



Matakanui Gold Limited

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
Social Impact Assessment Addendum

July 2026

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Executive Summary

This Social Impact Assessment Addendum has been prepared to supplement, not replace, the 2025 GHD Social Impact Assessment for the Matakanaui Gold Limited (MGL) Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP) and form part of the response to Request for Information (RFI) 11 questions 21 and 22 from the Fast-Track Applications Panel. Its purpose is to update the understanding of potential social impacts associated with the BOGP and the basis for how those impacts can be managed, monitored and reviewed over time, drawing on the 2025 SIA, available technical assessments, engagement records, and information about mitigation measures available at the time of preparation. It also includes an assessment of the BOGP against the Tarras Community Plan.

The BOGP would introduce a new gold mining operation into Central Otago, a rural district characterised by small communities, established primary industries, recognised environmental and cultural values, and ongoing population growth and housing pressures. While the immediate communities have limited recent experience of a modern commercial gold mining operation, the local area, district and wider region have a long history of mining. The BOGP is forecast to generate employment, training opportunities, local procurement, and wider regional economic benefits.

Nine social impact areas were identified in a review of information and have been explored in this addendum:

- local industry participation, labour market, and economic transition,
- community wellbeing, social cohesion, and local identity,
- social services and community infrastructure,
- workforce behaviour and management,
- environmental change and wellbeing,
- housing and accommodation,
- water resources,
- cultural and intergenerational impacts, and
- vulnerable or sensitive populations.

The BOGP presents substantial opportunities for local employment, procurement, training, supplier development, increased spending and regional diversification, but these benefits may not be evenly distributed. The Economic Assessment October 2025 Update estimates an average contribution of \$360 million GDP per year, 351 direct jobs on average, wages 104% higher than the average Inland Otago wage and further indirect and induced employment.

MGL has:

- undertaken ongoing engagement with community and businesses,
- developed registers of expressions of interest for employment and supply of goods and services
- developed a targeted recruitment strategy which includes training and education initiatives such as apprenticeships
- is working with local business chambers to improve supplier readiness.

While there is evidence of strong support for the BOGP with community feedback showing support for the benefits of the BOGP, it also shows concerns about specific effects and outcomes. Community wellbeing, social cohesion and local identity may be affected alongside fear, anxiety, stress, uncertainty, and frustration with the fast-track process and Project itself. Issues are more likely to be experienced in Tarras and Bendigo where modest changes may affect rural character, community cohesion, perceived safety, trust and local identity. The Community Liaison Group (CLG), ongoing engagement programme, sponsorship, community support activities, technical mitigations and annual contribution to Central Otago District Council (CODC) for community benefit provide a basis for management.

Feedback demonstrates further concern regarding workforce travel, accommodation, conduct, and interaction with nearby communities. These concerns cover potential effects on safety, rural amenity, trust, and social cohesion during construction and operation. The BOGP has implemented a workforce conduct policy that includes drug and alcohol, speed restrictions on designated site access routes, active management of accommodation facilities, complaints management system and ongoing community engagement through the CLG.

Housing and accommodation effects are most relevant during construction, although operational demand should continue to be monitored. MGL has committed to construction accommodation arrangements with flexibility to increase on-site capacity if needed or to extend the lease if ongoing requirements are present. In addition, MGL maintains a register of accommodation providers. MGL also propose to prioritise local recruitment and provide bus transport from Cromwell, Alexandra, Queenstown, Wānaka and Hāwea (as need is required) for the workforce.

The BOGP may add demand to health, emergency, education, childcare, recreation, and community services. Current measures proposed in the Substantive Application for the BOGP include dedicated providers for pre-employment medical and functional assessments, staff medical insurance, an on-site first-aid clinic, an Emergency Management Principal Control Plan, engagement with emergency services, first response capability, future underground mine rescue capability and watercarts that could also assist local brigades. Although the BOGP induced increase in average jobs would equate to just 0.7% of current total jobs in Inland Otago¹, residual effects remain possible and could be managed through ongoing service-provider engagement and monitoring.

Water-related effects are associated with concerns about water availability and quality, cumulative and downstream effects, perceived inequity between existing and new water users, business risk for irrigation-dependent activities, cultural effects associated with wai Māori, and confidence in long-term monitoring, mitigation, and accountability. Those most directly affected include users of the Bendigo Aquifer, Ardgour Aquifer, Lindis River/Ōmakō, Bendigo Creek, Rise and Shine Creek, Shepherds Creek and connected downstream water bodies for drinking water, irrigation, stock water, business operations, cultural values, recreation or environmental wellbeing. MGL continues to engage around these concerns and has proposed a strengthened water quality monitoring programme to provide greater assurance (as identified through the FTAA process). Seepage, tailings, and closure management continue to show up as concerns in feedback, suggesting a community desire for more understanding and transparency around water quality monitoring and reporting. The Matakinui Trust described below offers assurance about post-closure of water-related effects.

Cultural and intergenerational impacts are likely to be significant because the BOGP will reshape the physical landscape and may reshape social, economic, and cultural relationships connected to it. The Cultural Impact Assessment identifies the BOGP area as a significant wāhi tipuna landscape and raises concerns about modification of waterways, landforms and habitats, degradation of mauri and effects on relationships with whenua and wai. The BOGP is forecast to create enduring benefits through employment, training, business capability, community investment, and recreation access. MGL has committed \$10 million funding towards heritage enhancement and ecological restoration through the Biodiversity, Ecology and Heritage Fund. Further, MGL has committed to developing the Matakinui Trust as an enduring stewardship or kaitiaki vehicle with long-term environmental and intergenerational cultural objectives.

