

Hi all,

Thanks for your email below John and for getting on to this so quickly. I have gone back to confirm to the applicant we are working on it and may not be Friday but will respond ASAP.

Review of concessions info provided by applicant

- Carl, Sally has been reconciling this newly provide info  [Draft Proposal Documents](#) with your earlier feedback note the concessions word docs and the references in the proposal documents – we can discuss this further tomorrow
- I am happy to go back to the applicant and advise that we can't comment on the conditions without a full draft application? As you will see from the link the information provided is a bit piece meal and spread across different sources (high-level feedback might be a good start though)

- **s9(2)(h), s9(2)(ba)(i)**

s9(2)(h), s9(2)(ba)(i)
We spoke to Ceri about a similar issue which cropped up with an easement for telecoms/electricity in the **Not in scope** – and we thought this wasn't enabled by FTAA)?

- The mandatory/standard conditions have been signed off but internal and external comms not completed so they haven't been 'rolled out' it would be good to assess how these conditions relate to those suggested by the applicant to though Carl – have attached current work for reference

Other

- s9(2)(h)

-

- John, I note your reference to Fish and Game Council – they (and the Game Animal Council) are invited to comment on substantive application in relation to the covenant, concession and wildlife approvals as part of the process once lodged. We can proactively advise the applicant of this (and potentially the F&G council noting might be limitations to information about the application we can share.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Mobile s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 12:24 pm

To: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Tracey Grose <tgrose@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now

Hi Charlie/Tracey/Matt

Hi Marie – FYI

See these 4 x concession proposals that the applicant is seeking a quick turn-around (by this Friday) of our comments.

These concessions would be a part of their FT application and outcomes of it

Comments from me :

1. Realignment of the CIT battery access track

- s9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]
- s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- Charlie/Tracey/Matt – what are the opportunities we should be looking for here?

2. s9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]

- s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- Values are freshwater and managing disturbance to s9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]
- we would want to have Santana talk to Otago Fish and Game who have a high interest in this location for fisher people access to the Lindis River). How will that access be affected ?

3. Realigning the road to Thomsons Saddle

- s9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]
- s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
- s9(2)(ba)(i) [REDACTED]
- Who maintains this new road running through pcl over the long term? - no mention of that in the material given
- Effects of road construction – reveg programme etc
- Is there a grazing permit on the Ardgour CA ?

4. Willow removal along Bendigo Creek

- Sounds good but why are they doing this?
- Are there Fish and Game interests in this creek? Santana should ask this when they talk to F&G about the set down area by the Lindis River as above.
- Are there indigenous fish interests in this creek – if so is there the opportunity for enhancement of these values – while willow clearance seems a good first step, what is it

that is trying to be achieved by this activity? We need quick/basic freshwater advice on this. s9(2)(q)(i)

JR

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 11:03 am

To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)

@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>

Subject: Draft concessions and conditions

Hi Marie, Jenni,

As promised, please see attached our various draft DOC concessions and conditions relating to our fast track application. Our planners have left a gap for DOC's standard terms and conditions.

If possible, can you please provide any review comments back to us by COB Friday 12th September.

Many thanks,

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act


From: Matt Schmidt
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 3:41 pm
To: John Roberts; Charlie Sklenar; Tracey Grose
Cc: Marie Burton
Subject: RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl to come out of FT - our chance for pre-app comment on these now
Attachments: DN_SO_834__I_1_931209_O.JPG;
DN_SO_1202__I_1_326003_O.JPG

Kia ora

Feedback below.

1. **Access to Come in Time Battery** (see map below from DOC GIS showing heritage and track values and assets being managed) s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)



s9(2)(ba)(i)

2. s9(2)(ba)(i)

a. No heritage issues.

3. Realigning the road to Thomsons Saddle

a. No heritage issues other than to check if the 19th century surveyors iron pipe (IP) on Survey Plans SO 1202 & SO 834 (attached) at location "4" on their Schedule 4 map is still there. If so, just avoid (note that although the NZ Geodetic database may show no point there, this often only means it has been removed from their system for modern use and the feature may still be there). ADP below can then be used.

4. Willow removal along Bendigo Creek s9(2)(g)(i)

a. What is the purpose?

b. s9(2)(g)(i)

Na
Matt

The Red bits are filled out by whoever is involved.
Accidental Discovery Protocol (ADP) for Cultural Heritage on Public Conservation Land & Water

The Department of Conservation is responsible for all cultural heritage discoveries on public conservation land and water. It is also responsible for contacting the appropriate parties for any discovery.

[The CONTRACTOR NAME or "DOC staff"] must take all reasonable care to avoid any cultural heritage values on the Land and/or in the Water which includes (but is not limited to) archaeological sites, historic heritage sites, koiwi/burials, artefacts/taonga and protected New Zealand objects. For Māori cultural heritage values sites, evidence of a site may be in the form of shells, bone, charcoal, hangi stones exposed during earthworks or seen eroding out of a shoreline or riverbank, for example. Other features may include pits or low stone formations. Artefacts/taonga may be in the form of toki/adzes, fishhooks, flake tools, wooden/textile objects. Later sites of Pakeha or Chinese origin may be indicated by the presence of broken glass, crockery, clay pipes, slate, metal, match boxes, cutlery etc. and structural features built of rock, brick, concrete, and metal as well as features such as gold tailings, sluice faces, water races, dams, reservoirs. Burials/koiwi may be found from any period and from any ethnic group.

In the event that a suspected site, place, object or koiwi/burial of cultural origin is found during any work on the Land and/or in the Water, work must cease immediately, and advice must be sought from the [DOC LOCAL OFFICE] Office of the Department of Conservation. The discovery must be GPS'd and photographed in-situ showing close views of the cultural heritage find and showing surrounding views of the area for context. This recording is important to inform on management of the find. [The CONTRACTOR NAME or "DOC staff"] and [OPTIONAL] their contractors must not recommence work until permitted to do so by the Department of Conservation.

[DOC LOCAL OFFICE] Office of the Department of Conservation contact number [local office number]. Ask for either [try and add two people's names, preferably a person connected to the project e.g. heritage ranger, community ranger, and the Ops Manager].



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
s9(2)(a) Email mschmidt@doc.govt.nz | doc.govt.nz

Our vision is for New Zealand to be the greatest living space on Earth | Kāore he wāhi i tua atu i a Aotearoa, hei wahi noho i te ao



International Correspondent for the Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO

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

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 12:24 pm

To: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; Tracey Grose <tgrose@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt

<mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>

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- [REDACTED]

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JR

From s9(2)(a) @santanaminerals.com>

Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 11:03 am

To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @santanaminerals.com> s9(2)(a) @santanaminerals.com>

Subject: Draft concessions and conditions

Hi Marie, Jenni,

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If possible, can you please provide any review comments back to us by COB Friday 12th September.

Many thanks,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 4, 2025 10:43 AM
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: fast track update - Matakanui Gold Ltd

Thanks Marie, that would be great.

Yes, good idea about breaking the meetings down into key topics. We will have our planner join us for the covenant and concessions topics. Did you want to have three separate meetings, or one big one covering those three topics? Or two meetings covering conversation assessments etc. and then a second one for Covenant and concessions?

Let me know what is easier for your team once you've had a chance to discuss today,

Cheers

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, September 3, 2025 6:19 PM
To: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>; FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: fast track update - Matakanui Gold Ltd

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.

Thanks s9(2)(a)

I have a meeting with the project team tomorrow so will provide some dates after that.

It might be pragmatic to break meetings down into some key areas for efficiency.

1. Conservation assessments and wildlife approvals (biodiversity/heritage/recreation)
2. Covenant - Offsetting and compensation approach
3. Concessions

There will be some overlap between these areas but we know your thoughts.

Prior to the meetings we will aim to get some commentary to you informed by review of the assessments to date.

Kind regards,

Kind regards,

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: s9(2)(a) <[redacted]@santanaminerals.com>

Sent: Wednesday, 3 September 2025 1:19 pm

To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>

Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>;

FastTrackApplicationEnquiries <fasttrackapplicationenquiries@doc.govt.nz> s9(2)(a) <[redacted]@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a) <[redacted]@santanaminerals.com>

Subject: Re: fast track update - Matakanui Gold Ltd

Hi Marie, Jenni,

Thanks for your time last week. We talked about a meeting with DOC in the near future to update you on our application, and I think you were going to come back to me with some possible dates that might suit your team.

We are going to get one or two of our ecology experts (specifically around lizards) to join us on this, so they can talk to this subject in more depth.

s9(2)(a) and I will also be there to give a more general overview of the project.

Kind regards,

s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a) <[redacted]@santanaminerals.com>

Sent: Thursday, August 28, 2025 8:11 AM

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

Cc: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>;

FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz <fasttrackapplicationenquiries@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: fast track update - Matakanui Gold Ltd

Hi Marie,

I left you a voicemail yesterday but just wanted to follow up with an email also. Just wanting to keep you updated as things continue to progress with our fast-track

application.

We had a conditions workshop last week and are working our way through getting our draft conditions ready for distribution to relevant parties. We intend to have them sent through to you on the 8th of September, on a 'without prejudice' basis for high level feedback, by the 12th of September. We understand this only gives you a week, but please note, this is not intended to be a comprehensive review, but rather a very high-level to check to see if there is anything obvious that we have missed, from the Department of Conservation's perspective.

I would also like to tee up another meeting with you and your team once all our plans are confirmed, to run over the concessions that we will be applying for etc. I will touch base again when we have these ready.

Lastly, we have some more management plans that are ready to be shared with you, so please keep an eye on the shared folder - these should be coming over the next day or so.

Please let me know if you have any questions about any of this, or feel free to give me a call,

Kind regards,

s9(2)(a)

s9(2)(a)

Santana Minerals | Cromwell, NZ

s9(2)(a)

| W: www.santanaminerals.com



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

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 3:12 PM

To: s9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]@santanaminerals.com>

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

Subject: OIAD-5384 - Your views on the release of information under the Official Information Act

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 s9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]>

As you will be aware we have received on-going OIA requests in relation to the Bendigo Ophir Gold Fast-track project. Whilst we continue to manage and respond to these requests. When sharing new information with DOC as part of the pre-lodgement consultation process, it may support our consideration and response of future requests if you are able to:

- Clearly identify information that it provides to DOC which it considers is confidential (or where it considers other grounds for withholding exist), perhaps with a watermark.
- Equally, if you are not concerned about release of particular information, it would be helpful if that can be identified
- DOC can also agree to receive information from Bathurst on a 'confidential basis, except as the law requires

We appreciate the opportunity to review reports to date, and we are collating feedback on some of the relevant reports from a conservation perspective, I will be in touch about this shortly so we can discuss and progress.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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Released under the Official Information Act

PLAN OF
SECTION I BLOCK IX
LAUDER S. D.

Surveyed by T. G. Phillipps
February 1930

Scale Ten Chains to an Inch

I, Thomas George Philipps of Dunedin Registered Surveyor hereby certify that this plan has been made from surveys executed by me; that both plan and survey are correct and have been made in accordance with the rules of the Survey Board, dated the 25th day of January 1929. Dated at Dunedin this 29th day of August 1930.

I. F. Phillips
Registered Surveyor

$$\begin{array}{r} 3697 : 2 : 18 \\ R^D 53 : 2 : 18 \\ \hline 3644 : 0 : 00 \end{array}$$

BLOCK IX

BLOCK XI

BENDIGO - MATAKANUI ROAD 150 LKS WIDE UNFORMED

238^N

223°

File SGR582 N5

RECEIVED: 1 9 30
EXAMINED: *Wickburg* 25.9.30
TRAV. REDTH: 60 PAGE 62-65
FIELD BOOK: 1241 PAGE 6-20
REF. PLANS: 4 Leaflets 21-23 North Hill Road
24-25 Meltonville Road & L57

Index No 10625 Recorded S.S.

Index № 10625

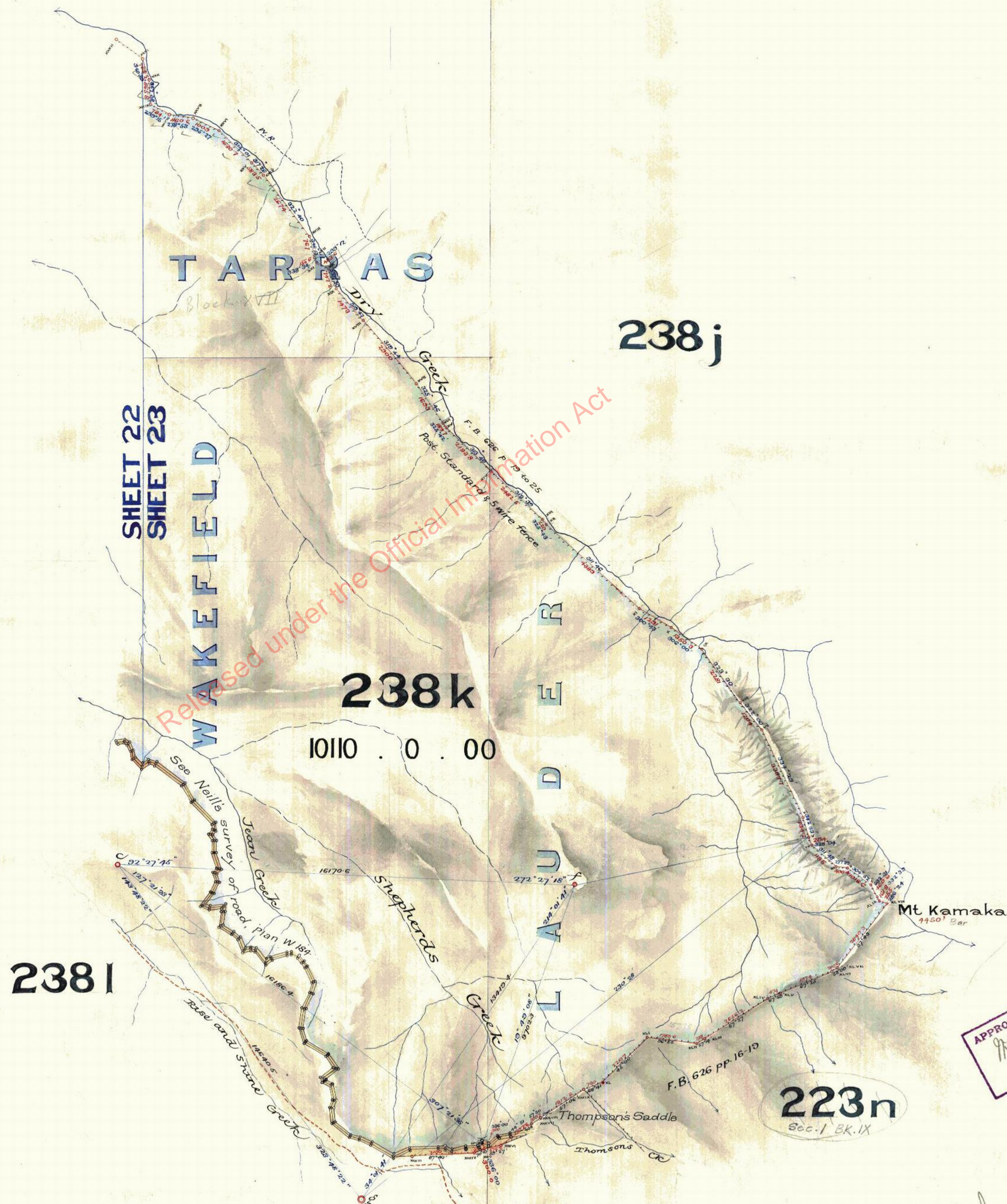
APPROVED *ED Meier*
for Chief Surveyor
25/9/30.

834

16

1202

1202



1202

RECEIVED 16.8.1912.
EXAMINED G.C.103 RVP
TRAV. DIST. None PAGE
FIELD BOOK 626 PAGE 16-25
W184 Sheet 3 Mafakani - Bendigo Road
Small Sheet 10 Wakefield
Wakefield Trig Map

MORVEN HILLS

Surveyed by D. Innes Barron D.S. 1909

Scale 20 chains to an inch

RUN 238k

1202

Sheet 23

DRAFT PROPOSAL TO
THE COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS
APPLICATION FOR EXCHANGE OF PROPERTY RIGHTS

Landcorp File:
Office of Crown Lands File:

P221\223

1st September 1993

APPLICATION:

1. To surrender pastoral leases Po221 and Po223 (Bendigo) from 1st January 1994.
2. To allocate approximately 1920 hectares to the Department of Conservation with provisions for grazing through a special lease issued under section 67 of the Land Act (1948).
3. To allocate approximately 1372 hectares to the Department of Conservation with no provisions for grazing.
4. To preferentially dispose of approximately 7992 hectares to the current lessees of Bendigo Station on freehold title.
5. To recognize that the Department of Conservation has negotiated conservation covenants over two areas of the proposed freehold to protect landscape and botanical values.
6. To recognize that the Department of Conservation has negotiated a conservation covenant over the entire freehold to protect historic mining sites.
7. To provide legal foot access at four locations.

LEASE:

Legal Description: P221 Part Run 238M Wakefield and Tarras Survey District.
P223 Section 32 Run 238L, Wakefield Survey District.

Area: P221 6189.7337 hectares.
P223 5094.5876 hectares.

Lease Details:

Tenure:	Pastoral Lease
Term:	33 years from 1 July 1992 (both leases)
Expiry:	30 June 2025
Rental Review:	1 July 2003
Rental Value:	P221 \$265,000 P223 \$270,000
Annual Rent:	P221 \$ 3,975 (1.5%) P223 \$ 4,050 (1.5%)

Crown Improvements: Nil

Stock Limitation in Lease

P221	2,695 sheep (inclusive of 880 breeding ewes) Approximately 2,150 su.
P223	2,118 sheep (inclusive of 660 breeding ewes) Approximately 1,680 su.

Personal Stock Limit: For the two leases run in conjunction with each other 13,000 sheep (including not more than 8,000 breeding ewes) plus 200 cattle and 100 game animals.

LESSEE: John Charles Perriam and Heather Lorna Perriam.

LOCATION: Bendigo Station is comprised of 2 Pastoral Leases. The base of the property runs parallel to State Highway 8 along the Clutha Valley floor. The top boundary is the summit of the Dunstan Range. The property is bounded by Northburn Station to the south, Matakanui to the east and Ardgour to the north. The homestead is approximately 16 km from Cromwell along State Highway 8.

OTHER LAND HELD: (FH and DPL lands total 339 hectares).

