



Memorandum

To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel
From: Santana Minerals
Date: 17 August 2026
Subject: Response to Questions 18 and 19 of RFI 11

Introduction

This memorandum accompanies Matakanui Gold Limited's (MGL's) response to Questions 18 and 19 of the Expert Panel's Request for Further Information (RFI 11) dated 25 June 2026.

The Panel requested:

Question 18

Please provide assessments by the ecological and landscape experts addressing whether the revocation of the covenant will compromise values of regional, national or international significance.

In response, MGL provides the following document:

- *Supplementary Evidence of David Norton, Ian Boothroyd and Rhys Girvan in Response to RFI 11 Question 18.*

The joint response assesses the implications of the proposed partial revocation of the Bendigo Conservation Covenant from landscape, terrestrial ecology and freshwater ecology perspectives. The response concludes that, while the Project would result in significant local landscape effects, the revocation would not compromise landscape values recognised at regional, national or international scales. Similarly, freshwater values within the affected catchments have not been identified as being of regional, national or international significance and are expected to be maintained or improved through the proposed management and rehabilitation measures.

The response also notes that nationally threatened spring annual plant species occurring within the area subject to mining are of national and international significance and that impacts on those populations will be significant. However, the response concludes that the partial revocation will not affect terrestrial ecological values across the remainder of the Bendigo Conservation Covenant, which are considered to be regionally significant.

Question 19

Please provide an updated landscape assessment which considers the amended Ardgour Rise alignment.

In response, MGL provides the following documents:

- *Ardgour Rise Memorandum* prepared by Rhys Girvan, Boffa Miskell Ltd.
- *Proposed Ardgour Rise Alignment Plan (Figure 1)* prepared by Boffa Miskell Ltd, showing the amended alignment assessed in the memorandum.
- *Ardgour Rise Road Realignment Ecological Assessment* prepared by RMA Ecology Ltd.
- *Ardgour Rise Road Realignment Heritage Appraisal* prepared by New Zealand Heritage Properties Ltd.

The updated landscape assessment concludes that, while the amended Ardgour Rise alignment results in increased earthworks and a more sinuous road alignment, it remains within the same broad corridor previously assessed and does not materially alter the broader visual catchment or the key landform and skyline values of the Dunstan Mountains Outstanding Natural Landscape. Overall construction landscape effects remain assessed as moderate adverse, reducing to low-moderate adverse following rehabilitation. Public visual effects remain no greater than low-moderate adverse during construction and low adverse following rehabilitation. The amended alignment considered in the assessment is illustrated in the accompanying alignment plan.

Supporting Ecological and Heritage Assessments

While the ecological and heritage assessments were not specifically requested by the Panel's RFI 11, MGL has provided them to ensure the Panel has access to a robust effects assessment when considering the amended Ardgour Rise alignment that is the subject of Question 19.

Following completion of the final detailed design for the Ardgour Rise realignment, in the interests of completeness MGL commissioned updated ecological and heritage reviews of the revised alignment. These assessments were undertaken to assess and determine whether the amended alignment gives rise to any materially different ecological or heritage effects from those previously assessed as part of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

The ecological assessment concludes that the revised alignment traverses broadly the same ecological environment as previously assessed, affects a comparable range of

ecological values and receptors, and continues to avoid a number of identified sensitive ecological values. The assessment concludes that the effects of the revised alignment can be appropriately managed through the ecological management, rehabilitation and monitoring framework already proposed for the Project.

The heritage appraisal confirms that the revised alignment remains within an area that has previously been subject to archaeological investigation and does not identify any additional archaeological or heritage constraints associated with the amended alignment. The assessment concludes that the revised alignment does not give rise to materially different heritage effects from those previously assessed.

Conclusion

MGL considers that the enclosed material addresses Questions 18 and 19 and provides the Panel with the most up-to-date landscape, ecological and heritage information available in relation to the proposed partial revocation of the Bendigo Conservation Covenant and the amended Ardgour Rise alignment.

The ecological and heritage assessments are provided as supplementary information to support the updated landscape assessment and to ensure the Panel has before it all relevant information relating to the amended alignment. Together, the enclosed material provides the expert assessments requested by the Panel and the supporting information relevant to its consideration of these matters.