More exposed or sensitive groups may include lower-income households, renters, seasonal workers, older residents, young families, mana whenua, water-dependent landholders and businesses, residents experiencing stress or uncertainty, and people living in small settlements with limited services. These groups may be especially sensitive to housing affordability, increased competition for accommodation, pressure on health and emergency services, stress and anxiety, concern about water availability and quality, reduced trust in environmental management, changed sense of place, community division and unequal access to Project benefits. Existing management measures address these groups to some extent, but do not provide a specific focus on vulnerable or sensitive populations.

Overall, the BOGP is forecast to deliver substantial economic and social benefits, but these benefits are not automatic and may not be evenly distributed. The progress made in developing social and environmental management measures recommended in the 2025 SIA provides a strong basis for managing potential adverse effects and supporting positive outcomes for local communities over the life of the BOGP and beyond. Ongoing implementation, transparent monitoring and reporting, and continued engagement with affected communities and mana whenua will enhance the confidence in effectiveness of technical management measures.

¹ Economic impacts of the BOGP – October 2025 update, Benje Patterson, page 15

1. Introduction

1.1. Background and purpose

This Addendum has been prepared to supplement the 2025 GHD Social Impact Assessment (2025 SIA)² for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (the BOGP) and forms part of the response to RFI 11 questions 21 and 22 from the Expert Panel. It should be read alongside the 2025 SIA and does not replace that assessment. Rather, it provides additional analysis and clarification in response to matters raised through the fast-track process using additional engagement feedback and information on social impacts received after the 2025 SIA was completed. The 2025 SIA remains the primary SIA for the BOGP.

The Addendum provides updates on impact management measures recommended in the 2025 SIA with information about additional Matakanui Gold Limited (MGL) initiatives and refinements that have developed through continuing stakeholder conversations to manage, monitor, and review social impacts over time. It reports additional technical management measures proposed by the BOGP that relate to social impacts.

1.2. Methodology

The following steps were undertaken in preparing this Addendum:

Review of the 2025 GHD SIA

The 2025 SIA was reviewed to understand its methodology, impact themes, findings, recommendations, and identified limitations. The review included consideration of the extent to which the SIA relied on existing technical assessments, engagement findings, and community profile information.

Review of new information

The 2025 SIA made management recommendations which have been progressed by the BOGP. Further engagement feedback relating to social impacts has also been gathered. Project and engagement information were reviewed to update the 2025 assessment findings including engagement findings relating to cumulative impacts, vulnerable groups, closure impacts, and progress on management and monitoring measures.

Targeted review of social impact areas

Additional attention was given to impact areas where stakeholder concern has persisted, where management measures have been progressed, and in relation to the Tarras Community Plan.

Consolidation of social impact and management information

The findings were brought together to provide updated information about social impacts and management strategies for the BOGP.

1.3. Assumptions and limitations

The following assumptions apply:

- The Addendum relies on the BOGP description from the 2025 SIA, technical assessments submitted through the fast-track process, engagement records, community profile information and mitigation measures available at the time of preparation.
- The BOGP description, including the proposed construction, operation, workforce, accommodation and closure arrangements, is materially consistent with the information relied on in the 2025 SIA unless otherwise stated.

² Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Social Impact Assessment, GHD (2025).

- Information provided by MGL, other technical specialist reports, public agencies and publicly available sources is assumed to be accurate and complete unless limitations are identified.
- The Addendum has been prepared over a three-week period using available desktop information, existing engagement material (gathered between September 2024 and June 2026), project information provided, and publicly available data.
- Where data from the Benje Patterson Economic Assessment and the 2025 SIA community profiles are used, they are assumed to provide a useful basis for understanding social context, noting that they may not provide a complete monitoring baseline.
- The Addendum does not assess impacts at an individual, household, or property-specific level.
- Cultural effects and effects on mana whenua values are assumed to be addressed through separate cultural assessment processes. This addendum only considers cultural matters where they overlap with broader social impact pathways and draws upon the Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) provided.
- Economic effects are considered only where they have social implications, such as employment, local business participation, workforce accommodation, cost of living, community investment, or service capacity.

The following limitations apply:

- No new statistically representative community survey or engagement has been undertaken for this addendum.
- The review of engagement is limited to the engagement material made available. It does not independently verify the representativeness of all views expressed.
- Some information relating to the existing social environment remains incomplete or indicative, particularly in relation to housing and accommodation, health and emergency services capacity, social service capacity, water users, cumulative impacts and vulnerable groups.
- The engagement section is based on information and summaries provided by MGL from their engagement records and one interview completed for this Addendum.
- Some social impacts, particularly those relating to trust, fear and anxiety, social cohesion, community identity, workforce behaviour, and cumulative change, are expected to change over time.
- The effectiveness of proposed management measures will depend on implementation, resourcing, governance, community participation and ongoing review.
- The addendum does not provide implementation plans, consent conditions, funding commitments or operational procedures unless these have been separately confirmed by the BOGP.
- The findings should be reviewed if there are material changes to the BOGP description, workforce numbers, accommodation arrangements, traffic movements, construction timing, closure approach or proposed mitigation.