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

- (a). **Aspect** North to north east.
- (b). **Altitude** 200 - 1550m a s l.
- (c). **Contour** 21% steep.
59% moderate - rolling.
20% flat - gentle.
- (d). **Area Ploughable** 200 hectares.
- (e). **Rainfall** Nearby Cromwell's mean annual rainfall is 407mm - progressively rises towards top of Dunstan Range to approximately 800mm.
- (f). **How Watered** Most Blocks have natural water. Ardgour Block has bore water (with pump).
- (g). **Subdivision** Divided into 29 Blocks (including FH, DPL and LIP) flats further subdivided into paddocks.
- (h). **Snow Risk** Sunny aspect ensures rapid clearance.
- (i). **Summer/Winter Balance** The property contains a large area of winter country which is extremely drought prone throughout the growing season.
- (j). **Shelter** Adequate natural shelter.
- (k). **Reversion** Extensive areas of kanuka at lower altitudes are gradually thickening and spreading. Briar abundant over lower warm slopes, thick in some gullies. Spaniard is dominant in the lower blue tussock/short tussock zone.
- (l). **Erosion** Wind, sheet and gully erosion wide spread on lower property. Middle altitude is predominantly stable. Wind, sheet, gully and land slip erosion with extensive frost heave occur at high altitude. Shady faces generally better covered and more stable.
- (m). **Weeds & Pests** Kanuka gradually spreading and thickening. Briar thick in gullies. Aciphylla dominant in a zone above the AOSTD area. Tussock hawkweed very common on shady faces in Upper Devils block and in Upper Castle Block. Other weeds present are horehound, gorse, wilding conifers, wild thyme, cotton thistle, oriental clematis, hawthorn and broom. Goats common in the upper Devils Creek area. Pigs are present. Very serious rabbit problem on the lower country.

(n). Soils**Soils of Steeplands:**

Brown Grey Earth	-	Alexandra Steepland
Yellow Grey Earth	-	Arrow Steepland
Yellow Brown Earth	-	Dunstan Steepland

Soils of Hills and Rolling Lands:

Brown Grey Earth	-	Conroy Hill
Yellow Grey Earth	-	Blackstone Hill
Yellow Brown Earth	-	Carrick Hill

Soils of Terraces:

Brown Grey Terrace	-	Clyde
	-	Lowburn
	-	Molyneux
	-	Linnburn
	-	Tarras
	-	Fraser
	-	Galloway

Soils of Fans:

Brown Grey Terrace	-	Ardgour
	-	Lochar
	-	Waenga
	-	Blackmans

Soils of Moraines:	-	(moraine soils)
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(o). Land Use Capability

LUC Class	Area/Ha	% Property
III	257	2.3
IV	1449	12.9
V	334	3.0
VI	3531	31.4
VII	5432	48.2
VIII	<u>250</u>	<u>2.2</u>
	11253	100.0

(p). Cover (As of July 1990) -

P221

180 ha	Lucerne
160 ha	Lucerne, Cocksfoot mix.
60 ha	Cultivated area - unproductive due to rabbits.
150 ha	Kanuka scrub.
1000 ha	AOSTD in flatter mid altitude areas (good).
639 ha	AOSTD in lower dry areas - stressed.
200 ha	AOSTD next to native upper altitude blocks.
1400 ha	Lower native area very depleted.
<u>2400 ha</u>	Higher native country - ranges from strong blue tussock to very depleted.
6189 ha	

P223

5 ha	Boarder dyked, grass pastures, good cover depending on availability of water.
100 ha	Lucerne - average condition.
145 ha	Lucerne, cocksfoot mix - poor condition.
140 ha	Cultivated area, unproductive due to rabbits.
330 ha	Kanuka scrub.
1054 ha	AOSTD in flatter mid altitude areas (good).
1050 ha	AOSTD in lower dry areas - stressed.
410 ha	AOSTD next to native upper altitude blocks.
1050 ha	Lower native area - very depleted.
<u>800 ha</u>	Higher native country - ranges from strong blue tussock to very depleted.
5094 ha	

(q). General

Bendigo is one of the driest properties within the semi-arid lands region. The property's north - north east aspect accentuates the low annual rainfall. Cromwell only 16 kms away is New Zealand's second driest town and summer rainfall variability is greater than anywhere else in the country. The climate, aspect, topography and vegetation cover combine to make the property severely rabbit prone. Despite the rabbit problem Bendigo is one of the best known fine wool producers in New Zealand. The rabbit proneness has determined that 6789 ha of low and mid altitude country has been included in the Rabbit and Land Management Programme area. Bendigo would be a more financially robust enterprise without its most rabbit prone lands.

PRODUCTION:

Stock numbers increased from 10,500 su in 1981 to 15,000 su in 1988 in association with a comprehensive development programme. High rabbit numbers and unfavourable seasons have led to a 2,000 su reduction since this time.

Stock as at 30/6/91:

Sheep:	<u>Main Flock</u>	<u>Stud Flock</u>
	Ewe hoggets	3,000
	Wether hoggets	2,500
	2 Tooth ewes	1,800
	M.A ewes	5,700
	M.A wethers	<u>1,300</u>
		14,300
	Total Stock Units:	13,250

Performance:

Lambing: 95 %
 Wool per head: 4.0 kg
 Supplementary feed: 1,000 large bales

PREVIOUS HISTORY:

Pre 1947, Bendigo was run by a Mr A C Begg. Brothers R F & A E Lucas took over the property in 1947. It was then considered to be in a very run down condition, with low lambing percentages, low wool weights and high death rates. Rabbits were a very serious problem causing widespread, extreme depletion on all areas below 610m. A fine-wool flock was run on the hill country with Romneys grazing the limited areas under irrigation on the LIP (homestead block). No winter feed was grown.

R F Lucas became the sole lessee from October 1953 and until 1978, during which time considerable development occurred bringing changes in management and vegetation improvement.

The present lessee J C Perriam, has proved to be very progressive and innovative. He has managed the property primarily for the continued production of fine merino wool (for which he has held an intensive, lifelong interest), and for lucrative hogget sales. He expanded considerably on the initial development commenced by R F Lucas, to a level where the property carried 15,430 stock units in 1986. The recent drier years and rabbit problems have led to a 2000 stock unit reduction. In 1991 the property carried 13250 stock units.

Mr Perriam has established a Game Park-Safari enterprise operated in connection with a Merino Shop at Tarras (the latter managed largely by Mrs Perriam); and of historical interest, has undertaken the restoration of the original Bendigo homestead which houses trophies and memorabilia.

The ownership of an outlet for their Merino wool products represents a move to control production and marketing in a totally integrated way. For example Bendigo knitting wool is produced in Napier and sold under the "Suprino" label.

An Historic Reserve of 115ha currently under the status of Protected Private Land centred on the remains of the old gold mining township of Logan town, was gazetted in March 1983.

BOTANICAL VALUES:

Bendigo Station lies within the Dunstan Ecological District and forms part of the Central Otago Ecological Region. The Dunstan Ecological District contains broad river terraces on its western borders and well developed farmland, giving way to broad ridges rising to the Dunstan tops. The mid-altitude zone tends to be well modified before giving way to cushionfields, short tussock and tall tussock on the Dunstan tops.

The Dunstan Ecological District was subject to a PNAP survey in 1984. Seventeen areas were identified as having important conservation values, four of these are located on Bendigo Station. These recommended areas for protection (RAPs) included the Dunstan tops - 370 ha, two low altitude kanuka shrubland areas - 770 ha, and shrubland in Bendigo Creek - 100 ha. During PNAP implementation it was recommended that the Thomson's Saddle area should also be designated an RAP because of the high component of silver tussock. Some areas outside of these RAPs also have ecological values and have been included in this proposal.

Outside of the RAPs Bendigo Station can be divided into five broad categories:

- 1 River terraces - highly developed, irrigated and cultivated pasture and well subdivided.
- 2 Lower hill slopes, variety of grassland, scabweed and scattered shrubland.
- 3 Kanuka shrubland occupies a belt between 400-700 m zone. This area includes the RAPs A3 and B7 which will be dealt with in greater detail. This kanuka zone extends the full width of the property and includes a variety of hardwood species. Scattered amongst this zone are small pockets of pasture, along with a variety of weeds, sweet briar being the most prominent.
- 4 The Mid-altitude zone is dominated by sparse hard and silver tussock and has been extensively oversown and topdressed. Within this zone scattered clumps of kanuka occur along with matagouri. Also present are blue tussock, *Bromus tectorum*, a variety of pasture grasses and some clover. This zone provides important pasturage for Bendigo Station.

- 5 Dunstan tops - this zone includes mainly the top blocks on Bendigo Station running from 1100 m to 1500 m. A highly variable zone with ground cover comprising extensive bare ground, scattered *Chionochloa rigida*, *Poa colensoi* and extensive cushionfields. Cushionfields are dominated by *Celmisia viscosa* (a species which indicates heavy grazing in the past). This zone includes part of RAP A4 on the Dunstan tops.

The principal ecological values are encompassed in categories 3, 5 and part of 4 and around Mt Koinga (355 m) which is a known site locality for a rare sedge, *Carex inopinata*. It was last recorded in 1969 and requires further investigation - elsewhere the degree of modification to the indigenous vegetation is extremely high. The conservation interest identified on Bendigo therefore centres on these areas. A summary of their ecological values follows:

1 Bendigo Tops

This area encompasses the extensive broad Dunstan Mountains, including the summits of the range, Mt Apiti, Mt Moka and Mt Kinaki. In total DOC's interest in this area covers 1900 ha, and includes the Moka, Upper Castle, Castle Rock, and Sunny Devil's blocks. This area is above 1200 m and although it is highly modified, it still has a high natural component that is worthy of protection. The broad vegetation communities are cushionfield herbfield along the summit of the range. This hummocky periglacial feature is well developed with *Celmisia viscosa*, *Dracophyllum muscoides* and blue tussock. *Raoulia hectori* grows on the stonier, more exposed surfaces. The top of the range also has a sparse scattering of *Chionochloa macra*, which represents a vegetation type that occurred extensively over the summit at an earlier period. Within the cushionfield, wetland flushes occur around the headwaters of all the catchments which flow through Bendigo Station. Surrounding these wetlands at lower altitudes, *Poa colensoi* is dominant, with scattered *Chionochloa rigida*. This grades out into fescue tussock at about 1200 m. In the west, around Mt Kinaki, *Aciphylla* spp. dominate, along with the occasional patch of *Hieracium lepidulum* (tussock hawkweed). A variety of herbs and shrubs are also scattered throughout these tops. *Dracophyllum prunum*, *Hebe buechananii* are notable along with *Bulbinella angustifolia*.

The draft "Lindis, Pisa, Dunstan" PNAP report describes the RAP located within these blocks in greater detail. It is recognised that the summit of the Dunstan Mountains has been severely modified from a tall tussock community to a cushionfield regime. However, these tops represent the best of what remains on the range. The PNAP report ranks the vegetation highly from a representativeness, diversity and naturalness viewpoint. Enlarging the area provides for good ecological viability over the long term, giving it maximum size and an ideal "biological shape". Existing fencing will protect and control existing patterns of use.

2 Kanuka Shrubland

As described, this broad, very visible kanuka belt captures two RAPs, one a first priority known as Pigeon Creek and the other a second priority RAP, Chinaman's Creek. Both areas have similar vegetation and are fully described in the PNAP report.

This proposal has enlarged on these areas considerably and has identified the majority of the kanuka belt on these west-north-west facing slopes above State Highway 8. This zone extends from Devil's Creek in the south-west to Bendigo Creek in the north-east. Bendigo Creek contains an RAP identified as being representative of shrubby gully systems in this dry region. Within the kanuka belt, patches of fescue tussock and scabweed occur along with a stand of kowhai in the Pigeon Creek RAP. Briar and matagouri are also common. The entire area is virtually completely fenced and rabbit-proofed, which should allow regeneration to occur.

In the Bendigo Creek area, part of the RAP has been redefined with only the lower reaches of this steep-sided gully being included. The *Coprosma propinqua* and matagouri shrubland in Bendigo Creek's upper reaches are well represented in Perrys and Aurora Creek. Clearwater Creek contains mainly briar and willows and is included for incorporation into the DOC estate primarily for its historical significance.

3 Upper Rise and Shine

This area has special significance because of its historic sites and its landscape setting. These factors, combined with the silver tussock grassland, makes it worthy of inclusion in this proposal. PNAP surveys have largely ignored lower altitude short tussocklands. The only RAP which includes this vegetation community is on a river terrace near Clyde.

FAUNA:

Bendigo Upland Invertebrates

The crest of the Dunstan Mountains contains a highly distinctive high alpine insect fauna. All the species are native and have evolved intricate relationships with their habitat and host plants. The fauna is distinctive because:

- a high percentage of species are diurnal;
- many are conspicuous because of their large body size;
- many species are brightly coloured;
- all species are adapted to the severe climate by synchronising their life-cycle to warmer months and often being dark and hairy to absorb available sunlight;
- some species are confined to Dunstan Mountains, eg, the diurnal moth *Gelophaula*.sp, or Central Otago mountains as a whole;

- some species are flightless - so confined to area, eg, some caddisflies, stoneflies and chafer beetles.

Main components of this fauna are alpine:

- flies (grassland/herbfields)
- moths (grassland, cushionfields, tors)
- beetles (cushionfields, streams)
- caddisflies (in seepages and streams)
- stoneflies (streams)
- mayflies (streams)
- grasshoppers (herbfield/grasslands)
- cicadas (cushionfield)

A few wasps, one scorpionfly and some true bugs have also been recorded.

Freshwater Fish

Records are sparse for the creeks on Bendigo Station, brown trout have been recorded in Devils Creek and Thomsons Creek. It could, however, be expected that the native galaxiid koaro (*Galaxias brevipinnis*) would be present in some of the creeks.

The koaro is a category "C" species for conservation actions, and providing no high vertical walls are built in these creeks the species should survive.

Avi-fauna

The birdlife on Bendigo Station is "typical" of Central Otago with no known unusual species. Falcons can occasionally be observed on the property. Skylarks are common on the tops.

Bendigo Station is one of the premier upland game hunting locations in Central Otago for both Californian quail and chukar. The latter occurs on the Dunstan Tops and the former in the Kanuka shrubland and the Rise and Shine Creek.

Feral Animals

Bendigo Station lies within the heart of the Rabbit and Land Management Programme area. Rabbits have traditionally been a major problem on the property.

In latter years a reduction in stock numbers has resulted from high rabbit numbers and a control programme in excess of \$0.5 million has been implemented.

A portion of this proposal includes rabbit-prone country in the kanuka belt - 1700 ha out of 6000 ha. The last major poison was in 1989, and the lessee is hoping to do another this year. Since 1989 shooting has been the major control measure. The lessee believes that a good poison operation would now be the most appropriate mechanism to lower the present rabbit population.

VISUAL AND SCENIC VALUES:

A broad scale landscape appraisal has been carried out for the Dunstan Ranges as part of the assessment of conservation values undertaken for the Pisa Lindis Dunstan Ecological District. This appraisal categorized the Dunstans into six landscape management units. Bendigo Pastoral Lease is covered by three of these units. They include:

- 1 South Dunstan Crest Landscape Management Unit.
- 2 Central Dunstans Landscape Management Unit.
- 3 Cromwell Bendigo Landscape Management Unit.

The units represent areas with broadly homogeneous landscape character which require similar management to retain their character.

Within these units priority areas for landscape protection were identified. For Bendigo Pastoral Lease the following areas were identified:

1 South Dunstan Crest Landscape Priority Area

This area includes the South Dunstan Summit Plateau and extends below the crest to approximately the 1200 m contour. For Bendigo it includes all of the RAP A4 and an additional area on the south-west corner of the RAP. The high value placed on the South Dunstan Crest is derived from its natural characteristics - its landforms, rock tors, sequence of contrasting vegetation types, ephemeral characteristics and spectacular views in all directions.

2 Bendigo Hills

Bendigo Hills includes all of the distinctive craggy topography and the large area of kanuka vegetation which stands above and contrasts with the generally smooth ridges on the north-west slopes of the Dunstan Mountains. The priority area extends in a band from Bendigo Creek to Devils Creek. This area is a distinctive and important landscape feature in the upper Clutha. The kanuka vegetation makes an important contribution to landscape character and its diversity. It is one of the few remaining significant remnants of this vegetation type in Central Otago. From a landscape perspective it is important that protection is given to the entire area.

3 Upper Bendigo Creek (Rise and Shine Creek)

Rise and Shine Creek is a small valley in the upper Bendigo Creek catchment, immediately west of Thomson's Saddle. The valley is enclosed and easily defined by topography. Its landscape character is derived from its smooth rounded landform (with an absence of rock outcrops), its vegetation pattern and cultural history.

Silver tussock forms the dominant vegetation cover and is relatively intact throughout the valley. Speargrass is common on the south faces and on higher ridges. Wetlands occupy the valley floor with a mix of exotic and native species including toetoe.

Remains of early sluice workings line the lower valley. These form part of a network of gold workings in the upper Bendigo Creek.

Poplars, both lombardy and silver, are cultural plantings left from the gold mining era. Rabbit numbers are high throughout the valley.

Despite a degree of degradation evident on drier faces (aggravated by rabbits) this valley contains important landscape values. It represents one of the few remaining areas with relatively intact short tussock from valley floor to ridge top. The historic/cultural overlay contributes to its character and appeal.

CULTURAL VALUES:

(a) Historic

1 Maori Sites

Ritchie, 1980, provided a useful summary of known Maori sites in the Clutha Valley. No sites were recorded on Bendigo, however, it would be logical to assume that the area was extensively used. Thomson's Gorge would also have been a logical route through the Dunstan Mountains. Hamel (1993) indicates that there is a high probability that undiscovered material is preserved in some dry rocky clefts on Bendigo.

2 European History

Bendigo has been researched and written about over many years. The most recent report, titled "The Rich Fields of Bendigo" by Jill Hamel, February 1993, provides a well documented account of the history of Bendigo. While this report is not exhaustive, it provides a comprehensive account of the Bendigo goldfield.

Bendigo Station's history is primarily associated with gold mining, however it is important to note that Bendigo Station once formed part of the giant Morven Hills Station which was established in 1858. Today, field evidence remains in the form of stone cottages, mud brick cottages and stone yards. The latter, near Shepherds Creek, are associated with a stone hut and water races that probably provided water to the hut and yards.

