

fyi-request-31649-  
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9 October 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai  
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Ref: OIAD-5481

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 19 July 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. I would like all correspondence, consenting materials, reports, documents, meeting minutes, file notes, etc, you have on record regarding the proposal to develop a series of open cast goldmines in the Bendigo Ophir - Dunstan Mountains area by Matakanui Gold / Santana Minerals. Regardless of whether they are associated with fast track consenting or any other process.*
- 2. From June 27, 2025 until present day.*

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

On 15 August 2025, we extended the timeframe for responding to your request to 26 September 2025, due to the substantial volume of information sought and the time required to compile a response. On 25 September we provided a small tranche one response, summarising internal emails held by the Central Otago regional office. On 26 September, we advised that a decision had been made on the remainder of your request, but additional time was needed to finalise the material proposed for release.

In our 26 September correspondence, we provided a list of documents being withheld in full, as well as a list of documents to be released either in full, in part, or in summary form under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA. During the relevant request period, the Department received several reports from Santana Minerals – both draft and final – that fall within scope. As previously advised, many of these reports are highly technical and have been withheld in full due to sensitivities related to the anticipated fast-track consenting application Santana Minerals is expected to lodge. That list is attached again as Appendix A.

Santana Minerals is required to provide certain materials to the Department during the pre-application phase for assessment. The Department must carefully balance the release of official information with the need to preserve Santana's ability to complete and lodge an application. We aim to avoid prejudicing that process.

In the interest of transparency, we are releasing high-level summaries of selected reports under section 16(1)(e) of the OIA. These are listed in the document schedule attached as Appendix B, along with the remaining information within scope of your request, including correspondence and additional documents. Where applicable, email attachments are provided beneath the relevant email chain, unless they are addressed elsewhere in the document or have been withheld in full. Some information has been redacted under the following sections of the OIA:

- Archaeological sites and lizard locations, under section 6(c) – to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention of offences,

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- information provided in confidence, under section 9(2)(ba)(i) – to protect information where release would prejudice the ongoing supply of similar information.
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

In making my decision to withhold information under section 9, I have considered the public interest and determined that it does not outweigh the grounds for withholding.

Information and documents provided by Santana Minerals Ltd reflect a specific point in time and may not represent what is now held by DOC. I note additional information is being assessed for release for a further request for official information (OIAD-5593). Additionally, although certain reports are currently withheld or summarised, they will become publicly available once the anticipated application is lodged.

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

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

Nāku noa, nā



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

## **Appendix A**

### **Document withheld in full**

<b>Document description</b>	<b>Withholding grounds</b>
<b>Aquatic Ecology Assessment</b> <i>250528 Aquatic Assessment Report Bendigo_FINAL.docx</i>	9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(g)(i)
<b>Mammalian Pest Survey</b> <i>20250515_BOGP_Mammalian_Pest_Report_v001.pdf</i>	9(2)(ba)(i) 9(2)(g)(i)
<b>Terrestrial Invertebrate Survey</b> <i>20250519_BOGP_Terrestrial_Invertebrate_Survey_Final_v001.pdf</i>	9(2)(ba)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)
<b>Socio-economic Baseline</b> <i>BOGP_SE Baseline_v2.0_final.pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Economic Impacts Report</b> <i>Economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project_FINAL (1).pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Archaeological Management Plan</b> <i>J011821_AMP_REV A 1.pdf</i>	9(2)(ba)(i), 9(2)(g)(i)
<b>Heritage Assessment</b> <i>J011821_BOGP HA_May 2025</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(i)
<b>Heritage – Construction Camp</b> <i>J012084_Camp HA_May 2025.pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(i)
<b>Recreation Assessment</b> <i>Matakanui Bendigo-Ophir recreation assessment Final 12 June 2025.pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Integrated Transport Assessment</b> <i>310206156_bogp_ita_250513_final_FTA.pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Construction TMP</b> <i>Matakanui Gold Limited Construction TMP Final Draft.docx</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Landscape Effects Assessment</b> <i>Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Assesment.pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(j)
<b>Surface Water Effects Assessment</b> <i>Surface_Water_Effects_Rpt-Z24002BOG-2 (FINAL).pdf</i>	9(2)(b)(ii), 9(2)(ba)(i)

## **Appendix B**

### **Document schedule – reports provided by Santana Minerals Ltd**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Document description</b>	<b>Decision</b>
1	27 June – 19 July 2025	Email correspondence	Partial release
2	28 March 2025	<b>Magazine &amp; Emulsion Tank</b> J012082_Emulsion Tanks 2025 (1).pdf	Summary
3	17 April 2025	<b>Ardgour Rise Realignment</b> J012109_AGR_April 2025.pdf	Partial release
4	20 April 2025	<b>CIT Battery Access Track</b> J012137_CIT Track_April 2025.pdf	Partial release
5	30 April 2025	<b>Groundwater Effects Assessment</b> Gw_Effects_Rpt-Z24002BOG-1(FINAL).pdf	Summary
6	30 April 2025	<b>Groundwater Bore Take Assessment</b> Gw_Take_Effects_Rpt-Z24019SML-3 FINAL	Summary provided
7	12 May 2025	<b>Groundwater Modelling Analysis</b> hardrock_bog_report_2025_05_12 FINAL	Summary
8	13 May 2025	<b>Noise &amp; Vibration Assessment</b> Rp 001 R02 20230685 Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project- Assessment Of Noise Effects _ FINAL.pdf	Summary
9	15 May 2025	<b>Exterior Lighting Report</b> CQ24020 BOGP Exterior Lighting Report Rev C FINAL.pdf	Summary
10	15 May 2025	<b>Surface Water Effects Assessment</b> Surface_Water_Effects_Rpt-Z24002BOG-2 (FINAL).pdf	Summary
11	15 May 2025	<b>Native Bat Survey</b> 20250515_BOGP_Native_Bat_Survey_Final_v001.pdf	Summary
12	27 May 2025	<b>Bond Introduction</b> Matakanui Bond Introduction-e.pdf	Summary
13	5 June 2025	<b>Air Quality Assessment</b> Air Quality C051440001R003.pdf	Summary
14	5 Jun 2025	<b>Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Mine Closure Plan</b> J-NZ0454-002-R-Rev1-MCP.pdf	Summary
15	8 July 2025	<b>Visual Simulations</b> Landscape Visual Simulations.pdf	Partial release
16	29 July 2025	GIS shape files	Summary
17	29 July 2025	DOC Document Register	Full release