2. Updates to the SIA Context

Since the 2025 SIA, there have been developments in the social environment, project developments, additional technical information, and new engagement findings relating to social impacts and impact management for the BOGP. This section reports updates relevant to the 2025 SIA.

2.1. Updates on the social environment

Central Otago continues to experience rapid population growth, pressure on housing, infrastructure, and essential services, and is responding with substantial public investment in infrastructure and private investment – the Central Otago District has one of New Zealand’s leading residential construction sectors. This rapid growth is occurring in an environment of significant seasonal fluctuation due to the influence of tourism, viticulture, and horticulture sectors and will continue irrespective of whether the project progresses.

The key social environmental changes since the drafting of the 2025 SIA are as follows:

The Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) was finalised and endorsed after the 2025 SIA. It describes the BOGP area as a significant wāhi tipuna landscape and identifies relationships between wai, whenua, whakapapa, mauri, cultural identity and whānau wellbeing. Cultural effects overlap strongly with social effects relating to water, landscape, identity, wellbeing, long-term rehabilitation and intergenerational responsibility. Any use of detailed cultural information should remain consistent with the permissions and intellectual property conditions of the Cultural Impact Assessment. The CIA also provides additional information about water resources.

Increasing housing capacity in the Central Otago was noted during fast-track approvals process hearings, with per capita building consents around four times the national average. Substantial housing developments are proposed or underway and eight or nine other fast-track housing developments collectively add a potential 10,000 homes to previous estimates for Central Otago.

Community support for the project has assumed a higher profile. The Santana Mine Supporters Facebook page³ was started on 24 January 2026 by a community representative unaffiliated with the project. The page has approximately 14,000 members, of which 13,000 are reported to be New Zealand based (not verified). This shows support among local communities and businesses.

2.2. Further project developments

MGL has continued to develop and refine project design, operation and management since the 2025 SIA. Technical controls and management of environmental impacts were proposed as part of the initial application and have been refined through the Fast-Track process including comments, expert conferencing and hearings. This Addendum assumes that the various environmental management plans will achieve technical compliance, noting that concerns around landscape values, dark sky, and visual and rural amenity continue to feature in stakeholder feedback.

Workforce, and economic contribution developments

As planning has progressed for the BOGP workforce estimates have been refined. The 2025 SIA and Benje Patterson 2025 Economic Assessment estimate the average operational workforce at 364 and 351 respectively, with an estimated peak of 506 in year one⁴ when construction and operation activities overlap. These assessments state that demand for workers will be sustained and may peak, and that more detailed and precise workforce planning will support accommodation, service, traffic, and monitoring plans.

The Expert Panel requested consideration of indirect employment effects on housing in addition to direct employment effects. Benje Patterson’s Evidence⁵ estimated that 360 to 569 additional homes would be needed to neutralise the potential direct and multiplier employment effects, noting that in the 12 months to February 2026, 2,063 new dwelling

³ [Santana Mine Supporters Facebook page](#)

⁴ Benje Patterson, October 2025: Economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. October 2025 update

⁵ Statement of Evidence of Benje Patterson in response to RFI Economics, 17 April 2026

units were consented and that within a single year the construction sector lifted its build rate sufficient to accommodate the BOGP's modelled long term housing demand.

The proportion of jobs filled by existing residents will influence BOGP impacts on housing and social services. MGL holds a register of people who have expressed an interest in employment at BOGP, and in a survey of those registered, 67% of 647⁶ respondents report living or having access to accommodation within one hour of the BOGP site. Notwithstanding suitability for roles, project timing and availability, and robustness of the sample, engagement feedback supports the likelihood that a substantial proportion of jobs would be filled by local people and those commuting from nearby towns.

The BOGP is being introduced into an economy that is already growing fast with the total number of filled jobs in Inland Otago averaging 4.6% growth each year over the decade to 2024⁷.

The Benje Patterson Economic Assessment finds the BOGP's contribution to GDP is expected to average approximately \$360 million annually including direct employment and procurement as well as indirect and induced employment, with the average BOGP wage expected to be 104% higher than the average wage in Inland Otago (2024). This economic scale will create considerable opportunity for local businesses but could also contribute to competition for labour, accommodation, contractors, and services. Supplier capacity may need to be strengthened for the full economic benefits to be realised.

Development and progress on social impact management

The 2025 SIA included a list of recommendations for the BOGP to address the social impacts it identified. Some of these recommendations have been actioned by MGL, and a summary of progress is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Delivery on 2025 SIA recommendations

Recommendations	Project phase	Addresses impacts	Update
Establish a Community Liaison Group with community, business, council, and project representatives.	All phases	All impacts	MGL established the CLG in September 2025 with the prescribed representation. The CLG has met five times since then. The long term nature of this group has been secured within consent conditions.
Targeted recruitment strategy to encourage workers to move into the area.	Construction and operation	Housing and accommodation Social services and community infrastructure Local industry participation	MGL established a register of interest in employment with the project and has surveyed people registered to understand local skills available, where they are located and what this could mean for housing demand.
Workforce management policies including drug and alcohol, speed management, and a Construction Camp Management Policy.	Construction and operation	Workforce behaviour and management Community wellbeing	These workforce policies have been developed. Drug and alcohol requirements include pre-employment testing and a random testing programme. MGL-imposed speed limits are in place on access roads. An accommodation management policy is currently in place and will be further developed for the construction camp. Company-funded nib health insurance is provided to employees.