The advent of pastoralism in 1858 slightly pre-dates gold mining at Bendigo, gold miners arrived four years later in 1862. Miners numbered 105 in early 1863 and were alluvial miners concentrating on Bendigo and the Rise and Shine Creeks. Alluvial gold deposits were exhausted by 1866. Today, field evidence reveals tailings in all the creeks, scattered settlements of relic stone mining huts and water races. Bendigo became a name on the map during this period, principally as a shanty town, with a stone pub, built by William Goodall, being the only permanent fixture.

Following the decline in alluvial gold mining, quartz reefs were discovered and the Cromwell Quartz Mining Company was formed. The Solway battery was set up along with water races, water wheels and a dray road from the battery to the reef. This precipitated a second gold rush, which resulted in a further six main reefs being discovered and worked. In total

some 50 claims were staked out involving 214 shareholders. The main reefs were the "Auroa" and "Lucknow", "Alta", "Rise and Shine" and the "Come in Time". All of these reefs had a complex of batteries, drives, shafts, tracks, races and revetments scattered throughout the area. The workings are inter-linked and have a complex and colourful history. Today field evidence still exists in various forms. The "Come in Time" Battery is still largely intact, along with a complex of aerial ropeways, reverted tracks and water races. Elsewhere cottages and drives are hidden by briar and other scrub which covers parts of the property.

The main reserve of Bendigo which is currently under DOC control incorporates many of the earlier workings and townships, however many sites remain outside of this area. This proposal will amalgamate the majority of sites under formal protection.

The mining history of Bendigo spans half a century (1863-1938) and includes alluvial mining, sluicing, quartz mining and dredging. Some of the operations were highly successful, both financially and industrially. In some instances families were involved for several generations.

Bendigo's historic significance revolves around all the features described. The remaining field evidence should be protected as a complex, not as a series of disjointed sites. Protection of the historic evidence to ensure the sites' integrity is important and will allow for better management as visitor numbers to the area increase.

RECREATION:

Currently recreation in Bendigo is centred around the existing Bendigo Reserve (protected private land) and the Dunstan tops. The Bendigo Reserve has been in existence since 1981 and forms part of the Otago Goldfields Park. This reserve encompasses some of the historic relics of the area and has become a major attraction for tourists. Vehicle access and the development of walking tracks and interpretation panels have encouraged public use. This proposal incorporates additional mining sites which may stimulate further public interest in the area.

Potential exists to expand the tracking systems to link mining sites together and form tracks through the kanuka forest. Opening up access into the "Come in Time Battery" and clearing of the revetted road up the Rise and Shine Creek would attract considerable interest.

The Bendigo field has considerable potential for interpretation and tourism. This tenure exchange will allow these sites to be managed as a complex and not just as isolated sites.

Aside from passive viewing or wanderings through the lower Bendigo area, Thomsons Gorge road provides access to the mining sites in the upper Rise and Shine Creek and access on to the tops. Thomson's Gorge road (a legal road) is on an old mining route through to Alexandra and although rough in places and is often not passable during winter months, is being used fairly frequently and could form part of a circular route from Alexandra or Cromwell.

From the saddle legal access is also available on to the tops past Mt Moka, however, there is a gap in the legal paper road to Mt Matariri. Under this tenure change proposal the formation of conservation land will link these paper roads and will allow better access on to the Dunstan tops. Primary use of the tops is by 4WD vehicles, tramping and cross-country skiers. The latter can be unreliable because of the snow shadow that forms over the Dunstan Mountains. Other opportunities, such as mountain biking, will increase in time.

Upland game-bird and rabbit shooting on Bendigo Station for recreation occurs frequently on the property and the game-bird shooting is some of the best in Central Otago.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The proposal has not yet been advertised for public comment. This will be done with the consent of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. The concept has been discussed with representatives of Forest and Bird, Fish and Game, Public Access NZ and Federated Mountain Clubs. Most feedback has been positive. There was a consensus that if grazing is to remain on the Dunstan tops, there should be provision to exclude stock from the RAP should it be deemed necessary.

Mr Howse representing the Ngai Tahu Trust Board visited the property on August 12, 1993, he will comment when requested by the Commissioner.

DETAILED PROPOSAL:

The Department of Conservation's interest on Bendigo involves four areas:

1 Dunstan Mountains

Encompasses approximately 1920 ha of the Dunstan Tops and is an extension of RAP A4; the broad vegetation communities are similar and require sensitive management. The lower margin of the proposed DOC estate mainly follows existing fencelines as these are considered to form a practical boundary.

Public walking access will be available from the Thomson Gorge Road via a farm track on the legal roadline and via a 4WD track on the southern boundary of Bendigo Station. Once on the tops the public can utilise the area for recreation purposes at all times.

Perpetual grazing rights within the conservation estate will be available under a special lease at a commercial rental. The lease will cater for a conservative level of grazing. There will be a provision for the lowering of stock numbers should results from a monitoring programme indicate that vegetation cover or composition has deteriorated.

Photo One depicts the Upper Castle Block and Photo Two, the Lower Castle Block. These areas are within the proposed DOC special lease.



Photo One



Photo Two

2 Thomsons Gorge

This area of 576 ha will be protected by a conservation covenant under the Reserves Act. The covenant will be designed to maintain the area in its present state. The aim is to protect the landscape of the upper Rise and Shine Creek, the historic gold mining cottages, dams, etc, and the silver tussock grassland. Patch burning of shrubland is considered acceptable, along with OSTD. Mining, forestry and tracking would be excluded from the area.

Photo Three depicts a large part of the area to be protected by the covenant.



Photo Three

3 Kanuka Shrubland

This area which is proposed for incorporation into the DOC estate comprises the lower altitude kanuka belt on Bendigo and covers approximately 1372 ha. The area includes substantial mining complexes. The topography and vegetation combine to create a unique landscape feature in this dry environment. Early photos show a very depleted landscape around the turn of the century, however since this time the recovery has been remarkable. Once the area is fenced and destocked, this trend will accelerate. Mr Perriam has indicated that he would not be opposed to some DOC interpretation (ie sign posts and information plaques) down either side of the Bendigo-Logan Town road within the area to be freeholded below the kanuka belt.

An area in Bendigo and Clearwater Creeks will also be incorporated into the DOC estate. This area will not be fenced as it is primarily intended to protect and provide public access to several historic mining features. Native vegetation present in these gorges is protected from stock by the steep nature of the terrain.

Photo four depicts a large area of the proposed reserve in the background. Photos five and six are taken within the proposed reserve.



Photo Four



Photo Five



Photo Six

4 Kanuka shrubland in the vicinity of Mount Koina.

This small area (approximately 107 hectares) will be protected by a conservation covenant issued under the Reserves Act (1977). This covenant is intended to protect the character of the area. Any future development will require consultation with DOC who must be satisfied that vegetation disturbance is minimal and that any structures erected are in sympathy with the landscape. An easement will give the public access through this area to the adjoining DOC estate from SH8.

4 Historic Sites

The majority of historic sites on Bendigo will become conservation estate under this proposal. However, outside of these areas a number of important historic sites occur which should be formally protected. It is proposed that an umbrella conservation covenant be drawn up that encompasses all of the remaining historic sites on the property.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

Management considerations on Bendigo are extremely complex and will require an ongoing commitment by DOC. This commitment will be directed towards land management issues, historic site conservation and recreation management.

1 Rabbits

As outlined earlier, rabbits are a major ongoing problem on Bendigo. All of the historic sites and the kanuka belt lie within the RLMP area. Under this programme the majority of the land has been fenced with rabbit netting and an extensive secondary control programme of shooting has been implemented. This programme has been partially successful. In parts of the kanuka belt area rabbit numbers are low, elsewhere on the property numbers are at a point where a primary poison would drastically reduce numbers and allow secondary control to be more effective.

There is currently some debate as to whether a primary poison is allowable as part of the RLMP. If a poisoning was to be carried out, seedlings in the kanuka belt will have a chance to respond under a virtually nil grazing regime; this could in time make the kanuka belt a less attractive environment for rabbits. If a primary poison occurs and is successful, the ongoing management costs may not be high. It will be important that rabbit fences are maintained in order to be able to effectively control the population within the kanuka belt and to prevent rabbits living outside the fenced area from seeking refuge. Poisoning every few years until the environment becomes less favourable for rabbits will probably be necessary. Alternatively it may be determined that rabbits within the kanuka belt are not causing any harm to conservation values and that it is appropriate to allow rabbit numbers to fluctuate in a natural cycle. This approach would necessitate vigilant fence maintenance.

Costs of a primary poison are in the order of \$36/ha, which equates to \$49,392 over 1372 ha. It is possible that over a decade two poisonings will be necessary; however given that the fenced off kanuka area may be unfavourable for rabbits the period between poisonings may be prolonged. It is possible that over the next decade, advances may be made in terms of cost efficient rabbit control, ie biological control may have been implemented.

Some pockets of rabbits will persist within the area proposed for incorporation into the DOC estate. These will require secondary control methods or the occasional poison.

The current RLMP still has two years to run. An apportionment of this funding will be available for the area of proposed DOC estate within the RLMP boundaries. The remaining caps money is approximately \$60 000 which could be entitled to a 70% subsidy with DOC contributing the remaining 30%. The exact apportionment of costs is difficult to determine and will largely depend on negotiations during this exercise.

2 Fencing

Boundaries of the proposed DOC estate largely correspond with existing fences. The Dunstan Tops are fenced into four blocks. A short 1.5 km fence (standard) will be required in the upper true left of the Devils Ck catchment.

The kanuka belt has over the last three years been mostly fenced and rabbit-proofed. In order to separate conservation land, 2 km of fencing (rabbit proof) in the vicinity of Pigeon Creek will be required. Along Clearwater Creek it is not envisaged that fencing will be necessary as the area is being incorporated into the DOC estate primarily for its historic values.

All fencing will be paid for by the lessee and discounted from the cost of freeholding.

3 Grazing

The kanuka belt will effectively be destocked under this proposal to allow regeneration of existing vegetation to occur. Some grazing for management purposes may be required in the existing reserve to keep vegetation down around mining sites and to control weeds. The conservation area in Clearwater and Bendigo Creeks will receive some continued grazing as it will not be fenced.

Grazing will be permitted within the DOC estate on the Dunstan Tops. This land will be managed to encourage a change in vegetation composition towards a more natural state. While status quo management may achieve this, some scientific opinion suggests that grazing on areas such as this may not be sustainable. However it is recognised that the area is extremely important to the overall balance of the property and that the vegetation cover has probably improved since the Perriams purchased Bendigo. For these reasons perpetual rights to grazing will be issued subject to results from a vegetation monitoring programme indicating that vegetation composition and cover is being maintained or is improving. The lease will confer only the rights to grazing. Rental will be set on a per stock unit basis (annualized) and will be at a commercial rate. The RAP area may be fenced off from grazing at a later date to exclude stock from this area.

The two blocks in the upper Rise and Shine Creek which will be subject to a conservation covenant will continue to be grazed. The rationale behind this covenant will be to prevent vegetation change through inappropriate management practices.

This area has been OSTD in the past. The existing management regime does not conflict with the covenant as continuing inputs are probably necessary to ensure the vigour of the silver tussock in the area. Judicious patch burning may be required to control woody weeds.

4 Woody Vegetation

Regeneration within the kanuka belt should continue, however, woody weed growth such as briar will also occur. Over much of the proposed DOC estate a woody weed component will be acceptable. However, in key areas this regrowth may restrict public access, cover historic sites or cause damage to the latter. Removal will be required in these key areas, incurring an ongoing cost. This cost will depend on restoration of the historic sites.

The occasional pine tree may also necessitate removal from within the reserve area. Other trees, such as willows and poplars, occur within the area, removal will require close scrutiny as some trees may have historical significance.

5. Historic Sites.

A draft Otago Goldfields Strategy states as its objective for Bendigo - "To optimise the potential for public use and enjoyment of the historic sites at Bendigo". The policy encourages use, safety and tourism. All these can be developed over time and in a programmed manner. Combining the majority of the sites together will allow the full potential for the area to be developed with greater flexibility than the existing reserve would have allowed.

The conservation and restoration of historic sites will be of considerable importance. The "Come in Time Battery" will require public access, interpretation and structural repairs. The latter could become a major cost in the future. Examples such as this exist throughout the area, and while they do not affect the outcome of the proposal, should be noted.

DISCUSSION:

This proposal represents a major step towards developing appropriate tenure arrangements in the semi-arid lands region. Major benefits of the proposal are:

- (i) It will ensure the protection of a large area of kanuka shrubland with very high conservation and landscape values. In the long term this area is likely to transform from a favourable to an unfavourable rabbit habitat.
- (ii) An area which is part of New Zealand's cultural heritage will be preserved and made available for all to enjoy.
- (iii) Covenants will protect other historic and conservation values which are located on land inherently suited to freeholding.
- (iv) The establishment of a special lease over the Dunstan tops will ensure that future grazing of the area is at a level which protects existing conservation values. In addition to the ability by the Crown to reduce or halt grazing if monitoring results indicate a deterioration in vegetation condition, a commercial rental will be charged which will serve to encourage conservative use of the area. Public access to the area will be as of right.
- (v) The freeholding of a large part of the property will allow for greater security and for the diversification of landuses. The development of alternative landuses on areas which are highly rabbit prone under pastoralism will represent a major step towards sustainable landuse.
- (vi) While there is a considerable area of class VII land being freeholded, it is believed that it can be justifiably classified as farmland. This land is in the low to mid altitude belt and has been oversown and topdressed in the past. Whilst much of it is depleted, potential restoration will rely on considerable expenditure in the form of rabbit control, AOSTD or investment in alternative land uses such as viticulture. Freehold tenure may encourage investment in land restoration initiatives. Sensitive high altitude Class VII land with high conservation values where investment is neither likely or desirable has been excluded from freeholding.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA TO BE FREEHOLDDED:

- (a) **Area** Approximately 7992 hectares.
- (b) **Aspect** Predominantly north to northeast.
- (c) **Altitude** 200-1262 metres
- (d) **Contour** (Estimates)
- Flat to gentle - 24 %
Moderate - 53 %
Steep - 17 %
- (e) **Area Ploughable**
- (f) **Rainfall** 410mm (lower area) - approximately 700mm (upper area).
- (g) **Water Supply** Most blocks have natural water. Ardour block has bore.
- (h) **Shelter** Adequate natural shelter.
- (i) **Reversion** Some areas of Kanuka. Briar is abundant on lower slopes and thick in some gullies.
- (j) **Erosion** Wind, sheet and gully erosion wide spread on lower property. Middle altitudes predominantly stable.
- (k) **Weeds & Pests** See reversion. Tussock hawkweed becoming a problem (especially on mid to upper altitude shady aspects). Other weed species are horehound, gorse, wilding conifers, wild thyme, cotton thistle, oriental clematis, hawthorn and broom. Goats common in the upper Devils Creek area. Pigs observed in the West Castle Block. Very serious rabbit problem on the lower country.

(l) Landuse Capability	Approximate Areas.	%
	Class 2 4 ha	< 1
	Class 3 79 ha	1
	Class 4 1063 ha	13
	Class 5 312 ha	4
	Class 6 3756 ha	47
	Class 7 2719 ha	34
	Class 8 59 ha	< 1

Photographs seven, eight and nine depict parts of the area to be freeholded. Photo seven is of the Green Valley Block, photo eight is taken near the historic dam keepers hut. Photo nine depicts an area proposed for freeholding in the foreground and part of the proposed DOC special lease in the background.



Photo Seven



Photo Eight



Photo Nine

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the proposal being advertised with the following outcomes being recommended.

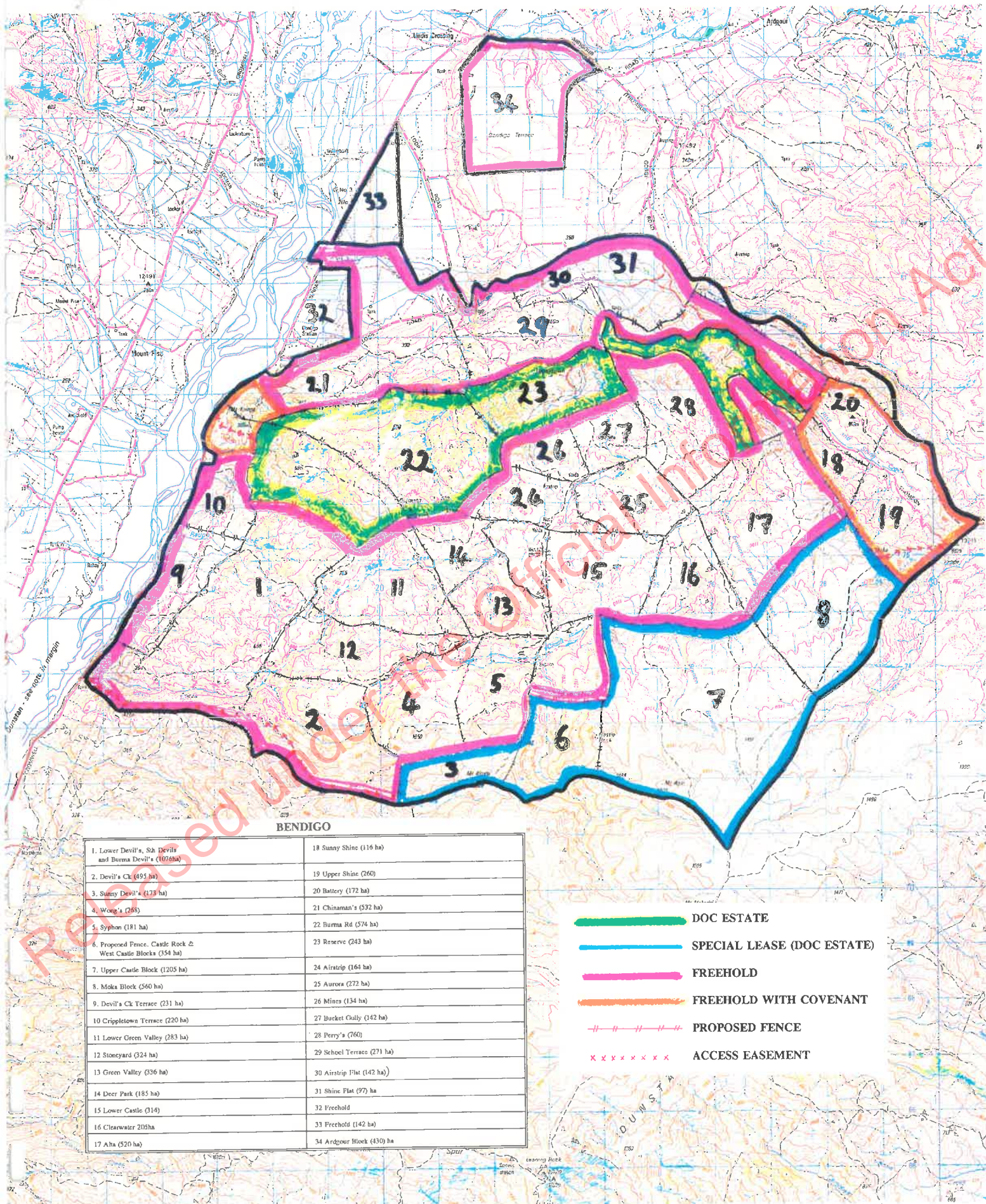
- 1 That 11284 ha comprising Po221 and Po223 be surrendered by the current lessees.
- 2 That approximately 7992 ha be classified as farmland and be preferentially disposed to the current lessees of Bendigo Station as freehold title under section 51 of the Land Act 1948.
- 3 That approximately 3292 ha be allocated to the Department of Conservation.
- 4 That prior to transfer to DOC a special lease under section 67 of the Land Act 1948 be issued over approximately 1920 hectares known as the Dunstan Tops. This lease will allow for perpetual grazing subject to results from a monitoring programme indicating that vegetation condition is being maintained or is improving. Rental will be set at a commercial level. The lease will be for grazing only. There will be provision for the exclusion of stock from the area known as RAP A4 identified in the Lindis, Pisa and Dunstan Survey Report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme. The public will have right of access to the area. These conditions will be transferred to the Department of Conservation as a commitment.
- 5 That the remaining 1370 ha (approximately) of land being allocated to the Department of Conservation (the kanuka shrubland extending from near Pigeon Creek to Clearwater Creek) have no provisions for future grazing.
- 6 That it is recognized that the Department of Conservation has negotiated a conservation covenant to be issued under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 over approximately 576 ha approximately in the upper Rise and Shine Creek area.
- 4 That it is recognized that the Department of Conservation has negotiated a conservation covenant to be issued under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 over approximately 107 ha adjoining SH8 and the Burma Road Block. This area incorporates Mt Koinga.
- 5 That it is recognized that the Department of Conservation has negotiated an umbrella conservation covenant to be issued under section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 which protects all historic sites on the area to be freeholded.
- 6 That easements be registered under section 60 of the Land Act 1948 against the freehold title to cater for walking access into the kanuka belt near Mt Koinga, up the southern (Northburn) boundary of the property, from Thomsons Gorge road into the Clearwater Creek and from Thomsons Gorge road onto the Dunstan tops.
- 7 That a legal agreement give Bendigo Station the right to use some existing tracks through the proposed conservation estate for farm access purposes.

