

Department of Conservation
Conservation House
18-32 Manners Street
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz

2 March 2026

Ref: OIAD-5797

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 31 October 2025, in which you asked for:

- 1. I would like all correspondence, reports, documents, meeting minutes, file notes, etc, you have on record regarding the proposal to develop 4 open cast mines, underground mine, industrial cyanide processing plant, permanent waste tailings dam, engineered land forms and miners caravan park in the Bendigo Ophir - Dunstan Mountains area by Matakanui Gold / Santana Minerals. Regardless of whether they are associated with fast track consenting or any other process.*
- 2. From September 15, 2025, until present day.*

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

On 26 November 2025, we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 26 January 2026 due to the large quantity of information sought and the consultation necessary to make a decision on the request.

On 27 January 2026, we advised you that we required more time to complete your request. Thank you for your patience while we actioned your request. We apologise for the delay and note that you have the right make a complaint to an Ombudsman about this delay.

Please find attached as **Appendix A**, information in scope of your request which includes correspondence and any remaining documentation within the requested period. Where applicable, email attachments are provided beneath the relevant email chain unless they are addressed elsewhere in the appendix, withheld in full, or have been provided or refused in previous requests.

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

- personal information, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people,

- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information,
- free and frank expression under section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs,
- information subject to legal privilege, under section 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege,
- confidential information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.
- improper gain or advantage, under section 9(2)(k) – to prevent the disclosure or use of official information for improper gain or improper advantage.

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

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to the 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynn Hansberry', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Lynn Hansberry
Acting Director Regulatory Systems Performance
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Document schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	12 August 2025 to 29 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information is withheld under section 9(2)(a).
2	29 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(h).
3	28 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h).
4	21 October to 28 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) .
5	24 October 2025 - 28 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a).
6	24 October 2025	Email attachment: CIT Feedback	Released in full.
7	21 October to 28 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h)
8	27 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
9	24 October 2025	Email correspondence	Released in full.
10	22 October 2025 to 24 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
11	23 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
12	23 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(j).
13	21 October 2025 to 22 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
14	22 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
15	22 September 2025 to 24 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).

16	22 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a).
17	15 October 2025 to 21 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(j)
18	17 October to 20 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h)
19	20 October 2025 to 22 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
20	17 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
21	13 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
22	9 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h)
23	10 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
24	18 September 2025	Email attachment: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project – DOC feedback on proposed concessions	Released in full
25	18 September 2025	Email attachment: Example special conditions for concessions	Released in full
26	17 September 2025	Email attachment: DOC – Section 78 Conditions – Concessions	Released in full
27	None	Plan of Section 1 Block IX Lauder S.D.	Released in full
28	23 September 2025 to 9 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)
29	9 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
30	23 September to 9 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)

31	6 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
32	2 October 2025 to 3 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i), and 9(2)(h)
33	2 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), and 9(2)(b)(ii)
34	2 October 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
35	23 September to 30 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
36	29 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
37	22 September 2025 to 25 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
38	22 September 2025 to 23 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
39	24 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
40	16 September 2025 to 23 September	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
41	23 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
42	23 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
43	22 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)

44	18 September 2025 to 22 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
45	22 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
46	16 September 2025 to 22 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), 9(2)(j), and 9(2)(k)
47	16 September 2025 to 18 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a), 9(2)(h), and 9(2)(k)
48	16 September 2025 to 18 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)
49	None	Email attachment: Agenda from Matakauui Gold Limited	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h)
50	19 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i), and 9(2)(h)
51	17 September 2025 to 19 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(h)
52	17 September 2025 to 18 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a), 9(2)(g)(i) and 9(2)(h)
53	17 September 2025 18 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)
54	17 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(g)(i)

55	17 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
56	4 September to 19 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under sections 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(k)
57	18 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
58	17 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
59	9 September 2025 to 16 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
60	15 September 2025 to 16 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
61	16 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
62	16 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
63	None	Email attachment: Media Statement – Otago Goldfields Heritage Trust – Santana Minerals and Shepherds Creek Road Access	Released in full.
64	8 September 2025 to 12 September 2025	Email correspondence	Some information withheld under section 9(2)(a)
65	None	Email attachment: Template for DOC SME project feedback – FT projects	Released in full.
66	22 September 2025	Notes from Santana Wildlife Session 22 Sept 2025	Released in full.
67	October 2025	DOC feedback on Wildlife (lizards and bats) October 2025	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).
68	None	Section 3 BOGP Working Draft Substantive Application Report – Project Description	Released in full.
69	October 2025	DOC feedback on Heritage	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).

70	October 2025	DOC feedback on Indigenous Vegetation	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).
71	October 2025	DOC feedback on Freshwater	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).
72	None	Summary of reports provided by Santana Minerals as part of pre-lodgement consultation	Released in full
73	22 September 2025	DOC feedback on invertebrates	Withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i).