⁶ Employment expression of interest survey, January 2026

⁷ Benje Patterson, October 2025. Economic impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. October 2025 update

Recommendations	Project phase	Addresses impacts	Update
Social investment strategy to increase social benefits to local community	Ongoing	Community wellbeing, social cohesion and local identity Environmental change and wellbeing Social services and community infrastructure Cultural and intergenerational impacts Vulnerable or sensitive populations	The investment strategy is yet to be developed. In the meantime, MGL has expanded their community donations and sponsorships and committed \$1.25million to the Central Otago District Council for community support.
Mine closure employment strategy to assist workforce in transition to new industries	Operations and Closure	Workforce management Community wellbeing Cultural and intergenerational impacts Local industry participation, labour market, and economic transition	MGL has been meeting with the Ministry of Social Development to explore industry partnerships, workforce development and pathways into work relating to construction and operation of the BOGP. It is expected that this collaboration will continue and shift focus as closure approaches.
Support for local businesses and establish relationships with viticulture and agriculture to alleviate concerns	All phases	Environmental change and wellbeing Water resources Local industry participation	An Expression of Interest (EOI) Register for businesses interested in supplying the BOGP has been set up. MGL has provided 56 presentations, briefings, and site visits to local businesses, provided information and addressed concerns about environmental management, employment and supplier opportunities, operational matters, and the BOGP's economic contribution. MGL has met with the Central Otago Winegrowers Association (COWA) five times and provided them with a site visit and ongoing communications.
Provision of a shuttle bus service for workers from main regional centres of Alexandra, Omakau, Cromwell, Wānaka, and Queenstown.	Construction and operation	Workforce management Environmental change and wellbeing	A bus service for employees has been proposed.

2.3. Engagement activities

Following preparation of the 2025 SIA, MGL has continued to engage with stakeholders and has expanded the range of engagement activities. Additional stakeholder feedback has also been provided through comments by invited parties during the FTAA process.

MGL engagement records demonstrate sustained community and stakeholder interest in the BOGP and represent a broad range of views, but feedback is not a statistically representative measure of community sentiment. Information gained from this review provides a qualitative input to the addendum's assessment of social impacts and impact management measures.

Community engagement and communications

MGL keeps a register of ongoing community engagement which documents 83 activities between 23 September 2024 and 29 June 2026. Activities include drop-in sessions, presentations, and attendance at large scale public events, with a combined attendance of 2,619 people including repeat attendees. Table 2 provides a summary of this engagement.

Table 2: Engagement activity between September 2024 and June 2026

Activity type	Number of Sessions	Commentary
Drop-in sessions	73 sessions - Cromwell (35) - Tarras (22), - Alexandra (9), - Luggate (6), - Ophir (4), - Wānaka (3), - Omakau (2), and - Lake Hāwea (2).	These sessions reached approximately 840 people across 8 locations.
Community Presentations	- Luggate - Alexandra - Cromwell	This is a newer approach that has been trialled across three locations since June 2026 with good attendance (79 across three sessions)
Targeted briefings/presentations	50 presentations/briefings	These engagements were delivered as requested by organisations, demonstrating a genuine desire from community, business, education, industry and government groups to better understand the Project.
Large scale public events	- Wānaka A&P Show (400 in 2025; 650 in 2026), - Wheels at Wānaka (250 in 2025), - Central Otago A&P Show (2025 and 2026), - Alexandra Blossom Festival (2024 and 2025).	

Engagement activities were concentrated in Cromwell, Alexandra, and Tarras and engagement methods evolved in response to public and CLG feedback including:

- Broader geographic coverage including a response to a request for a drop-in session at Lake Hāwea.
- Change in format of drop-in sessions to a slide presentation followed by Q&A session.
- Introduction of more detailed technical and fast-track process information later in the engagement period.

In addition to engagement activities, MGL have delivered ongoing communications providing information about the Project through several channels including:

- The Prospectors Post: This publication provides factual project updates, explains technical topics in plain language, outlines upcoming activities and milestones, and addresses common community questions to improve understanding and genuine connection.
- Facebook and Linked In pages: with 6700 and 3400 followers respectively, these social media channels are another avenue for MGL to provide information to the public, focusing on clear, plain language updates of the project and consistent opportunities for engagement with content. Overall content has received 2.5M views and the pages have received 250 messages.
- Community hotline: MGL operate a community phone line and email address to provide easy, continuous access for the community to contact the company.

Community Liaison Group (CLG)

MGL established the CLG in September 2025. The group has a charter of understanding that sets out purpose, objectives, membership, roles, confidentiality, and ethics obligations, community reporting, annual review, and a quarterly meeting cycle with provision for special meetings. The CLG is convened and chaired by MGL and includes representatives for viticulture, heritage, recreation and events, the business community, local government, Bendigo and Tarras residents, and emergency services. Since June 2026 membership has expanded to include mining operational experience and regional economic development. Sustainable Tarras has an open invitation to join but has not taken this up.

The CLG has ten members and has met five times – four quarterly meetings and one special meeting following lodgement of the Substantive Application with the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024. The CLG minutes and action register reflect a mix of supportive and dissenting views on aspects of the BOGP as well as challenges from members and actions taken by MGL to improve transparency, increase the influence of the group over the BOGP, and improve timeframes for the MGL to address member suggestions. Positive feedback from individual members includes that the group provides a level of comfort, a direct line of communication, and exposure to a range of perspectives.