Prepared by:

**Rob Wardle
for Manager, Alexandra
LANDCORP PROPERTY LIMITED**

**Mike Clare
for Regional Conservator
DEPT OF CONSERVATION**

Released under the Official Information Act



CONSERVATION COVENANT
(Section 77 Reserves Act 1977)

COU 5009824.9 COVENANT (ALL TYPE)
CPV-01/02.PGS-007.02/10/00.1R:51



DocID: 110111430

BETWEEN JOHN CHARLES PERRIAM of Lowburn Farmer and HEATHER LORNA PERRIAM his wife ("the Landholders")
AND MINISTER OF CONSERVATION ("the Minister")

WHEREAS

A Section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 provides that:

- i The Minister may agree with any owner or lessee of land that all or part of the land should be managed so as to preserve the natural environment or landscape amenity or wildlife or freshwater life or marine life habitat or historical value of the land.
- ii The terms of such agreement may be recorded in a Conservation Covenant which is registered against the title to the land or the lease so as to bind the land or the lease and its owner or lessee to the performance of the terms of the agreement, in perpetuity or for such other period as the parties may agree.

B The Landholders are registered as proprietors of the land firstly described in the schedule ("the land") in the shares of 2/3 to the said John Charles Perriam and 1/3 to the said Heather Lorna Perriam.

C The Landholders and the Minister have agreed that the land be managed with the following conservation objectives:

- i Protecting and enhancing the natural character of the land with particular regard to the natural functioning of ecosystems and to the native flora and fauna in their diverse communities and dynamic inter-relationships with their earth substrate and water courses and the atmosphere.
- ii Protecting the land as an area representative of a significant part of the ecological character of the Dunstan Ecological District as referred to in the draft survey report for the Protected Natural Areas Programme for the Lindis Pisa and Dunstan Ecological Districts dated February 1987.
- iii Maintaining the landscape values of the land as referred to in the "Application for exchange of property rights" submitted to the Commissioner of Crown Lands.
- iv Maintaining the historic values of the land as referred to in "The rich fields of

Bendigo" by Jill Hamel February 1993.

NOW THEREFORE THIS DEED WITNESSES that in accordance with Section 77 of the Reserves Act 1977 the Landholders and the Minister **MUTUALLY COVENANT** that the land shall be managed for the purposes and objectives listed in recital C above, and in particular on the following conditions:

1 **THE** Landholders may graze the land to an extent consistent, in the opinion of the Minister, with the objectives of this Deed and will maintain all fences and gates on the land and its boundary in a good stockproof condition in order to facilitate proper grazing control.

The Minister may at any time monitor native vegetation in order to determine what trends are occurring in the condition of native vegetation.

The Minister may also at any time monitor historic sites.

2 **THE** Landholders will, so far as is practicable:

- a Keep the land free from gorse broom sweetbriar and all other noxious plants and in particular shall comply with the provisions of and any notices given under the Noxious Plants Act 1978 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- b Keep the land free from rabbits and vermin and in particular comply with the provisions of and any notices given under the Agricultural Pests Destruction Act 1967 and the Biosecurity Act 1993.
- c Keep the land free from rubbish and other unsightly or offensive material.

HOWEVER the Landholders may request assistance from the Minister in meeting these obligations if they impose a substantial burden in excess of the legal obligations that would have applied in the absence of this Deed.

3 (1) **SUBJECT** to the succeeding provisions of this clause the Landholders will not carry out or allow to be carried out without the Minister's prior approval:

- a The erection of any fence building structure or other improvements near historic sites on the land whether for the Landholders' purposes or for other private or public purposes.
- b Any cultivation earthworks or other soil disturbance on the land near historic sites.
- c Any tree planting on the land near historic sites.
- d Any prospecting or mining for minerals coal or other deposit on or under the land.

(2) **IN** this covenant "historic site" has the same meaning as the words "historic place" in the Historic Places Act 1993.

(3) **THE** Landholders at any time may remove some woody vegetation on the land secondly described in the schedule but only after receiving the Minister's prior approval.

(4) **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.

4 **THE** Minister may exercise his right to object to any mining licence application which conflicts with the objectives of this Deed.

5 **THE** Landholders will permit members of the public access through the land on the existing formed Thomsons Gorge Road and from Thomsons Gorge Road up to Mt Moka and the special lease area more or less along the alignment of the existing track on or about the legal road line.

6 **THE** Landholders grant to the Minister and any officer or duly authorised agent of the Minister a right of access onto the land with or without vehicles motor vehicles machinery and implements of any kind for the purposes of examining and recording the condition of the land or for carrying out restoration protection or maintenance work on the land consistent with the objectives set out in this Deed; **HOWEVER** in exercising this right the Minister and officers or agents of the Minister will consult with the Landholders in advance and have regard to all reasonable requests.

7 **THE** Landholders will meet all survey costs required to complete the registration of this Deed.

8 (1) **THE** Landholders will notify the appropriate Fire Authority (District Council or Minister as the case may be - see section 2 Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977) in the event of wildfire threatening the land.

(2) **IF** the Minister is not the Fire Authority for the land under threat the Minister will render assistance to the Fire Authority in suppressing the fire if requested to do so or if a formalised fire agreement under section 14 of the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977 is in place between the Minister and the Fire Authority.

(3) **THIS** assistance will be at no cost to the Landholders unless the Landholders are

responsible for the wildfire through wilful action or negligence (which includes the case where the wildfire is caused by the escape of a permitted fire due to non-adherence to the conditions of the permit).

9 **WITH** regard to that part of the land thirdly described in the schedule known as the Rise and Shine Creek area:

- a The Landholders will at all times allow the public to have foot access across that part of the land for the purpose of gaining access to historic mining sites located on it.
- b The Lessees and employees of the Department of Conservation may at any time remove woody vegetation around any historic site located on it.
- c The Minister may at any time erect interpretation signs on that part of the land but shall first consult the Lessees regarding the wording and position of the signs.
- d The Landholders will not use that part of the land for forestry and will not construct tracks on it.

10 **IT** is acknowledged that the principal historic values outside the Rise and Shine Creek area comprise three stone buildings near Ardour Road, stone yards near Shepherds Creek, the hotel foundations and environs and the bakery in the Town of Bendigo, the dam and dam keeper's hut at the head of Aurora Creek, various mining sites in Perrys Creek and the environs, and stone yards near Devils Creek.

11 **THE** Minister may:

- a Provide to the Landholders from time to time and at any time upon request by the Landholders such technical advice or assistance as may be necessary or desirable to assist in meeting the objectives set out in this Deed.
- b Change individual conditions of this covenant by mutual agreement with the Landholders should there be any change in circumstances in the future.
- c Prepare in consultation with the Landholders a joint plan for the management of the land designed to implement the objectives of this Deed to the mutual satisfaction of the parties.

12 **FOR** the avoidance of doubt:

- a The covenants contained in this Deed shall bind the Landholders and the Landholders' heirs executors successors and assigns in perpetuity.
- b The Landholders will not be personally liable in damages for any breach of

covenant committed after they have parted with all interest in the land in respect of which such a breach occurs.

- c Where there is more than one owner of the leasehold or fee simple title to the land, the covenants contained in this Deed shall bind each owner jointly and severally.
- d Where the Landholders is a company the covenants contained in this Deed shall bind a receiver liquidator statutory manager or statutory receiver. Where the Landholders is a natural person this Deed shall bind the Official Assignee. In either case this Deed binds a mortgagee in possession.
- e The reference to any Act in this Deed extends to and includes any amendment to, or re-enactment of that Act.
- f Any notice required to be given in terms of this Deed shall be sufficiently given if made in writing and served as provided in Section 152 of the Property Law Act 1952 and shall be sufficiently given if actually received by the party to whom it is addressed or that party's solicitor.
- g Any notice required to be given by the Minister shall be sufficiently given if it is signed by the Conservator Department of Conservation Dunedin. Any notice required to be served upon the Minister shall be sufficiently served if delivered to the office for the time being of the Conservator Department of Conservation Dunedin.
- h Any dispute which arises between the Landholders and the Minister in any way relating to this Deed may be resolved by referring the dispute to an agreed third party for decision or by arbitration under the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996. If the Arbitration Act 1996 is used and the parties fail to agree on the person to be appointed as arbitrator the appointment shall be made by the president for the time being of the Otago District Law Society.

DATED the

18th

day of

August

~~1999~~ 2000

SCHEDULE

FIRSTLY

All those parcels of land situated in the Otago Land District containing A 4180.6398 hectares more or less being Sections 1, 2, 24, 29, 34, 36 and 38 SO 24641 and being all the land comprised and described in Certificate of Title Register No. (Otago Registry) and being B 3781.8363 hectares more or less being Sections 3/9 inclusive 11/16 inclusive 23, 27, 28, 37 and 39 SO 24641 and being all the land comprised and described in Certificate of Title Register No. (Otago Registry)

SECONDLY

Section 2 SO 24641 containing 68.0339 hectares more or less

THIRDLY

Sections 11 and 12 SO 24641 containing 490.3886 hectares

SIGNED by Ian Whitwell an officer of the Department of Conservation pursuant to a designation given to him by the Director-General of Conservation and dated the 30th day of June 1989 acting for and on behalf of the Minister pursuant to section 117 of the Reserves Act 1977 in the presence of:

s9(2)(a)

Witness: *Jessie Lorna Perriam*

Occupation: *Solicitor*

Address: *Dunedin*

SIGNED by the said
JOHN CHARLES PERRIAM and
HEATHER LORNA PERRIAM
in the presence of:

s9(2)(a)

Witness:

s9(2)(a)

Occupation:

Address:

Waimate

From: Lynnell Greer
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 12:48 pm
To: Marie Payne; Meg Embleton-Muir
Cc: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Hi Marie,

I am looping Meg into this discussion as she will connect with you and work it through.

Thanks Lynnell

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 11:51 am
To: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Hey Lynnell,

Apologies I was trying to catch you to discuss this last week but it didn't line up.

But yes, I think you have captured below, this one is probs a 'medium' in terms of rec input now. We have some tasks we would like to progress with e.g. the applicant has provided the recreational assessments as below s9(2)(ba)(i) – we would like to understand the impacts of these proposals.

We have also been working closely with District Ops (John Roberts) and Matt Schmitt (Heritage), who are both in the project team (although Matt is seeking to use an external to support). Both have some recreational oversight too.

If its helpful, please give me a call today I am relatively free.

Kind regards,

Marie

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 3:59 pm
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Hi Marie,

Thanks for this.

Still keen to understand timeframe for immediate work verse longer timeframe.

Currently we have three applications in SSI all on Meg – Not in scope and this one (probably somewhere in between)?

Keen to understand to manage workloads as it might need to go to another team member.

Thanks Lynnell

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 3:22 pm
To: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Also, this is pre-lodgement consultation – so the idea being we can deliver any high-level feedback to them on their assessment initially and understand how DOC might consider any benefit loss.

Kind regards,

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

s9(2)(a)




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 3:21 pm
To: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Thanks Lynnell,

Initially it would be reviewing a recreational values assessment provided by the applicant (and providing feedback) alongside potentially attending a meeting with the applicant over the next 2-3 weeks.

I am happy to provide a complete project overview to an advisor and support as much as I can from myside, but likely we would need on-going expertise (the scale of that likely impacted by how low-high) the recreational values were considered to be/how the proposal impacts them.

A link to the values assessment is  [here](#) and the screenshot below is a high level summary by a RMA planner to date (which might have some useful information)

RECREATION
Recreation Assessment

s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(ba)(ii)

Report title & author	Report scope / summary	Potential effects relate to	Mitigations included / recommended	DOC interest	DOC delegation	Technical expert reviewed (Y/N) <small>Please also include link to your comments. Save here: Technical Experts Assessments</small>
Author: Rob Greenaway & Associates Date: June 2024 Matakanui Bendigo-Ophir recreation assessment Final 12 June 2025.pdf	s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(ba)(ii)					

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 3:09 pm
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Hi Marie,

Thanks – I am manging workloads at the moment so just need a bit more info.

What is your time requirement? Is this pre or post application?

Thanks Lynnell

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2025 11:44 am
To: Lynnell Greer <lgreer@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Fast-track project

Hey Lynnell,

We are working through some of the assessments the applicant has provided to us for the Bendigo Ophir Gold FT project (currently in pre-lodgement consultation). I am working with Liz Williams RMA planner and Matt Schmitt (Heritage) as part of the project team, and we have identified that an advisor focused on visitor/recreation is needed for the project team.

This project was triaged some time back before our systems and processes were more established so apologies if this is a bit retrospective. I understand Emma Fahey may have sent a request about this previously though.

It may be a light touch, but we would like to discuss the initial assessments provided and get the input from your team, how the proposal could impact recreation values (the applicant has also provided an assessment on this). It was mentioned that Meg Embleton-Muir (from Matt) maybe able to assist?

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Liz Williams
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 8:48 am
To: Sally Clarkson; Marie Payne
Subject: FW: Fast Track Consent - Bendigo Ophir Gold Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Both

See email from Shay. I'm happy to arrange something but I'm fairly tied up this week so likely to be next week/week after.

Or equally if you guys wanted to arrange something too – all good.

Cheers
Liz

From: Shay McDonald <Shay.McDonald@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 15 September 2025 8:46 am
To: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Fast Track Consent - Bendigo Ophir Gold Project

Good morning Liz,

Thanks for getting in touch about the Bendigo Ophir application. As Alex said, I'll be processing this one for ORC.

I'd be happy to catch up with the DoC Fast Track team about this application. I'm relatively free Wednesday-Friday this week or could make most days work next week.

Feel free to give me a call if there is anything you'd like to discuss.

Thanks,

Shay



Shay McDonald

Principal Consent Planner
Consents

s9(2)(a)

Shay.McDonald@orc.govt.nz

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From: Alexandra King <Alexandra.King@orc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 5:18 pm
To: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Shay McDonald <Shay.McDonald@orc.govt.nz>
Cc: Jenny Ross <Jenny.Ross@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Fast Track Consent - Bendigo Ophir Gold Project

Kia ora Liz,

Thanks for touching base.

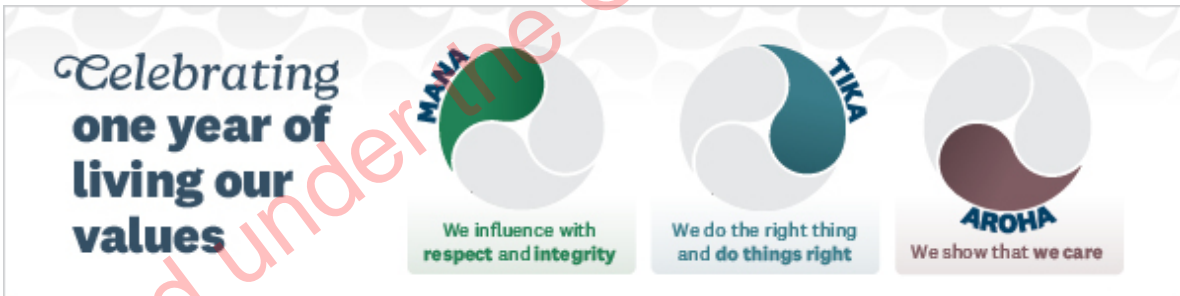
[@Shay McDonald](#) is the processing planner for us on this project, **Not in scope** but will touch base with you early next week to set something up

Thanks
Alex



Alexandra King
Manager Consents/Manager Environmental Delivery Data & Systems
Consents

s9(2)(a) Alexandra.King@orc.govt.nz



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From: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 5:06 pm
To: Alexandra King <Alexandra.King@orc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fast Track Consent - Bendigo Ophir Gold Project

[Caution: External Email] This email originated from outside ORC. Do not click links or open attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe. Use the Phish Alert Button to report this email if you think it is suspicious.

