



Memorandum

To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel

From: Santana Minerals

Date: 17 August 2026

Re: Response to RFI 11 Question 10 - Lizards Ecology

Please find attached Matakanui Gold Limited's response to Request for Information (RFI 11) Question 10, which requested:

Please advise what consideration has been given to other alternative approaches? For example, substantially larger pest exclusion fenced areas and/or alternative locations than currently proposed.

In response to Question 10, MGL attaches the memorandum Response to RFI 11 Question 10 – Alternative Approaches for Managing Effects on Lizards. The memorandum has had input from MGL's experts and outlines the alternative approaches considered during project development and in response to matters raised through expert conferencing and the hearing process, including alternative salvage and relocation approaches, larger predator-exclusion sanctuaries, alternative sanctuary locations and investment in existing conservation initiatives.

The response summarises that alternatives assessment process which has included the consideration of substantially larger predator-exclusion sanctuaries and alternative sanctuary locations during project development but identified constraints relating to land tenure, long-term management certainty, practical implementation and future land use requirements. The response also outlines the policy and ecological considerations that supported a focus on achieving biodiversity outcomes within the local landscape.

Having considered the evidence presented during the hearing process, MGL has worked with our technical experts and reviewed the proposed lizard management package and proposes a refined approach that places greater emphasis on secure habitat, long-term predator exclusion and targeted management of the Kowarau gecko and southern grass skink.

MGL considers that the revised package responds directly to the concerns raised by the Panel and ecological experts regarding large-scale salvage and relocation and provides a stronger basis for achieving enduring conservation outcomes for lizards within the project area.