The proposed consent conditions secure the long-term operation of the group, stating a purpose and objectives, providing terms of reference and outlining membership composition. These can be reviewed in D.03 Schedule One Common Conditions for CODC and ORC Consents.

Local business and stakeholder engagement

MGL has continued to engage with local businesses and stakeholders through meetings, presentations, briefings and site visits. Engagement includes:

- Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – ongoing meetings exploring industry partnerships, workforce development, and pathways into work.
- Local businesses – over 50 presentations, briefings, and site visits delivered between 2024 and 2026. Discussion has focussed on the BOGP's economic contribution, employment and supplier opportunities, environmental management, water, tailings, and rehabilitation.
- Landowners and occupiers – six nearby landowners and community representatives have participated in site visits.
- Engagement with younger people – In response to feedback, the BOGP has widened engagement to include youth-focussed groups such as the Cromwell Rugby Football Club (RFC) and Young Farmer Groups.

Landowner and occupier engagement

People who own or occupy land in proximity to the project site were invited to provide feedback through Section 53, as part of the FTAA process. The invited comments focussed on the following themes:

- Environmental change, proximity, and ongoing project uncertainty. Key issues included perceived impacts on mental health, wellbeing, and livelihoods, alongside practical concerns regarding reduced property values, business disruptions, and requests for compensation or guaranteed buyout arrangements."
- Water, with landowners, occupiers and rural businesses expressing concern about potential contamination of drinking and irrigation water supplies, groundwater drawdown from the proposed bore field, and whether effects on key aquifers had been adequately assessed.
- Safety of the tailings storage facility, particularly in relation to Alpine Fault seismic activity.
- Air quality, including the potential for toxic or arsenic-bearing dust, in particular there were concerns about the potential effects of dust and naturally occurring arsenic on vineyards and wine production, and activities such as flower growing.
- Traffic-related concerns centred on increased vehicle movements, road safety, road degradation, and disruption to stock movements, particularly along Thomson Gorge Road.

- Landscape, with stakeholders concerned that the mining operations (including engineered landforms and the tailings storage facility) would result in permanent and irreversible changes to the area's visual character.

2.4. Engagement feedback

The feedback received through engagement indicates stakeholders are strongly focussed on understanding the potential risks and opportunities associated with the BOGP. While priorities varied between stakeholder groups and particular interests, consistent themes emerged which are discussed below.

Overall, feedback demonstrates that alongside concerns about environmental impacts there is also strong interest in ensuring local communities participate and benefit economically from the development. Where strong support exists in the community, it is largely based on opportunities for locals to improve their livelihoods, have family return to the area, and strengthen intergenerational connections, social capital and community wellbeing. For others, support for the economic benefits of the BOGP often exists alongside environmental concerns, particularly relating to water, landscape, and the potential for cumulative and intergenerational impacts. Where opposition exists, local feedback points to people and organisations outside the district as the main source, but this has not been validated.

Engagement feedback summary

Table 3 provides a summary of engagement feedback themes relevant for potential social impacts and management measures from feedback between September 2026 and June 2026. Relevant feedback about the social environment has been included in section 2.1. Feedback relating to specific impacts is included in Section 3.

Table 3: Summary of engagement feedback relevant for social impacts

Feedback Theme	Issues recorded in engagement records	Relevant for potential social impacts
Environmental and technical effects	Water use and quality; groundwater and private bores; tailings storage and seepage; arsenic and cyanide; dust; ecology; seismic risk. CLG minutes (Dec 2025) record direct challenge on tailings, remediation-fund adequacy and peer review.	Concerns about environmental effects are widespread in the community, creating risk of perceived impacts. Management measures relating to information sharing, monitoring and reporting activities, transparency around complaints and responses are appropriate to address the risk of perceived environmental impacts.
Amenity and access	Noise, light, visual effects, traffic, Thompson Gorge Road closure and alternatives, access to DOC or hunting land, recreation. CLG minutes record the Ardgour Rise Road sequencing explanation and equine-access advocacy.	Engagement records help identify potentially affected users and specific locations to be addressed in impact management plans for these technical areas. With technical compliance, social impacts can still occur, and technical mitigations should be complemented by communication with potentially affected parties and an open, transparent complaints and response process and representation of affected parties on the CLG.
Housing and services	Accommodation and housing pressure; construction camp; schooling, health, infrastructure and transport.	Indicates continuing concern around these areas, this informs and validates Project planning and management initiatives.
Livelihood and opportunity	Employment, recruitment timing, apprenticeships, local contractors and suppliers and business opportunity.	Highlights ongoing interest in economic participation and questions about distribution of benefit. Provides information about local capacity and signals likelihood of strong local representation in workforce and procurement.

Feedback Theme	Issues recorded in engagement records	Relevant for potential social impacts
	CLG minutes record local spend of approximately \$2M per month as stated by MGL (Sep 2025).	
Closure and legacy	Rehabilitation, bonds, post-closure land use, mine life, legacy and delivery of commitments. The November 2025 CLG special meeting records the bond mechanism explanation, including annual review by an independent assessor.	Demonstrates stakeholder desire for greater confidence in long-term governance and transition considerations.
Process, information and trust	Fast-track process, access to reports, visual material, consultant independence, misinformation, communication and transparency. CLG members sought and received a special briefing on the ~9,400-page FTA application.	Demonstrates strong stakeholder interest in understanding the BOGP and potential impacts, as well as a desire for transparency. May indicate frustrations with the fast-track process.
Engagement with younger audience	It's been noted by attendees that a certain age group attends the drop-in sessions.	Indicates a desire from young people to participate in engagement for the BOGP, this demand has been met through expanding engagement to include youth-focussed organisations.