Kia ora Alex

Murray passed on your details as I'm looking for a contact from ORC who will be reviewing the Fast Track application for the Bendigo Ophir Gold Project. Our DOC Fast Track team are looking to catch up with the Councils to discuss the application.

If you can pass on a contact that would be much appreciated.

Ngā Mihi,

Liz Williams BRP(Hons), MNZPI

Senior Resource Management Planner | Kaiwhakamahere penapenarawa

Dunedin Office | Ōtepoti

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

Phone: s9(2)(a)

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From: John Roberts
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 3:58 pm
To: Chris Kavazos; Charlie Sklenar; Marie Payne; Sally Clarkson
Cc: Tracey Grose
Subject: RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl - Willow control Bendigo Creek

Thanks Chris – most helpful

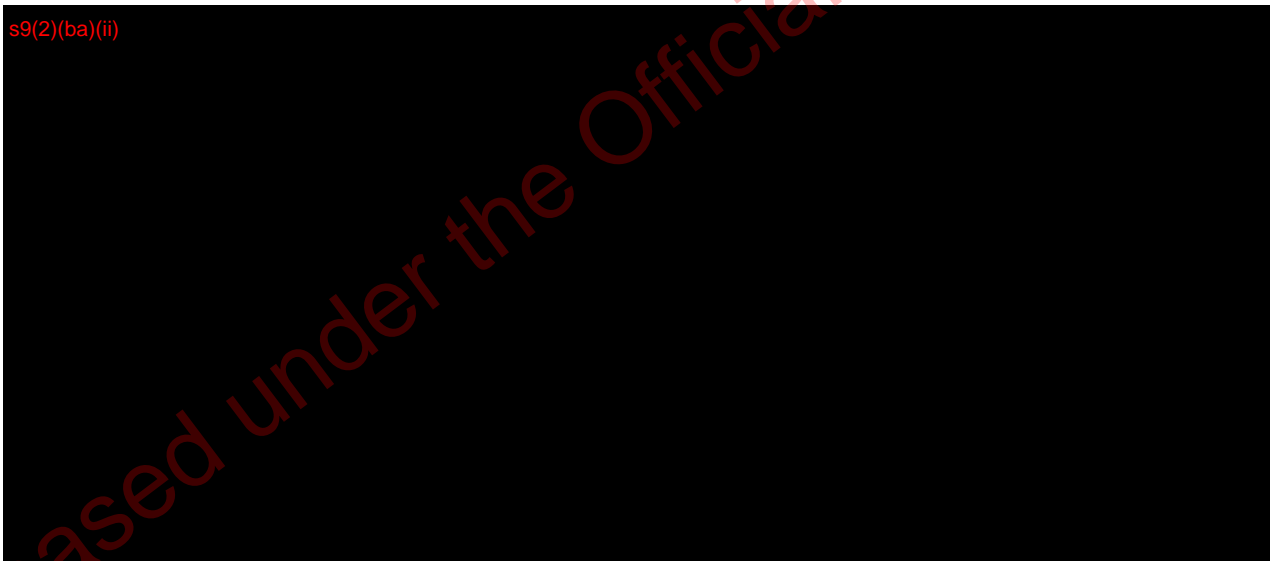
JR

From: Chris Kavazos <ckavazos@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 2:42 pm
To: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Tracey Grose <tgrose@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl

Hi guys,

Had a quick think about this. See below:

s9(2)(ba)(ii)



s9(2)(g)(i)



s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)



Christopher Kavazos PhD
Kaimātanga Wai Māori Senior Freshwater Technical Advisor
Te Papa Atawhai Department of Conservation
Kā Moana Haehae/Alexandra Office
43 Dunstan Road | PO Box 176 | Alexandra 9320

s9(2)(a)

W: doc.govt.nz

From: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 12:22 pm
To: Chris Kavazos <ckavazos@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl

Hi Chris – nice to hear from you and I hope things are all good at your end.

See attached the draft concession document for their proposed willow clearance provided to us to make early comment on.

s9(2)(g)(i)

That's all we have for now!

Thanks

JR

From: Chris Kavazos <ckavazos@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 9:27 am
To: John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl

Hi JR,

Is there a document to look at to give advice on? s9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Chris

From: Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 12 September 2025 8:47 am
To: Chris Kavazos <ckavazos@doc.govt.nz>; Tracey Grose <tgrose@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Proposed Santana /Bendigo concessions on pcl

Chris, we're just working on a response regarding Santana's proposals for Bendigo. Are you able to comment on the freshwater notes below which are JRs questions on Santana's proposal to undertake Willow removal. We have been asked to turn this around today, sorry for the short notice.

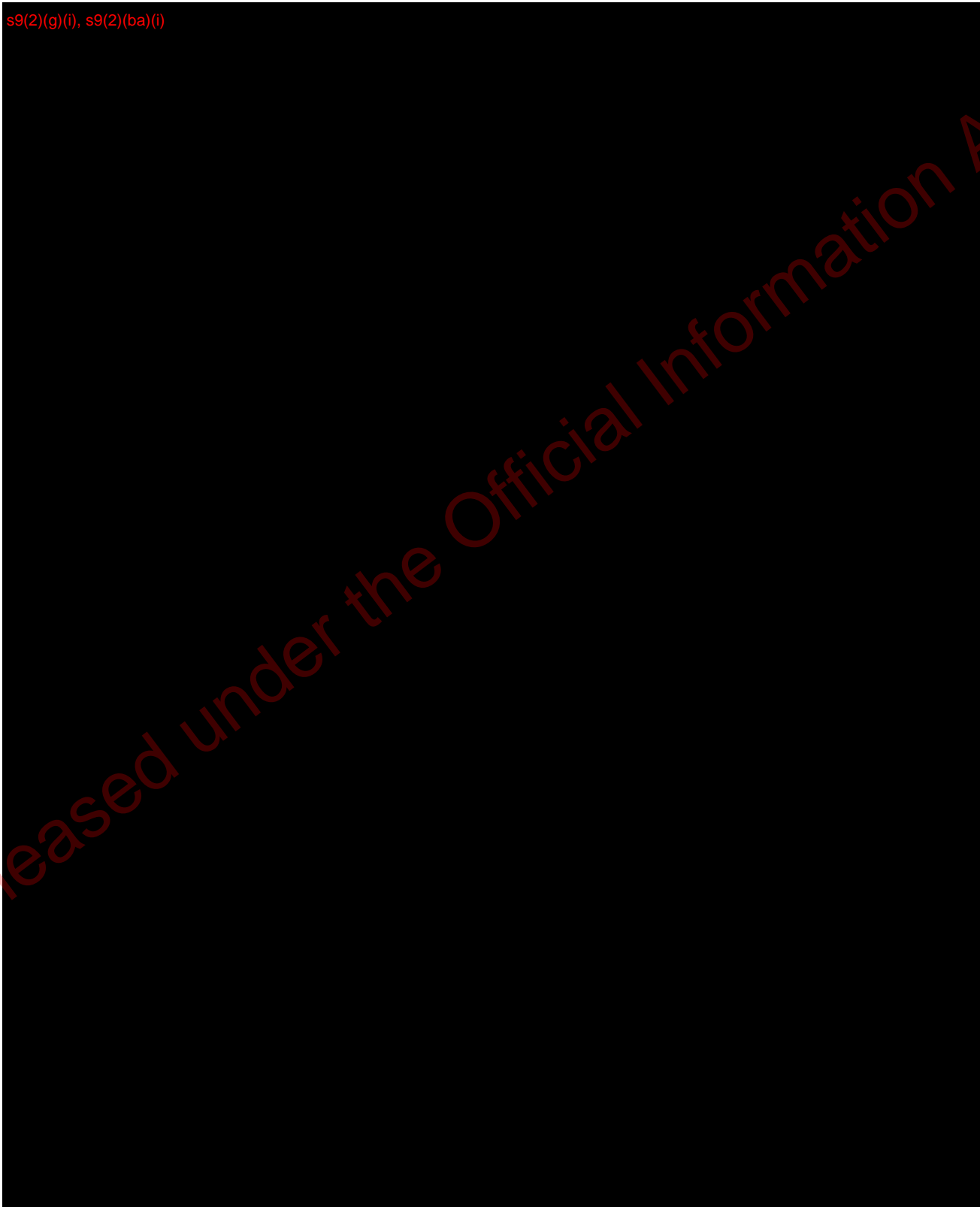
4. Willow removal along Bendigo Creek

- Sounds good but why are they doing this?
- Are there Fish and Game interests in this creek? Santana should ask this when they talk to F&G about the set down area by the Lindis River as above.
- Are there indigenous fish interests in this creek – if so is there the opportunity for enhancement of these values – while willow clearance seems a good first step, what is it that is trying to be achieved by this activity? We need quick/basic freshwater advice on this. s9(2)(g)(i) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Charlie

From: Carl Jones
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 10:01 am
To: Marie Payne
Subject: Carl Jones left a comment in "Draft DOC Concession and Conditions for Access Route to CIT Battery (5 Sept 2025)"

s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(ba)(i)



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From: Liz Williams
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:57 am
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: FW: Council contacts - Bendigo project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Sorry Sally missed you off the last email. See ORC contact as well.

From: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:51 am
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Murray Brass <mbrass@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Council contacts - Bendigo project

Hi Marie

I have a contact for ORC and just waiting a on a reply back from CODC.

ORC: Planner who will be reviewing the application is Shay McDonald
shay.mcdonald@orc.govt.nz – Shay will be the main contact for ORC and likely to have a technical team reviewing as well.

Cheers
Liz

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:28 am
To: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Murray Brass <mbrass@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Council contacts - Bendigo project

Hey all,

Just following up on any contacts we can reach out to, to set up a meeting re-Bendigo FT Project. Murray, Liz mentioned you may have some contacts I believe the correct councils are:

Central Otago District Council (CODC)
Otago Regional Council (ORC)

Some key points of discussion would be:

- General – how engaged they have been pre-lodgement and review of assessments/info provided
- Identifying key considerations/critical issues and areas of mutual interest

- Landscape assessments (CODC) – are they/will they be considering as part of their assessment given the covenant provisions and the policy settings of their plans
- Freshwater assessments ORC – Nicholas advises we normally lean on the council here for freshwater assessment would be good to confirm there approach and if this aligns

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



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From: Liz Williams
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:57 am
To: Marie Payne
Cc: Sally Clarkson; Murray Brass; John Roberts
Subject: FW: Fast Track Bendigo Gold Mine Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

...And see below details from OCDC. Ann Rodgers is based at CODC s9(2)(a) but looks like they also have a consultant helping out as well.

Cheers
Liz

From: Fiona Garrett <Fiona.Garrett@codc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 11 September 2025 9:52 am
To: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Ann Rodgers <Ann.Rodgers@codc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) s9(2)(a)
Subject: RE: Fast Track Bendigo Gold Mine Project

Hello

The relevant fast-track application is yet to be lodged; however, we have already had staff and external consultants engaged in both logistical arrangements in advance and considering information as it comes to hand.

I can advise prior to Ann s9(2)(a) she was reviewing information for the Bendigo Ophir Gold project. s9(2)(a)

An external planning consultant s9(2)(a) has been overseeing this project s9(2)(a). s9(2)(a) email address is attached, and her phone number details are s9(2)(a)

(-I can equally advise that the ORC point of contact for this project is Shay McDonald).

I hope this information has been of some assistance.

Kind regards Fiona

Fiona Garrett
Planning Manager

s9(2)(a)
✉ Fiona.Garrett@codc.govt.nz
📍 1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra 9320
🌐 www.codc.govt.nz

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From: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 5:22 pm
To: Fiona Garrett <Fiona.Garrett@codc.govt.nz>
Subject: Fast Track Bendigo Gold Mine Project

Kia ora Fiona

I sent Ann the below email but got her email bounce back. I was wondering if you could assist with the below?

Ngā Mihi,

Liz Williams BRP(Hons), MNZPI

Senior Resource Management Planner | Kaiwhakamahere penapenarawa
Dunedin Office | Ōtepoti
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai
Phone: s9(2)(a)
www.doc.govt.nz

Hi Ann

Hope all is well in Central! I'm looking for a contact from CODC who will be reviewing the Fast Track application for the Bendigo Ophir Gold Project. Our Fast Track team are looking to catch up with the relevant Councils to discuss the application/connect.

If you have a contact at the Council for who will be managing it from the Council's end that would be much appreciated.

Ngā Mihi,

Liz Williams BRP(Hons), MNZPI

Senior Resource Management Planner | Kaiwhakamahere penapenarawa
Dunedin Office | Ōtepoti
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If the land is well and the sea is well, the people will thrive



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From: John Roberts
Sent: Wednesday, 10 September 2025 1:55 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Cc: Marie Payne; Carl Jones; Charlie Sklenar; Tracey Grose; Pene Williams
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Thanks Sally

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(ba)(i)

Hi Charlie/Tracey - s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(g)(i)

WRT concessions

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

JR

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 10:35 am

To: Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE s9(2)(a) Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

Cc: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Hi all,

A brief email to let you know that Santana have provided us with some new information/documents relating to their proposal.

The documents can be found at the link below and relate to the following:

- **Draft concession proposal and conditions** – four documents for each of the concessions Santana will be seeking and the proposed conditions (CIT battery track; Ardgour Rise; SH8 intersection & willow clearance). s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

- **Part H – Working draft rules assessment for RMA approvals** – sets out the resource consents Santana are intending to apply for from both ORC and CODC (including under the NES-Freshwater and NES-CS)
- **Section 3 BOGP working draft substantive application report – project description** – provides an overview of the project; and detailed descriptions for the activities associated with the proposed construction, operation, maintenance and eventual closure of the mine
- **Section 4 BOGP working draft substantive application report – approvals sought** – sets out the approvals that Santana is intending to seek (as a package under the FTAA) – resource consents under the RMA; concessions; s9(2)(ba)(i) wildlife approvals; archaeological authorities; and approvals/dispensations under the Fisheries Regulations.

☐ [Draft Proposal Documents](#)

Based on an initial glance through the documents, we note that much of the detail looks to be relevant to your respective areas of expertise. We are in the process of going through the documents to extract and summarise the key details and will let you know when that is available.

In the meantime, feel free to come back to me with any questions.

Regards
Sally

Sally Clarkson

Senior Planner Fast Track Applications
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

Please note: My work days are Mondays and Tuesdays



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From: Warren Chinn
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 3:58 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information
Attachments: Critique of the Habitat NZ invertebrate report. W. Chinn..docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hi Sally, further to our comms - attached is a draft of my 'critique' of the Habitat NZ invertebrate report. Astonishing how much they charge their clients for these surveys!

Cheers
Warren

Warren Chinn
Technical Advisor (rauopi ngarara / invertebrate ecology)
Science and Technical | Terrestrial Ecosystems
Department of Conservation | Central Otago
wchinn@doc.govt.nz

s9(2)(a)

Wanaka office:
Tititea / Mt Aspiring National Park
1 Ballantyne Rd
Wanaka 930

s9(2)(a)

Alexandra /Ka Moana Haehae office:
43 Dunstan Rd. Alexandra 9320

s9(2)(a)

Te mahi kia maarama me te tiaki i te koiora i puta i Aotearoa i mua o te taenga mai o te tangata
Working to understand and preserve the biology that existed in Aotearoa/New Zealand before the
arrival of humans

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 13:45
To: Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Thanks for the update Warren.

s9(2)(g)(i)

Sally

From: Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 1:06 pm
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Thanks Sally, in the meantime I am close to providing a summary of the Santana invertebrate ecology report. **s9(2)(g)(i)**

Warren

Warren Chinn
Technical Advisor (rauopi ngarara / invertebrate ecology)
Science and Technical | Terrestrial Ecosystems
Department of Conservation | Central Otago
wchinn@doc.govt.nz

s9(2)(a)

Wanaka office:
Tititea / Mt Aspiring National Park
1 Ballantyne Rd
Wanaka 930

s9(2)(a)

Alexandra /Ka Moana Haehae office:
43 Dunstan Rd. Alexandra 9320

s9(2)(a)

*Te mahi kia maarama me te tiaki i te kōhira i puta i Aotearoa i mua o te taenga mai o te tangata
Working to understand and preserve the biology that existed in Aotearoa/New Zealand before the arrival of humans*

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 10:34
To: Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cjones@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE **s9(2)(a)**; Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Cc: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - additional information

Hi all,

A brief email to let you know that Santana have provided us with some new information/documents relating to their proposal.

The documents can be found at the link below and relate to the following:

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- **Part H – Working draft rules assessment for RMA approvals** – sets out the resource consents Santana are intending to apply for from both ORC and CODC (including under the NES-Freshwater and NES-CS)
- **Section 3 BOGP working draft substantive application report – project description** – provides an overview of the project; and detailed descriptions for the activities associated with the proposed construction, operation, maintenance and eventual closure of the mine
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[Draft Proposal Documents](#)

Based on an initial glance through the documents, we note that much of the detail looks to be relevant to your respective areas of expertise. We are in the process of going through the documents to extract and summarise the key details and will let you know when that is available.

In the meantime, feel free to come back to me with any questions.

Regards
Sally

Sally Clarkson

Senior Planner Fast Track Applications
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House
18 Manners Street

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

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From: John Roberts
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 6:28 pm
To: Charlie Sklenar; Marie Payne; Sally Clarkson; Carl Jones
Cc: Tracey Grose
Subject: Santana concession proposal - Come In Time Battery access
Bendigo Historic Reserve - Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust:

Hi Charlie - I note mention of the Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust works on the Come In Time Battery in your email today about other stuff (see abridged below)

You've seen today the upcoming concession proposals from Santana (for our comments before lodging into the FT process) to move public access to the CIT Battery from the current 250m walk from the side of the Thomsons Gorge Road s9(2)(b)(ii)
s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Marie/Carl – something to add into our feedback for s9(2)(a) about their concession applications

JR

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

Subject: Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust:

.....The Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust is a conservation group who have had a relationship with DOC Central Otago since 1997 and a large proportion of their funds go directly back into heritage conservation in this district. They are working on two major projects that will preserve high value conservation assets that would otherwise take longer to achieve through government funding (The Lindis Hotel [Lindis Valley](#) renovation which will cost in excess of \$100,000 and [the restoration of the Come in Time Battery](#)) and they are visible in our communities with a campaign that aligns strongly with Mobilising for Nature (activating volunteers etc). This is one of the few groups focused on gold heritage conservation in Central Otago what we have a history with since 1997 and I am looking to work with them more as we ramp up our heritage work and external focus.