3. Update to potential Social Impacts

This section summarises developments, information, and feedback from Section 2 and what this could mean for the causal pathways and the local experience of potential social impacts. Reference is made to 2025 SIA findings where appropriate.

The BOGP has made considerable progress on the planning and delivery of management measures directly and indirectly related to potential social impacts since the 2025 SIA. Stakeholder perspectives, knowledge, and expectations have also evolved, and this section reports impact management initiatives alongside persistent stakeholder concerns.

This section provides updates on groups of related potential social impacts, it does not assess individual impacts and the content is intended to be considered alongside the 2025 SIA. This section does not replace the assessment of impacts or any part of the 2025 SIA.

3.1. Local industry participation, labour market and economic transition

The BOGP presents substantial opportunities for local employment, procurement, training, supplier development, increased spending and regional diversification but these benefits may not be evenly distributed. Benefits could be constrained by local supplier capacity, labour availability, and competition with other industry. For comparison, the total number of filled jobs in Inland Otago expanded by an average of 4.6%pa over the ten years to 2024, and Project's direct employment is expected to be the equivalent of 0.7% of the current total jobs in Inland Otago⁸.

The BOGP is estimated to add an average \$360 million GDP per year, support 351 direct jobs on average, support further indirect and induced employment, and pay wages substantially above regional averages with the average mine wage expected to be 104% higher than the current Inland Otago average wage⁹. This presents substantial opportunities for local people, including those in low wage, unstable seasonal work to improve their income, gain or improve their employment, or upskill/reskill in their employment, and local businesses will have opportunities to strengthen or grow their businesses mostly through direct employment with/supply to the BOGP, but also indirectly through economic flow-on effects including increased local spending and regional diversification. These benefits will not occur automatically or evenly, and local employment and procurement will facilitate the return of economic benefits to the local community and economy.

MGL has a live recruitment database with over 1,560 registrations of interest in project employment. In January 2026, this database was surveyed with 647 responses. Findings show approximately two-thirds (67%) of survey respondents live locally¹⁰, 97% are legally eligible to work in New Zealand, and 94% favour using company-provided transport, so a residential workforce model is supported rather than a fly-in-fly-out approach. The survey indicates significant workforce depth and interest across mining, construction, technical, and entry-level roles to support long-term employment in Central Otago.

Additionally, MGL maintains a register of interest for businesses interested in supplying goods and services, it is not known what percentage of these are locally based.

The BOGP may compete with agriculture, horticulture, viticulture, tourism, construction, and other local services for labour, accommodation and contractors. A high-wage mining sector may improve household incomes for participants while increasing costs and/or labour constraints for those outside the sector, especially people still in seasonal employment. There is a risk that in the absence of other new industries providing comparable incomes, over time workers, businesses, and community groups may become increasingly dependent on mine-related activity and face an uncertain future at closure.

MGL has ongoing engagement with businesses (presentations, briefings, register of interests, factsheets and information through website) and updates them on project developments, answers questions and provides information. Local

⁸ Benje Patterson Economic Assessment Update October 2025

⁹ Benje Patterson Economic Assessment Update, October 2025

¹⁰ Employment expression of interest survey, January 2026

businesses have opportunities to present their offerings to the BOGP. Ongoing conversations with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) around industry partnerships, workforce development, and pathways into work should support equitable opportunity of employment for people in Central Otago who want to work at the BOGP.

These actions show MGL is making opportunities available for local people and businesses to benefit and building local relationships to facilitate equitable access to those opportunities. In the future, the BOGP's closure planning should include working with relevant agencies to facilitate a transparent, fair, and supported closure and transition process for employees and suppliers.

3.2. Community wellbeing, social cohesion, and local identity

The BOGP is not anticipated to have lasting changes affecting how people in larger communities such as Cromwell experience their environment, relate to one another and identify with their area, however the BOGP may affect community wellbeing, social cohesion and local identity in Tarras and Bendigo through disruption, uncertainty, differing community views and perceived changes to rural character and local control. These effects will require sustained attention to community wellbeing, social cohesion, local voice and trust during the BOGP life cycle.

The BOGP's impacts on employment, business activity and regional development are viewed positively by many, particularly in Cromwell, while others report fear, anxiety, stress, uncertainty, and frustration with the fast-track process. Concerns are largely driven by safety and environmental risk. While largely perceptual, these fears and concerns influence people's wellbeing, daily routines, relationships, sense of community and belonging, trust in institutions and the extent to which people feel able to influence change. Division between supporters and opponents may contribute to concerns about ongoing trust, relationships, community participation and people's sense of control over change. In small communities such as Tarras and Bendigo, even relatively modest changes may be socially significant where they alter rural character, community cohesion or local identity. See Section 5 for discussion about the BOGP in relation to the Tarras Community Plan.

Economic opportunity and growth may bring people who left the area back, strengthening community participation and social cohesion. Shiftwork can undermine community connection where work schedules prevent people participating in the community. With most of the permanent workforce anticipated to reside within established townships in Central Otago and the BOGP workforce being around 0.7% of the regional workforce, it is not anticipated the BOGP will have significant effects on participation rates in communities.

Since 2024 the BOGP has contributed over \$126,000 to local sponsorships, donations, and community initiatives across Central Otago including tertiary and vocational scholarships for students at Cromwell College and Dunstan High School. Donations include support for community events and charities, sports clubs and events, and cultural organisations and events.

MGL has committed to a payment of \$1.25 million per annum to the Central Otago District Council which must be spent on community benefit purposes as determined by CODC.

A range of measures have been proposed by MGL to preserve and protect heritage. These include:

- **Funding:** MGL has committed to a \$10 million biodiversity, ecology and heritage fund (BEHF) to be administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC).
- **Recording and Documentation:** Stone huts, dams, culverts and revetments are to be recorded to a Level II standard as defined in HNZPT's guidelines, with details provided in the Archaeological and Heritage Management Plan, and stone from these features should be repurposed for landscaping or offered to local heritage organisations for re-use.
- **Site Protection:** Sites G41/4 (Rabbit's Hut) will be protected during works and any modifications for its future adaptive re-use may require a separate archaeological authority. No works will take place within the fenced boundary around site G41/5.
- **Public Interpretation:** Following the end of mining activity, the paths of the water races G41/584 and G41/586 will be sympathetically marked on the landscape, and digital information could be incorporated into on-site interpretation to allow visitors to understand the various phases of landscape transformation.

- **Covenant Uplift Mitigation:** MGL has agreed to undertake activities to improve access to and preserve heritage sites outside the BOGP area, including funding DOC heritage projects, chemically killing invasive willows along Clearwater Creek, funding restoration of a damaged retaining wall within the Come-in-Time battery site, and establishing an alternative walking route to the Come-in-Time battery.

MGL is establishing relationships and channels to make a meaningful, ongoing contribution to the cultural, sporting, and community life of Central Otago, and supporting local young people into education opportunities. Developing a social investment strategy as recommended by the 2025 SIA would ensure the BOGP's community contributions achieve maximum benefit in terms of prioritised outcomes while building community trust.

3.3. Social services and community infrastructure

Potential demand on health, emergency, and social services associated with the BOGP is expected to be limited and largely managed through proposed workforce management initiatives. Project-related population growth represents a relatively small proportion of broader growth occurring across Central Otago, irrespective of the BOGP. There still remains a potential for spikes in demand for health, emergency and community services, particularly during any periods when construction and operation workforces overlap. Where smaller communities have limited spare capacity, even a modest increase in demand can create pressure on services.

To minimise potential pressure on health services resulting from workforce related demand, the BOGP will use dedicated health providers with facilities across New Zealand and Australia for pre-employment medical and functional assessments. The site will have its own medical centre to address minor injuries, and affiliated medical centres will facilitate any additional treatment beyond those. Initially medical professionals, including nurses will make visits to provide on-site health assessments and manage health initiatives such as annual flu injections. The service will be monitored to identify if there is a need for a permanent site-based nurse.

Staff will also receive medical insurance through the company, this will enable staff to access private medical care in accordance with their policies, avoiding pressure on public health services.

As part of emergency preparedness for mining operations the BOGP has developed an Emergency Management Principal Control Plan (EM-PCP) in accordance with the Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations Regulations 2016. This plan identifies emergency scenarios, establishes response capability and incident management processes aligned with the coordinated incident management system (CIMS) used by all emergency services. Engagement with emergency services, including workshops to outline the nature of the mine and response plans, was undertaken in May and June 2026. Feedback from that engagement is being used to update and strengthen MGL's EM-PCP. The BOGP continues to engage with local emergency services in Cromwell and Tarras.

Once established, aspects of the BOGP's emergency response capability will be available to support the local emergency services including two road legal watercarts of 30,000L capacity each for the provision of fire-fighting water. All employees will have a level of first aid training, and some will have underground rescue capability which may benefit the wider community in the event of an emergency.

3.4. Workforce behaviour and management

Workforce travel, accommodation, conduct, and interaction with nearby communities may affect safety, rural amenity, trust, and social cohesion during construction and operation. Landowners and occupiers near the site may be particularly affected. Management measures proposed by MGL provide an appropriate basis for managing these impacts.

Workforce related impacts are likely to be perceived most during the construction phase as the community adjusts to having the presence of the workforce in the area. Perceptions may also be related to temporary nature of the construction workforce. During operation impacts could be more sustained because the workforce is larger, more stable, and more likely to be living among local communities. Impacts include ongoing worker travel, speeding or fatigue-related road safety concerns, workforce behaviour in local businesses and public places, alcohol and drug management, and longer-term effects on community cohesion.

Impacts are proposed to be managed through a range of initiatives including:

- Workforce management policies and procedures including workforce conduct expectations and drug and alcohol policies.
- Company imposed speed restrictions on designated site access routes to manage road safety for local road users.
- Temporary accommodation facilities, both on-site and in Cromwell, will have active management to address potential concerns about worker conduct, vehicle movements, safety, alcohol and drug use, community integration and perceived changes to local character.
- Company transport will be provided to mine workers to take them to and from towns within approximately an hour's drive to reduce the number of light vehicles that travel to and from the site. 94% of participants in the employment register survey indicated they would use company-provided bus transport from centres including Cromwell, Alexandra, Queenstown, Wānaka, and Hāwea if available to them.
- MGL must investigate and respond to any complaints as soon as practicable after receipt. MGL must maintain a Complaints Register, which must be made available to the Councils on request or as otherwise specified in specific resource consent conditions for the Project and summarised annually in the Annual Monitoring and Compliance Report, which is submitted to the councils.
- Regulated continuous operation of the CLG throughout the mine life to receive feedback and input from the community so management practices can be implemented or adapted.