Charlie Sklenar (she/her)

Operations Manager Central Otago | Pou Matarautaki

Wānaka Mount Aspiring National Park | Tititea

s9(2)(a)

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From: Emily Funnell
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 4:32 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally,
That's great, thank you 😊
Cheers
Emily

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 9 September 2025 4:29 pm
To: Emily Funnell <efunnell@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora Emily

Apologies for the long delay in coming back to you. I have discussed with Marie, and we agree that we can rely on council expertise in relation to water quality for this project.

Regards
Sally

From: Emily Funnell <efunnell@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Thursday, 14 August 2025 11:00 am
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora Sally,

I am the Freshwater Species Manager and have Nicholas in the team. He is going to cover the hydrology aspects of this case, but he isn't the right expert for the water quality aspects. We have a few options to address this; 1. I can bring in another expert from the team s9(2)(g)(i) 2. We can contract the water quality expertise s9(2)(g)(i) 3. We can collaborate with Regional Council given their mandate around water quality and can support their assessment s9(2)(g)(i). My question for you – is option 3 a realistic option? Are we able to rely on the expertise of council? In terms of RMA triaging, we do tend to leave WQ issues to regional council.

Cheers
Emily

From: Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:36 pm
To: Emily Funnell <efunnell@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Emily,

The reports have now been received this application. There are reports relating to aquatic ecology and surface and groundwater quantity which I can cover, however the report relating water quality is better placed with someone else, possibly Dave.

Happy to discuss

Regards

Nicholas

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 16:24

To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>

Cc: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Emma Fahey <efahey@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Pauline Marshall <pamarshall@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora everyone

As you are aware, and following our project initiation meetings, Santana Minerals Ltd are looking to apply for approval under the Fast Track Approvals Act to mine gold deposits on Bendigo and Ardour Stations.

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Please note: My work days are Mondays and Tuesdays



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Warren Chinn
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 1:51 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally,
yes I'd like to see their report.
The link doesn't work though (error 404...)
Any chance you could email it or another pathway to it?

Many thanks
Warren

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 12:59 pm
To: Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora Warren

I understand you have been away but I'm sending you a friendly reminder that the applicants, Santana, have provided DOC with two reports (Mammalian Pest Survey & Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey) specific to your area of expertise. If you could please review these documents and prepare some assessment/commentary taking into account the information set out in the email below that would be appreciated.

Please let me know if you have any questions around this.

Thanks
Sally

From: Sally Clarkson
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:24 pm
To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cjones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>
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Te Papa Atawhai

From: Sally Clarkson
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 2:36 pm
To: Rogan Colbourne; Max Crowe
Cc: Marie Payne; Richard Ewans
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Rogan & Max,

Santana have recently shared two more reports with us in relation to avifauna and wetlands values. These reports both feed into the overall Ecological Assessment of Effects that we have not been provided with yet.

- Avifauna Values Assessment  [2352 Matakanui avifauna values 8August2025.issued.pdf](#) (Rogan)
- Wetland Values Assessment  [2352 Matakanui wetland values.8August2025.issued.pdf](#) (Max)

Could you both please review the reports relating to your areas of expertise and provide comments/assessment including:

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Please also see the information in the email below that was sent out originally when the first technical reports came in from the applicant. It includes information on where the relevant documents are saved and where to upload your assessment. If your assessments could be completed and uploaded by Monday 8th September that would be appreciated.

Let me know if you have any questions regarding this.

Sally

From: Sally Clarkson
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:24 pm
To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>
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Thanks
Sally

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Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 10:18 am
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi sally yes that's fine - thx!!
Mandy
Sent from my iPhone 14 pro

On 1 Sep 2025, at 10:13 AM, Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Thanks Mandy.

Would by next Monday 8th give you enough time?

From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 9:58 am
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi sally - I see this info you require is here - thanks
Mandy
Sent from my iPhone 14 pro

On 1 Sep 2025, at 9:15 AM, Sally Clarkson
<sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Mandy

Apologies for the delay in getting back to you but as Marie has mentioned, just cc her in if you need a reply when I am not in the office (Wed-Fri).

I have asked Grace to reinstate your access to the shared folder but in the meantime, I understand Marie has sent you the Lizard Values Report. I have attached the Technical Report Summary document. The Lizard Values Assessment has been summarised and is included on page 4 of this document.

At this stage, we are after some generic comments/assessment from you in relation to the Lizards Values Assessment (not s17 comments). We would like you to review the Lizards Values Assessment and include the following (in a Word doc is fine):

1. An assessment relating to the conservation values affected
2. Key findings, summary, conclusions and critical issues
3. Any thoughts on potential compensation/mitigation/offsetting/avoidance possibilities – (noting that an advisor on compensation will also support the project)
4. Any critical information gaps (taking into account the other reports we are anticipating will be provided, where possible). The applicant has indicated that they have also commissioned a number of ecology assessments/management plans that they will share with us when they have been completed. I have included a snip of the reports we are still waiting to receive. Note they are preparing a Lizard Management Plan and presume that some of the other reports may also be relevant to lizards e.g. Sanctuary Management Plan, Habitat Management Plan etc.

<image006.png>

Please let me know if you have any questions. Happy to chat if you would like? My number is s9(2)(a)

Thanks
Sally

From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 10:14 pm

To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally – thanks for this – that's great news. The link did work but now it doesn't – I get this error – see screen shot attached. When this has happened in the past the MFA needs reset. Anyway, can you

please email it to me? Also, just to confirm – am I contributing to s17 comments – example attached that I did for another project – if I do the same for Bendigo will that suffice?

Thanks
Mandy

<image001.png>

<image002.jpg>

0272489363 Cell

mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz Email

www.lizardexpertnz.co.nz Web

www.facebook.com/lizardexpertNZ Follow Me

<image003.png>

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:17 pm

To: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Mandy

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I have summarised the report in the Technical Summary Report and uploaded it to the Ecology folder within the "Draft reports provided by applicant and report summary folder". I think you now have access to this folder but do let me know if not. I have included a link to the folder below:

<https://docnz.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/teams/Fast-trackApplications/Shared%20Documents/FT-0052-PRE%20-%20Bendigo-Ophir%20Gold%20Project/Pre%20lodgement/Draft%20reports%20provided%20by%20applicant%20and%20report%20summary?csf=1&web=1&e=evTYbq>

Let me know if you have any questions.

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Sally

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Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:24 pm

To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>

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Once complete please save your comments/assessments here:

[<image004.png>](#)

[Technical Experts Assessments](#)

GIS shape files:

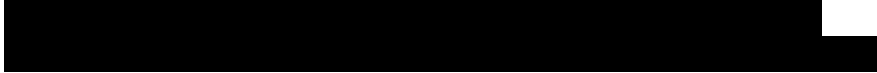
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From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 27 August 2025 2:49 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally – could you please give me a ring? 0272489363



LizardExpertNZ

Mandy Tocher

B.Sc., M.Sc. (Hon), Ph.D., M.Plan. (Dist).
RMA hearings commissioner
Herpetologist

0272489363 Cell

mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz Email

www.lizardexpertnz.co.nz Web

www.facebook.com/lizardexpertNZ Follow Me



From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:17 pm
To: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

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As DOC has now received a number of the reports, we would like to get you underway with reviewing the reports and providing comment in your respective areas of expertise. As a starting point, I have been through the technical reports that have been shared and have compiled a summary. It is saved here: [Technical Report Summary - Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.docx](#)

The summary document provides a brief scope for each report, potential effects, any mitigations included, where DOC's interest is expected to sit and who at DOC may be best placed to provide comment. Please feel free to add notes (and tag your name) if you have comments to add or believe we haven't identified the relevant expertise or commenting on this issue may not be a primary focus for DOC.

It would be appreciated if you could please review the reports relevant to your area of expertise (the summary includes who we believe the relevant expert is, as well as links to the reports) and provide the following:

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Once complete please save your comments/assessments here:  [Technical Experts Assessments](#)

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If possible, we would love to have your summaries in two weeks time, by 26th August, but do let me know if there are any issues with meeting this date (I can see that Matt is away until then).

Please record your time spent on these tasks in the Workflow tool and cap the time spent to 10 hours each (if a technical report is not yet available for your review, please limit background research to 4 hours). If more time is needed, please let Marie or I know before proceeding. s9(2)(g)(i)

If you have any questions or have trouble with any links etc please let me know. It was also previously suggested some technical subgroups maybe helpful – if you would like us to progress with establishing these also get in touch. This is all new territory so happy to move and pivot to ensure DOC is well placed to provide feedback on this proposal and prepare for the lodgement of the application.

Thanks
Sally

Sally Clarkson
Senior Planner Fast Track Applications
Whare Kaupapa Atawhai | Conservation House

18 Manners Street
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
Please note: My work days are Mondays and Tuesdays



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From: Max Crowe [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#) >
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 4:18 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Thanks for that Sally - I've now downloaded the vegetation report and the updated technical report summary.

Cheers,
Max

On Tue, Aug 26, 2025 at 3:41 PM Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Max,

That's great, thanks for the update. We have received a new ecology report today (Vegetation Values Assessment prepared by RMA Ecology Ltd) so could you please also have a look through and include it in your assessment document. I have saved it in the "draft reports provided by applicant and report summary" folder and also included a link below. I have also summarised the report and included it in the Technical Summary Report.

 [2352 Matakanui vegetation values 8August2025.issued.pdf](#)

And to answer your question regarding a possible policy framework for MCPs in NZ – this is not my area of expertise at all but a google did not bring up anything specific, so I wonder if you are correct.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks
Sally

From: Max Crowe [s9\(2\)\(a\)](#)
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 11:59 am
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally,

Yes thank you - Grace Masterton provided access to the technical reports and the GIS files, and I've started reviewing the rehabilitation aspects of the Mine Closure Plan as suggested in the "Technical Reports summary" document. I'm pretty far along but I'll probably need at least another day to get this completed.

Incidentally, am I correct that while they are well established in Australian regulation that there is no policy framework for Mine Closure Plans in the New Zealand context?

Ngā mihi,

Max

On Tue, Aug 26, 2025 at 11:47 AM Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hi Max

Just checking that you now have access to the files you need?

Sally

From: Max Crowe s9(2)(a)
Sent: Tuesday, 19 August 2025 3:50 pm
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally,
I've just tried clicking through to the documents but no luck sorry - it doesn't recognise me as someone with access yet. I'll have another go tomorrow, and let you know if the issues continue.
Regards,
Max

On Tue, Aug 19, 2025 at 3:42 PM Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Kia ora Richard,

Thanks for your email and the updates. I have amended the links in the below email so hopefully Max will be able to access the documents. Let me know if you encounter any issues.

The Technical Summary Report (linked below) contains links to the actual reports DOC has received thus far and I will need to check how Max can access those. I will keep Max updated on progress.

Regards
Sally

From: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 19 August 2025 3:04 pm
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE s9(2)(a); Oliver Overdyck <overdyck@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora Sally,
My apologies for the late response to your email.
My team has arranged for a consultant to support DOCs terrestrial ecosystem and botanical comments on this project: Max Crowe from FieldLab.

He will essentially be providing the comments for me. I will be available to support him and liaise with everyone as needed.

Could you please arrange for him to access all the documents below as soon as possible and include him in all correspondence.

Thank you for the summary of reports provided as pre-lodgement consultation which is very helpful.

We have limited hours **s9(2)(a)** for pre-lodgement comments so these would have to be high level and I'm unsure if he can meet 26 August date at this stage. Ideally, we'd wait for the ecology report but appreciate that getting started is useful and that we don't know when that report is coming.

Cheers, Richard

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 4:24 pm

To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>

Cc: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Emma Fahey <efahey@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Pauline Marshall <pamarshall@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Kia ora everyone

As you are aware, and following our project initiation meetings, Santana Minerals Ltd are looking to apply for approval under the Fast Track Approvals Act to mine gold deposits on Bendigo and Ardgour Stations.

Summary of technical reports:

As part of pre-lodgement consultation, Santana have now shared a series of technical reports with DOC. We are anticipating more reports to come which will have a significant conservation focus – relating mainly to ecology (habitat, avifauna, lizards, terrestrial invertebrates, pest management plans etc), hydrology, contaminated land, and planning. For your reference, a list of all reports that Santana have commissioned (and we are expecting to receive as part of pre-lodgement consultation) are included in the Register of Technical Reports saved here: [Register of Technical Reports - Bendigo-Ophir updated 11.8.25.xlsx](#). The reports in red font are the reports DOC is yet to receive.

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It would be appreciated if you could please review the reports relevant to your area of expertise (the summary includes who we believe the relevant expert is, as well as links to the reports) and provide the following:

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Once complete please save your comments/assessments here: ☐ [Technical Experts Assessments](#)

GIS shape files:

Santana has also provided GIS shape files for a series of things including the project footprint, concessions areas etc. These can be found here: [GIS shape files](#).

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Thanks
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--

FIELDLAB

biodiversity restoration and monitoring specialist

s9(2)(a)

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FIELDLAB

biodiversity restoration and monitoring specialist

s9(2)(a)

From: Nicholas Dunn
Sent: Sunday, 24 August 2025 8:54 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Cc: Emily Funnell
Subject: RE: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - fast track pre-lodgement consultation

Hi Sally,

I have provided a freshwater assessment in the linked memo:

<https://doccm.doc.govt.nz/cwxv4/wcc/faces/wccdoc?dDocName=DOC-10432564>

This has also been uploaded to the technical experts assessments folder linked below.

Regards

Nicholas

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 12 August 2025 16:24
To: Richard Ewans <rewans@doc.govt.nz>; Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Mandy Tocher <Mandy.Tocher@wildlands.co.nz>
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Sally Clarkson

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Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
Please note: My work days are Mondays and Tuesdays



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From: Marie Burton
Sent: Monday, 8 September 2025 2:53 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: FW: working draft Project description, working draft approvals sought , working draft rules assessment for RMA approvals
Attachments: Part H - Working Draft Rules Assessment for RMA Approvals (29 August 2025) - for DOC.docx; Section 4 - BOGP Working Draft Substantive Application Report - Approvals Sought (29 August 2025) - for DOC.docx

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Sent: Sunday, 31 August 2025 6:35 pm
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <Jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)santanaminerals.com>
Subject: working draft Project description, working draft approvals sought , working draft rules assessment for RMA approvals

Hi Marie/Jenni,

While the full substantive report for the BOGP is still being prepared and cannot be circulated at this time, please find attached the following 'working draft' sections of the report which provide a comprehensive project description (Section 3 - BOGP working draft substantive application report- Project description - will email separately) and a summary of the consents and approvals being sought under the Fast-track Approvals Act (Section 4 - BOGP working draft substantive application report - approvals sought -attached) . We have also provided the RMA rules assessment document (attached - Part H - draft rules assessment for RMA approvals) which will be appended to the substantive report and provides a detailed assessment of the permitted activities and consents sought under the various regional plans.

Kind Regards,

s9(2)(a)

Santana Minerals | Cromwell, NZ

s9(2)(a)

W: www.santanaminerals.com



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From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 6 September 2025 11:31 am
To: Sally Clarkson
Cc: Marie Payne
Subject: Conservation Resource Reports - Bendigo and Ardgour

Hi Sally – I cant seem to find the Conservation Resource Reports - Bendigo and Ardgour Stations online or on the LNIZ websites. I require them as part of the background work for Bendigo as a number of species known from the area were not found in the Applicants lizard survey. Is this something you can please source for me? They are Tenure Review reports – they may need scanned?

Thanks
Mandy



LizardExpertNZ

Mandy Tocher

B.Sc., M.Sc. (Hon), Ph.D., M.Plan. (Dist).
RMA hearings commissioner
Herpetologist

0272489363 Cell

mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz Email

www.lizardexpertnz.co.nz Web

www.facebook.com/lizardexpertNZ Follow Me



From: Marie Burton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 5:00 pm
To: Catherine Wilson
Cc: Jenni Fitzgerald; Raewyn Hutchings
Subject: RE: Use of externals on FT projects across BHV

Kia ora Cat/Raewyn,

I am a project lead in the fast-track team currently leading the work on the Bendigo and Buller plateau projects (two complex mining applications in pre-lodgement consultation with DOC).

The heritage advisors on both projects, Mike Gillies (Buller) and Matt Schmit (Bendigo) have requested to use external heritage consultants to progress work on these projects, however they have both been supporting with advice to date.

We have requests to use external resource from BHV where there are issues of capacity or specific expertise needed – Cat (as below) Tim Banford advised you would likely be the decision maker from a heritage perspective. The fast-track team has some oversight on the use of externals from the cost-recovery aspect, but ultimately BHV is the decision maker.

Request: To use external heritage consultants for Bendigo and Buller Plateau FT projects.

Rationale:

- **Capacity** - Mike and Matt have advised that capacity is going to be limited in their ability to input into these projects due to existing commitments. The projects are considered highly significant in terms of effects/potential mitigations/offsetting & compensation.
- **Capability**- Considered there are heritage advisors with very specific existing expertise in relation to mining proposals and the heritage values on these sites which could add additional value to DOC's input into the process
- **Other**
 - The applicants are peer reviewing some of the heritage reports already (but this will not be guided by DOC's scope) it is possible they push back on the use of an external.
 - Any conflicts of interests with proposed externals
 - <https://southernsettlerarchaeology.com/about-us/> - suggested for Buller
 - s9(2)(a) suggested for Bendigo

If you could get back to me and advise whether you approve the use of externals I will progress with Raewyn/Matt/Mike.

Any questions please let me know.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 11:07 am
To: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>; John Lyall <jlyall@doc.govt.nz>; Catherine Wilson <catwilson@doc.govt.nz>; Kirstie Knowles <kknowles@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Use of externals on FT projects across BHV

Hey Marie,

Thanks for checking in. From a heritage perspective, it would be Cat Wilson making the call, on recommendation from the relevant manager.

Re biodiversity, I am responsible re calls for terrestrial advice, and Kirstie for aquatic advice.

John – are you OK please getting back to Marie on her questions below at some stage?

Ta, Tim

From: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Friday, 22 August 2025 11:05 am
To: Tim Bamford <tbamford@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Use of externals on FT projects across BHV

Hey Tim,

I am aware there have been on-going discussions around the use of external contractors to provide BHV advice on FT applications, my understanding is BHV

'approves' this in principle with oversight from Jenni – FT applications manager (from a perspective of cost-recovery implications).

We have received two more requests to use external advisors to support on heritage for Bendigo and the Buller Plateau projects predominately due to capacity. Both of these high profile, substantive applications are in pre-lodgement engagement.

From a biodiversity perspective I am aware you would make the call (and we have externals on biodiversity for both Buller and Bendigo), who would be your counterpart from a heritage perspective?

It would be good to clarify the points below across BHV just to ensure a shared understanding and consistent approach.

- s9(2)(g)(i)

-

-

Any questions please let me know. Also happy to set up a meeting to discuss further.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Tuesday, 2 September 2025 1:09 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: FW: Draft Project description
Attachments: Section 3 - BOGP Working Draft Substantive Application Report - Project Description (29 August 2025) - for DOC.pdf

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Sent: Sunday, 31 August 2025 7:00 pm
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>; Jenni Fitzgerald <jefitzgerald@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>; s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Subject: Draft Project description

Hi Marie and Jenni,

Draft working project description attached. The file was too big to send so I made pdf

Kind regards

s9(2)(a)

Santana Minerals | Cromwell, NZ

s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com | W: www.santanaminerals.com



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From: Marie Burton
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 8:34 am
To: 'Max Crowe'
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Thanks Matt that is really helpful, and nice to meet you yday.

Are you able to write out your questions re-closure plans/management, s9(2)(h)
I am sure you will do a better job than me.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne
Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications
Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington
s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Max Crowe s9(2)(a)
Sent: Friday, 5 September 2025 8:05 am
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Re: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hi Marie,
Thanks for arranging the meeting yesterday - I'm emailing to let you know that I've uploaded my review of completeness for the vegetation components provided so far to the Technical Experts Assessment shared Folder.
Hei konā mai,
Max

On Mon, Sep 1, 2025 at 11:32 AM Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

Hey all,

Please see the update below in relation to the Bendigo Ophir Gold application, if you have any further questions let me know or throw them in to the Teams Chat (in the process of being set up).

Reports

Thanks for all of your work compiling feedback in relation to the applicants' technical reports for this project over the last few weeks. We are currently shaping this up to

provide back to applicants and may come back with further questions.

There are further reports trickling in although the ecological/conservation focused reports seem to be arriving later than the rest.

Just to recap the summaries for these reports should focus on:

- Is all the information there to support an application in accordance with the relevant schedule of the FTAA (noting it isn't the actual application document).
- Is it sufficient for the purpose of which its required e.g. a wildlife approval
- Is the loss of values, loss of benefit adequately represented/if not why?

Not in scope

Lodgement update

We had an update from the applicant on Friday last week indicating that they intend to lodge at the end of September, this sounded like the aim although not set in stone, I did discuss with the applicant I would be concerned that leaves a small window for them to integrate any commentary we may have on assessments/applications into their lodged application given we haven't seen a large amount of information at this point. Additionally, I advised that they share their draft application documents with us and enable time for any feedback/commentary on them prior to lodgement/completeness.

Conditions/compensation

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

Carl/Pene – It would be good to talk to you re-mandatory conditions, I have attached the signed off copy and s9(2)(h)

Clare/Debbie- It would also be good to talk to you about the revocation and what information we need from the applicant to inform our position on this further.

I assume at an initial meeting re covenant and conditions it would be me/Pene/Carl/Clare/Debbie and John? With a solid pre-meet informed by the above information and the pre-circulation of conditions and relevant application info.

In relation to compensation, we have been aligning closely with the work that Matt Kuzeman is undertaking to develop a framework to guide DOC's approach to compensation (FT and BAU albeit FT may have some nuances to consider).

Project management

I am going to schedule a team catch up this week and some further regular catch ups (alongside starting a Teams chat) to help facilitate communication.

I am also going to devise a plan for how we work through completeness too, so when that happens we are organised and prepared. The applicant shared with us their proposal document yday – so I will be going through this and separating out the conservation approvals sought in the next few days.

Any questions before we meet, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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--

FIELDLAB

biodiversity restoration and monitoring specialist

s9(2)(a)

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:46 pm
To: Siobhan Quayle
Cc: Jenni Fitzgerald
Subject: FW: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hey Siobhan,

Just FYI the below – noting that I spoke to the applicant on Friday and they advised they are intending to lodge end of Sept.

I have flagged to the applicant I am concerned that that window doesn't give them/us much time to collate any commentary and integrate it into the application (given we haven't seen a number of the conservation reports/draft app docs).

s9(2)(ba)(i)

Will keep you updated, let us know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Marie Burton

Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 11:32 am

To: Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hey all,

Please see the update below in relation to the Bendigo Ophir Gold application, if you have any further questions let me know or throw them in to the Teams Chat (in the process of being set up).

Reports

Thanks for all of your work compiling feedback in relation to the applicants' technical reports for this project over the last few weeks. We are currently shaping this up to provide back to applicants and may come back with further questions.

There are further reports trickling in although the ecological/conservation focused reports seem to be arriving later than the rest.

Just to recap the summaries for these reports should focus on:

- Is all the information there to support an application in accordance with the relevant schedule of the FTAA (noting it isn't the actual application document).
- Is it sufficient for the purpose of which its required e.g. a wildlife approval
- Is the loss of values, loss of benefit adequately represented/if not why?

Not in scope

Lodgement update

We had an update from the applicant on Friday last week indicating that they intend to lodge at the end of September, this sounded like the aim although not set in stone, I did discuss with the applicant I would be concerned that leaves a small window for them to integrate any commentary we may have on assessments/applications into their lodged application given we haven't seen a large amount of information at this point. Additionally, I advised that they share their draft application documents with us and enable time for any feedback/commentary on them prior to lodgement/completeness.

Conditions/compensation

s9(2)(ba)(i)

s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(h)

Carl/Pene – It would be good to talk to you re-mandatory conditions, I have attached the signed off copy and s9(2)(h)

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Project management

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Any questions before we meet, please get in touch.

Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:33 pm
To: Liz Williams
Cc: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hey Liz,

From an RC perspective the scope is a bit broader so it would be good to have a catch up on this and make sure we are making efficient use of your time; the applicant has also send through some broader information related to what they are applying for.

Sally are you able to schedule in a catch up with me, you and Liz and summarise key RMA considerations from the reports to date to inform this discussion. In terms of timeframes Liz it would be good if we could summarise any key/critical issues considerations by the end of next week.

Kind regards,

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

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

From: Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 12:03 pm
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hi Marie

Do you have a deadline for when you would like final comments/feedback before going back to the applicant? I'm planning on having a look through but haven't managed to get to it as yet.

Ngā Mihi,

Liz Williams BRP(Hons), MNZPI
Senior Resource Management Planner | Kaiwhakamahere penapenarawa
Dunedin Office | Ōtepoti
Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

s9(2)(a)

www.doc.govt.nz

Kia piki te oranga o te ao tūroa, i roto i te ngātahitanga, ki Aotearoa.
To work with others to increase the value of conservation for New Zealanders.

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

Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 11:32 am

To: Nicholas Dunn <ndunn@doc.govt.nz>; Rogan Colbourne <rcolbourne@doc.govt.nz>; Warren Chinn <wchinn@doc.govt.nz>; Carl Jones <cajones@doc.govt.nz>; Darcy Liddell <dliddell@doc.govt.nz>; Liz Williams <lwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; Pene Williams <pwilliams@doc.govt.nz>; John Roberts <jroberts@doc.govt.nz>; Matt Schmidt <mschmidt@doc.govt.nz>; Clare Fleming <cfleming@doc.govt.nz>; Debbie Lewis <delewis@doc.govt.nz>; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE s9(2)(a) <[REDACTED]>; Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

Cc: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>; Charlie Sklenar <csklenar@doc.govt.nz>

Subject: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project

Hey all,

Please see the update below in relation to the Bendigo Ophir Gold application, if you have any further questions let me know or throw them in to the Teams Chat (in the process of being set up).

Reports

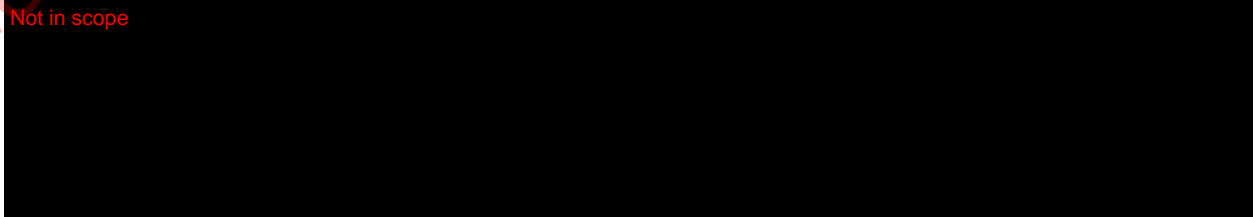
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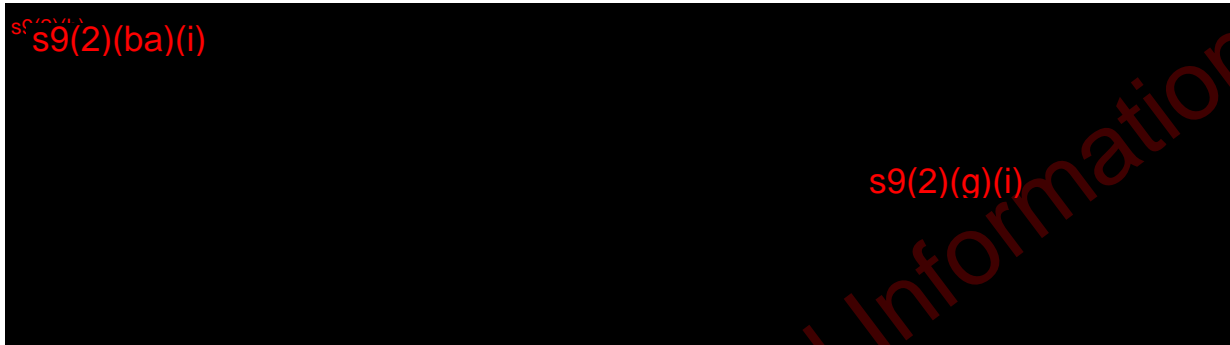
Not in scope



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Marie

Marie Payne

Senior Advisor Fast Track Applications

Te Whanganui-a-Tara | Wellington

s9(2)(a)



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Marie Burton
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 11:32 am
To: Nicholas Dunn; Rogan Colbourne; Warren Chinn; Carl Jones; Darcy Liddell; Liz Williams; Pene Williams; John Roberts; Matt Schmidt; Clare Fleming; Debbie Lewis; DLVC_FIELDLAB - MAX M L CROWE; Mandy Tocher
Cc: Sally Clarkson; Charlie Sklenar
Subject: Bendigo Ophir Gold - Santana Minerals Project
Attachments: 25-B-0187 – SIGNED Briefing – Fast Track Approvals - Mandatory Section 78 conditions - DOC-10282917.pdf

Hey all,

Please see the update below in relation to the Bendigo Ophir Gold application, if you have any further questions let me know or throw them in to the Teams Chat (in the process of being set up).

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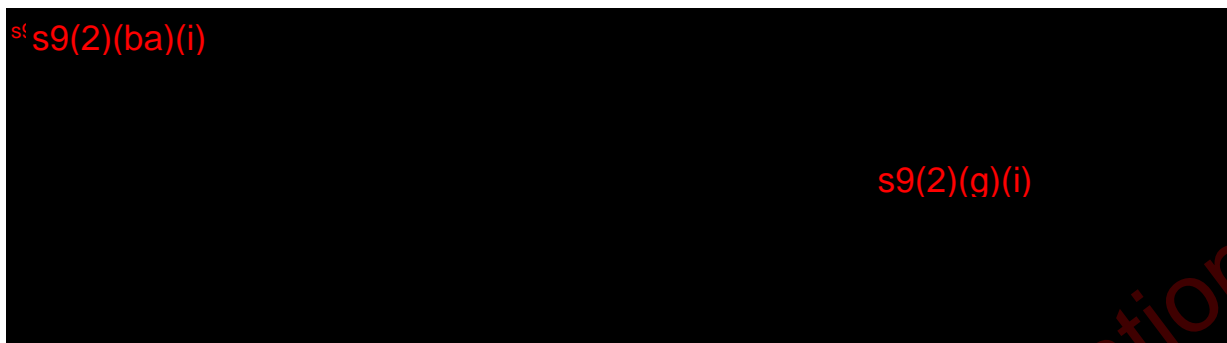
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Kind regards,

Marie

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)




Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Released under the Official Information Act

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 4:09 pm
To: Sally Clarkson
Cc: Marie Payne
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Afternoon

Please find an updated addendum  [Memo - Economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project updated for June 2025 Pre-Feasibility Study.pdf](#)

Kind Regards

s9(2)(a)




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From: s9(2)(a)
Sent: Thursday, 28 August 2025 11:22 am
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder

Good Morning

Please find the Avifauna Report  [2352 Matakanaui avifauna values 8August2025.issued.pdf](#)

And Wetland Report in your shared folder  [2352 Matakanaui wetland values 8August2025.issued.pdf](#)

Thank you

s9(2)(a)

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:35 pm
To: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Cc: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder



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Excellent, thank you s9(2)(a)

From: s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 12:27 pm
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder

Kia ora Sally

Great timing! Please see Lizard and Vegetation reports in your shared folder. The others aren't far away!!

 [2352 Matakauui lizard values 5August2025.issued.pdf](#)
 [2352 Matakauui vegetation values 8August2025.issued.pdf](#)

Manv thanks

s9(2)(a)



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From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Tuesday, 26 August 2025 11:11 am
To: s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@santanaminerals.com](mailto:s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com)>
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder

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Kia ora s9(2)(a)





I just wanted to drop you a quick line to see if there are any updates on the status of the outstanding technical reports. We have ecologists on standby to review the information once it is received. If you could pass on any information regarding expected timeframes that would be appreciated and will assist us in being as responsive as possible.

Thanks
Sally

From: s9(2)(a) <[s9\(2\)\(a\)@santanaminerals.com](mailto:s9(2)(a)@santanaminerals.com)>
Sent: Monday, 4 August 2025 3:26 pm
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>; Marie Payne <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Cc: Emma Fahey <efahey@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: New report in shared folder

Good Afternoon

More reports – doc register updated  [DOC Document Register \(2\).xlsx](#)

 [B.00 - Marshall Day Acoustics - Noise and Vibration Management Plan.pdf](#)
 [B.00 - PDP - Air Quality Management Plan.pdf](#)
 [B.00 - Landcare Research - Applied Research Plan for conservation management, rehabilitation and expansion of cushionfield.pdf](#)
 [B.00 - Greg Ryder Consulting - Water Quality Compliance Limits.pdf](#)

Thanks

s9(2)(a)



From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 3:11 pm
To: Marie Payne; Sally Clarkson
Subject: Legal advice sought x 2 lizards FTAA

Hi both – the DOC threat panel for reptiles met last week and I am guessing a lot of changes were made that are relevant to the FTAA process. A selection of Otago lizards likely to have increased (got worse) in terms of likelihood of extinction. s9(2)(h), s9(2)(g)(i)

[REDACTED]

Thanks
Mandy



LizardExpertNZ

Mandy Tocher

B.Sc., M.Sc. (Hon), Ph.D., M.Plan. (Dist).

RMA hearings commissioner

Herpetologist

0272489363 Cell

mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz Email

www.lizardexpertnz.co.nz Web

www.facebook.com/lizardexpertNZ Follow Me



From: Marie Burton
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:30 am
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: RE: Bendigo FTTA

All good I sent the report on but yes giving her a call would be helpful.

After speaking to the Buller project team last week, I think making some kind of template for their feedback would be good...in particular for Wildlife we want to know if that report is sufficient to support a Wildlife Authority, any critical gaps/values lost.

Will be in shortly can discuss further.

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

s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:22 am
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo FTTA

Hi Marie

Yes that's the only report so far.

I see I have a couple of emails from Mandy so I'll get back to her soon. She seems to not be clear on what we need her to do at this stage so I'll clarify.

Sally

-----Original Message-----

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:19 am
To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: FW: Bendigo FTTA

Hey Sally,

Just double checking below is the only lizards report we have at the mo?

<https://docnz.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/teams/Fast-trackApplications/Shared%20Documents/FT-0052-PRE%20-%20Bendigo-Ophir%20Gold%20Project/Pre%20lodgement/Draft%20reports%20provided%20by%20applicant%20a>

nd%20report%20summary/Ecology?

csf=1&web=1&e=hcjsv7&xsdata=MDV8MDJ8c2NsYXJrc29uQGRvYy5nb3Z0Lm56fDIwYWQ3M2RmNjh
mYTQ1NzFjYmQyMDhkZGU4Y2QzMWNhGyYwY2JiMjRmYTJmNjQ5OGZiNTM2NmViOWExM2EzNTdjfD
B8MHw2Mzg5Mjl2OTAxOTI3OTE3OTR8VW5rbm93bnxUV0ZwYkdac2IzZDhleUpGYlhCMGVVMWhjR2t
pT25SeWRXVXNjBFlpT2Ijd0xqQXVNREF3TUNJc0lsQWIPaUpYYVc0ek1pSXNJa0ZPSWpvaVRXRnBiQ0lzS
WxkVUIqb3ImUT09fDB8fHw%3d&sdata=M3Q2bXJWWFZqMmhCWGV4cnZkbFQ5T3JpWEYrTFgwdk5r
anNCN09oazh0Yz0%3d

Kind regards,

Marie

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

s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Sent: Monday, 1 September 2025 8:19 am
To: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Subject: RE: Bendigo FTTA

Thanks Mandy,

Sally only works 2 days a week Mon and Tues - so please feel free to keep me cc'd in to future comms and I'll get back to you if Sally isn't in.

The Lizards Values report is here saved in the teams channel, if you have any issues with access let me know and I will follow up ASAP.

Kind regards,

<https://docnz.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/teams/Fast-trackApplications/Shared%20Documents/FT-0052-PRE%20-%20Bendigo->

[Ophir%20Gold%20Project/Pre%20lodgement/Draft%20reports%20provided%20by%20applicant%20and%20report%20summary/Ecology?](https://docnz.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/teams/Fast-trackApplications/Shared%20Documents/FT-0052-PRE%20-%20Bendigo-Ophir%20Gold%20Project/Pre%20lodgement/Draft%20reports%20provided%20by%20applicant%20and%20report%20summary/Ecology?csf=1&web=1&e=hcjsv7&xsdata=MDV8MDJ8c2NsYXJrc29uQGRvYy5nb3Z0Lm56fDIwYWQ3M2RmNjh)

csf=1&web=1&e=hcjsv7&xsdata=MDV8MDJ8c2NsYXJrc29uQGRvYy5nb3Z0Lm56fDIwYWQ3M2RmNjh
mYTQ1NzFjYmQyMDhkZGU4Y2QzMWNhGyYwY2JiMjRmYTJmNjQ5OGZiNTM2NmViOWExM2EzNTdjfD
B8MHw2Mzg5Mjl2OTAxOTI4MDc1Mzl8VW5rbm93bnxUV0ZwYkdac2IzZDhleUpGYlhCMGVVMWhjR2t
pT25SeWRXVXNjBFlpT2Ijd0xqQXVNREF3TUNJc0lsQWIPaUpYYVc0ek1pSXNJa0ZPSWpvaVRXRnBiQ0lzS
WxkVUIqb3ImUT09fDB8fHw%3d&sdata=bkQ4S2pwbW10bC9tUHhGVGZ6ODlqbElpRzBtaHkyczhwTjJm
Wm9vVk5Lcz0%3d

Marie Payne

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

s9(2)(a)

-----Original Message-----

From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Saturday, 30 August 2025 11:57 am
To: Marie Burton <mpayne@doc.govt.nz>
Subject: Bendigo FTTA

Hi Marie - I have asked sally clarkson twice to please send me the lizard report and/or arrange access for me I to shared folder but no reply from her - are you able to help ? Please email me the lizard report and Sally's DDI number ? Thx!

Mandy

Sent from my iPhone 14 pro

Released under the Official Information Act

From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>
Sent: Monday, 25 August 2025 10:18 am
To: Sally Clarkson
Subject: Re: Bendigo FTAA

Thanks Sally
Sent from my iPhone 14 pro

> On 25 Aug 2025, at 8:47 AM, Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz> wrote:

>

> Hi Mandy

>

> Thanks for checking in. I can confirm that we still have not received any reports relating to lizards. So obviously ignore tomorrow's deadline.

>

> I will send through the relevant report(s) to you as soon as they come through.

>

> Regards

> Sally

>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mandy Tocher <mtocher@lizardexpertnz.co.nz>

> Sent: Sunday, 24 August 2025 9:19 pm

> To: Sally Clarkson <sclarkson@doc.govt.nz>

> Subject: Bendigo FTAA

>

> Hi Sally do you know if any lizard material has arrived yet from Santana ? I have a note in my diary to get some notes to you by Tuesday this week.

> Thanks

> Mandy

> Sent from my iPhone 14 pro

>

>

>

>

>

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09/06/2025

Damien Spring
Chief Executive Officer

Santana Minerals Limited
15a Chardonnay St

Cromwell
New Zealand
community@santanaminerals

Tēnā koe Damian,

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION (DOC) RESPONSE - RE: SANTANA MINERALS LIMITED – BENDIGO-OPHIR GOLD PROJECT – SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION UNDER SCHEDULE 2 OF THE FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024

I am responding on behalf of Penny who appreciates your letter dated 29th May 2025 providing an update on the progress of your Fast-track application and advising DOC of your intended lodgement date. I have oversight of DOC's fast-track work and would be keen to have a meeting with your key people (perhaps together with MBIE) to discuss all the various regulatory processes that you are navigating for this project.

DOC is committed to working collaboratively with applicants on their Fast-track applications and has developed a pre-lodgement consultation process to facilitate engagement and ensure it delivers efficiencies for all stakeholders.

Having worked through this process in relation to several applications now, it is clear that it is extremely valuable and enables a range of potential issues and opportunities to be worked through prior to the formal Fast-track process commencing. For this project we anticipate that it would be valuable to use this process to consider:

- Alignment of the application documentation with the information requirements of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA) in relation to approvals sought where DOC is an administering agency.
- Identification of any information/approvals which DOC anticipates may need to be considered/provided in the application to meet FTAA information requirements and support a panel to consider the application.
- How you might address potential effects and potential mitigations informed by DOC expertise (e.g. the use of public conservation land, wildlife approvals).

To ensure that this process is undertaken effectively it is key that adequate time and information is provided. I am aware that the DOC Fast-track Team requested further information on the application in March 2025 and in response some high-level further information was recently received (19 May). I note your intention to lodge your application next month. As set out in the FTAA consultation with administering agencies is required prior to lodgement of a substantive application for a listed project, DOC's view is that working with applicants during the pre-lodgement phases will support that formal decision-making processes are as streamlined as possible – to this end I would encourage free and frank engagement. The earlier information is shared, the more fulsome and robust DOC's response will be, and the more time to iron out any issues. In an ideal world, DOC will have little to say in relation to substantive applications as all questions have been answered and issues resolved prior to lodgement.

I note your mention of a 'pre-lodgement briefing' but it appears the attachment may have been missing. Notwithstanding, the team will continue to work through the consultation



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process. Please continue to liaise with Marie Payne as the nominated Fast-track project lead to progress this.

Ngā mihi



Siobhan Quayle

Director Regulatory Systems Performance

Department of Conservation | Te Papa Atawhai

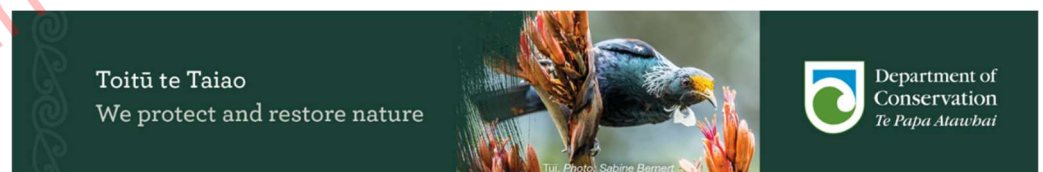
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Memo - Economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project updated for Pre-Feasibility Study – June 2025

This memo quantifies the potential economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP), which is being developed by Santana Minerals Limited (New Zealand subsidiary is Matakānui Gold Limited). The findings in this memo represent a refreshed analysis of the BOGP's economic impacts using data in the Updated Pre-Feasibility Study – June 2025. This analysis builds on an earlier economic impact assessment framework prepared using the Initial Pre-Feasibility Study – November 2024¹. All figures are in New Zealand Dollar terms.

Summary of key findings

- The cumulative direct GDP effects of the BOGP on the Otago economy are projected to be \$5.8 billion over the project duration², at an average of \$360 million of GDP per year.
 - There has been a significant increase to the projected cumulative GDP effects, with estimates from the initial PFS showing \$4.5 billion of direct GDP, compared to the \$5.8 billion of GDP that is now projected using the updated PFS.
- A total of \$1.8 billion of revenue will be generated for the government, via royalties, corporate taxes, PAYE and ACC payments.
- The BOGP will directly support an average 357 staff a year.
 - On top of the jobs directly supported by the BOGP's mining operations, there are also employment multiplier effects that could accrue throughout Otago and the rest of New Zealand. For every direct job, there is the potential for a further 1.4 jobs to be created through multiplier channels.
 - Employment multipliers capture two effects. The first effect is jobs created among suppliers from the BOGP's procurement (indirect employment), while the other effect is jobs created from providing goods and services (e.g. supermarkets, health, education, etc) to meet the needs of mine workers (induced employment).
 - Indirect employment could potentially average 281 jobs on top of the 357 jobs directly at the BOGP, while the induced employment effect could amount to another 216 jobs.
- Jobs will be highly productive and highly paid. The BOGP is estimated to contribute \$1.0 million of GDP per worker, which is 7.5 times the current average productivity across Inland Otago³.
- The average wage for workers employed by the BOGP is estimated at \$140,300 a year, which is 104% higher than the average wage in Inland Otago of \$68,904 in 2024.
- Sourcing hundreds of workers will be a complex recruitment exercise, but the Inland Otago job market has previously demonstrated it can absorb such employment lifts. Workers have been attracted to Inland Otago to fill more than 18,000 new jobs in the 10 years to 2024.

¹ Further information regarding the framework for estimating the economic impacts of the BOGP can be found in: Benje Patterson (February 2025), "Economic Impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project".

² Across the 13.8 years of active mining, as well as the earlier pre-mining phase.

³ Inland Otago includes Central Otago and Queenstown Lakes districts, which aligns to the Project's core area of influence within Otago Region.

Detailed results and comparisons

This remainder of this memo introduces updates to key project assumptions that underpinned the economic analysis, as well as more information behind the key findings summarised above.

Core project assumptions

Core project assumptions in the updated PFS are compared against the initial PFS in Table 1.

The BOGP is expected to yield 1.25 million ounces of gold across an initial mine life of 13.8 years. The Project is anticipated to generate \$6.75 billion of revenue (net of selling costs) and make payments of \$2.91 billion for royalties, operating expenses, and capital expenses.

There has been a significant lift in anticipated gold production and revenue since the initial PFS was prepared in November 2024, while operating expenditure and royalties have also risen significantly. The increases to these metrics more than outweigh the minimal reduction to capital investment in mining infrastructure, which is why the economic impacts estimated using the updated PFS are higher.

Table 1

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - key production, revenue, and spending highlights		
<i>Data drawn from Santana financial models that informed the PFS, financials expressed in NZD terms</i>		
Production highlights	PFS - Nov. 2024	UPDATED PFS - JUN. 2025
Gold production	1.15 million ounces	1.25 million ounces
Gold yields (gold per tonne of ore mined)	2.30 g/t (average)	2.54 g/t (average)
Initial mine life	9.17 years	13.8 years
Gold price	USD 2,685	USD 3,138
NZD:USD exchange rate	0.596	0.58
Revenue & spending highlights (NZD terms)		
Gold revenue (net of selling costs)	\$5.17 billion	\$6.75 billion
Operating expenditure (OPEX) and royalties	\$1.71 billion	\$2.38 billion
EBITDA	\$3.47 billion	\$4.38 billion
Capital expenditure (CAPEX)	\$0.60 billion	\$0.53 billion

Direct economic impacts (measured by GDP)

The cumulative direct GDP effects of the Project are estimated to be \$5.8 billion at an average of \$359 million of GDP per annum.

Direct economic impacts have been measured by GDP. Using GDP is appropriate because GDP is New Zealand's official measure of economic growth⁴. GDP is the economics equivalent of an accounting profit. The key difference between the two is that economic profits (GDP) consider the value added widely across the economy for both labour (workers) and capital (financial, physical assets, intangible) before tax, while accounting profits only focus on returns to the owner of the business in question.

⁴ According to [Statistics New Zealand](#). Gross Domestic Product June 2024 release.

Most GDP effects occur once the mine is operational and producing gold – with \$5.6 billion of GDP directly generated by mining operations. To enable this GDP from gold producing mining operations to occur, there is \$533 million of capital investment that will take place over the mine's life. Data from Infometrics shows that for every \$1 of capital investment spent, there is \$0.32 of economic value added (GDP) because of additional demand within the civil infrastructure and engineering sector, which means that GDP generated from building infrastructure and processing capacity directly adds a further \$175 million of GDP to the Project, in addition to the \$5.6 billion of operational mining GDP that the investment enables.

Table 2

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project estimated direct contribution of GDP to Otago economy			
<i>Annual GDP in \$ million, 2025 pricing, author calculations with June 2025 Pre-Feasibility Study update</i>			
Year	GDP from operations	GDP from building infrastructure	Total Direct GDP
Year -2	\$0.0m	\$15.4m	\$15.4m
Year -1	\$0.0m	\$82.8m	\$82.8m
Year 1	\$261.0m	\$28.1m	\$289.1m
Year 2	\$472.2m	\$1.8m	\$474.0m
Year 3	\$494.7m	\$1.0m	\$495.7m
Year 4	\$487.2m	\$1.0m	\$488.2m
Year 5	\$522.2m	\$12.5m	\$534.7m
Year 6	\$466.0m	\$15.9m	\$481.8m
Year 7	\$479.1m	\$6.9m	\$486.0m
Year 8	\$374.0m	\$0.7m	\$374.7m
Year 9	\$465.3m	\$0.9m	\$466.3m
Year 10	\$433.2m	\$0.7m	\$433.9m
Year 11	\$355.9m	\$0.6m	\$356.5m
Year 12	\$427.9m	\$0.4m	\$428.3m
Year 13	\$264.2m	\$0.4m	\$264.6m
Year 14	\$76.2m	\$6.2m	\$82.4m
Total (Year -2 to 14)	\$5,579.1m	\$175.4m	\$5,754.5m
Average annual	\$348.7m	\$11.0m	\$359.7m

There has been a significant increase to the cumulative GDP effects, with estimates from the initial PFS showing \$4.5 billion of direct GDP, compared to the \$5.8 billion of GDP that is now projected using the updated PFS.

Table 3

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project total cumulative direct GDP - updated PFS vs initial PFS			
<i>Total cumulative GDP in \$ million, author calculations updated PFS - Jun. 2025 vs PFS - Nov. 2024</i>			
	GDP from operations	GDP from building infrastructure	Total Direct GDP
Updated PFS - Jun. 2025	\$5,579.1m	\$175.4m	\$5,754.5m
Initial PFS - Nov. 2024	\$4,279.8m	\$198.4m	\$4,478.2m

Government revenue contribution

It is estimated that of the \$5.8 billion of GDP directly generated by the Project, the government will receive approximately \$1.8 billion of revenue in the form of mining royalties, corporate taxes, PAYE, and ACC payments.

The majority of government taxation revenue directly generated by the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project will be corporate taxes paid by Matakanui Gold Ltd (\$1,074 million), and royalty payments for gold mined as a crown mineral (\$448 million). Income tax payments (capturing PAYE and ACC) will generate a further \$186 million of government revenue.

Additionally, there will be a further \$82 million of corporate taxes paid to government due to profits made by other parties – these profits occur both directly as a result of Matakanui Gold Ltd making royalty payments to landowners and prior mining permit holders, as well as profits made by businesses being directly contracted to develop mining infrastructure and processing capacity for Matakanui Gold Ltd.

The \$1.8 billion of estimated government revenue generated directly by the Project is equivalent to 31% of total direct project GDP. This estimated government revenue under the updated PFS sits \$0.4 billion higher than it did under the initial PFS.

Table 4

Government revenue directly generated by the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project <i>Estimated government revenue directly from BOGP mine operations + investment</i>		
Source	INITIAL PFS - Nov. 2024	UPDATED PFS - JUN. 2025
Royalty payments (gold as crown mineral)	\$338m	\$448m
Corporate taxes: Santana	\$829m	\$1,074m
Corporate taxes: Others (other royalties & supporting investment)	\$77m	\$82m
Income taxes: PAYE and ACC	\$147m	\$186m
Total government revenue directly generated by BOGP	\$1,391m	\$1,789m

Employment supported by the Project

Total direct employment from the BOGP is estimated to average 357 staff a year across the Project duration.

The biggest determinant of employment fluctuations over the lifespan of the Project is employment directly related to supporting investment to build mine infrastructure and processing capacity.

Operational employment is relatively steady across the core mining years.

Table 5

Estimated direct employment supported by Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project			
<i>Jobs supported by the Project (average), calculations with June 2025 Pre-Feasibility Study update</i>			
Year	Employment from operations	Employment from capital investment	Total direct employment
Year -2	0	100	100
Year -1	0	529	529
Year 1	351	177	528
Year 2	351	4	355
Year 3	351	4	355
Year 4	351	7	358
Year 5	346	72	419
Year 6	323	86	409
Year 7	323	36	359
Year 8	323	4	327
Year 9	323	6	329
Year 10	323	4	327
Year 11	323	3	326
Year 12	323	2	325
Year 13	316	2	319
Year 14	313	37	350
Average (all years)	290	67	357

Average direct employment for the Project estimated under the updated PFS (357 jobs) is relatively unchanged from the initial PFS which showed 364 jobs. But as will be shown shortly, higher levels of economic activity are anticipated to translate into increased productivity (GDP per job) and wages.

Alongside the employment directly generated by the BOGP's mining operations and investment, there are also additional employment multiplier effects that will accrue throughout Otago and New Zealand. These multiplier effects include:

- Indirect multiplier effects on employment which occur because of the BOGP's procurement of goods and services from other businesses.
- Induced multiplier effects on employment which occur because direct and indirect workers will need to be provided with goods and services to support their lifestyles (e.g. supermarkets, medical, education, personal services, etc).

For every direct job at the BOGP, there is the potential to create a further 1.4 jobs through multiplier effects.

Fully achieving multiplier effects will rely on downstream investment and recruitment by suppliers and other businesses to lift their own capacity. Once this downstream capacity builds opportunities for additional employment impacts to accrue through multiplier effects will increase. However, such a process of building capacity will take time, as such the multiplier effects presented below should be taken as a theoretical maximum.

On top of the 357 direct jobs at the BOGP there could be a further 497 jobs through multiplier channels across Otago and New Zealand. Of these multiplier effects, 281 would be indirect jobs with suppliers supported by the BOGP, while a further 216 jobs could be induced through providing goods and services to support the needs of these direct and indirect workers.

Table 6

Potential jobs induced from supplying goods and services to direct + indirect BOGP workers	
<i>Total employment effect from BOGP (Y-2 to Y14), author calculations with Infometrics data</i>	
	Jobs (average year)
Direct employment	357
Indirect employment	281
Induced employment	216
Total employment effect (direct + indirect + induced)	854

Productivity and wages compared to the rest of the local economy

Productivity is a measure of how efficiently economic activity is generated and is usually measured by how much GDP an economy generates for each worker. Measuring productivity this way essentially tells us how effective an area is at turning the work of its people into income. If we have higher productivity, then there are opportunities for higher-paying employment.

The BOGP is estimated to on average contribute \$1.0 million of GDP per worker. GDP per worker for the BOGP is 7.5 times the current average productivity across Inland Otago of \$133,811 of GDP per job⁵.

Estimated productivity using the updated PFS sits 3.2% higher than the estimate of \$975,983 of GDP per worker estimated in the initial PFS.

These higher economic returns per worker for the BOGP will be reflected in higher wages.

The average wage for workers associated with the BOGP across the mining years will be \$140,300 a year, which is 104% higher than the average wage in Inland Otago of \$68,904 in 2024⁶.

Estimated average wages across the mining years using the updated PFS sit almost 10% higher than the \$127,900 average wage estimated using the initial PFS.

⁵ Average productivity for Inland Otago was calculated from Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles.

⁶ Average wages for Inland Otago were calculated with data from Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles.