3.5. Environmental change and wellbeing

Changes to dust, noise, lighting, traffic, water, landscape, recreation access and rural amenity may affect people's wellbeing, sense of place, confidence and trust. Effective management will depend not only on technical controls and progressive rehabilitation, but also on clear communication, responsive complaints management, transparent monitoring and ongoing engagement with those most directly affected. MGL proposes to manage potential social impacts resulting from environmental change through a range of consent conditions, management plans, monitoring requirements and reporting mechanisms secured by conditions of consent, and enforceable by the Councils. Annual reports will be published on the Santana Minerals website.

This Addendum acknowledges the 2025 SIA findings that environmental effects can have social consequences and relies on technical assessments and their recommended management measures for matters such as landscape and visual effects, transport, noise and vibration, air quality, economic effects and recreation. Concerns about dust, noise, lighting, traffic, landscape change, rural amenity, dark skies, recreation access, health and effects are particularly important because local and regional community values place strong emphasis on natural landscapes, wide open spaces, rivers and lakes, recreation, heritage, quiet lifestyle and community spirit.

Social impacts are likely to be most immediate during construction when heavy vehicles, earthworks, construction accommodation, lighting, noise, and dust are introduced to the environment. Nearby residents, rural businesses, recreation users and people who place a high value on the area's rural and natural character are likely to be most affected.

The BOGP's operational phase would include sustained impacts on visual amenity, permanent or long-lived engineered landforms, altered access and a changed experience of rural living, surroundings, and dark skies. These changes may affect experiences of tourism and recreation, property confidence, business reputation, local identity and the wellbeing of residents who value quiet, open landscapes.

The proposed conditions for the BOGP's mandates management measures and monitoring include the timing, frequency, location and predictability of disturbance as per the various technical assessments. People's experience of environmental impacts will be influenced by the BOGP's responsiveness when issues arise and whether affected people have confidence in monitoring and follow up. People can become more sensitive to impacts and perceptions of impacts when they persist, are not effectively communicated, and/or are experienced cumulatively with other impacts.

The proposed conditions for the BOGP require a complaints procedure which requires every complaint to be logged, investigated and responded to as soon as practicable. The complaints register has minimum information recording requirements and must be made available to Councils on request. The register is in addition to requirements for

managing complaints in specific technical management plans. Information about complaints is to be included in annual monitoring and compliance reports.

Progressive rehabilitation is proposed to begin from the second year of operations, minimising the timeframe of visual and landscape changes. Rehabilitation will include 2,219 hectares of ecological restoration and habitat enhancement, including two predator proof fences and a \$10m Heritage, Ecological, and Biodiversity Fund.

3.6. Housing and accommodation

While there may be temporary pressures on accommodation related to the BOGP's construction phase, these are expected to be largely managed through the provision of temporary accommodation. It is not anticipated there will be long term impacts on housing and accommodation as a result of the BOGP during operation. Both Council and Project experts broadly agreed that housing supply in Inland Otago would respond in a way that could manage the long-term effects of demand from employment influenced by the BOGP.

Higher project wages may improve affordability for local people who secure mining employment, but new and higher-paid households could also increase competition and prices for people whose incomes remain unchanged by the existence of the mine.

Lower-income renters, seasonal workers and employers reliant on affordable accommodation are likely to be most sensitive to impacts on housing availability and affordability. The likelihood of housing impacts depends on worker origin, household composition, commuting, sharing, and employer-provided accommodation.

MGL has developed and commenced delivering a construction accommodation strategy. The potential for temporary accommodation impacts has been acknowledged by the BOGP who have engaged with local accommodation providers and advanced discussions in nearby communities regarding underutilised accommodation to support the construction workforce. This has resulted in securing 35 beds in Cromwell at the Cromwell Otago Polytech campus, a 30-bed camp and an 18-berth caravan facility on site to be used during the construction period. There is also flexibility to increase the capacity at the on-site construction camp should it be required or extend the lease beyond construction if required. The BOGP maintains a register of accommodation providers interested in supporting the accommodation needs of the BOGP. It is noted that some of these providers service seasonal workforces from other industries and their expression of interest has been to provide accommodation outside of this seasonal demand.

The proposed consent conditions require MGL to provide bus transport between Cromwell, on-site accommodation, and the BOGP site which will reduce the need for private vehicle movements. Bus transport for staff is also proposed from Alexandra, Queenstown, Wanaka, and Hawea which will further negate the need for private vehicle movements and support the dilution of potential housing and accommodation impacts over a larger area.

MGL has established that a substantial skill base currently exists in the local area and the BOGP intends to prioritise recruitment from within the District with a plan to target those already residing in the region but working outside of it to reduce pressure on local housing.

3.7. Water resources

While technical expert water assessments have found less than minor impacts are likely on water availability and quality, stakeholders concerns persist around uncertainty, perceived risk, trust in monitoring, and confidence that water users, mana whenua and downstream receptors will be protected over time. Current management measures including controls, monitoring, consent conditions, and engagement with adjacent landowners provide a basis for technical compliance. As with environmental change, social impacts based on perceptions and uncertainty can still arise with technical compliance, and transparent long-term monitoring and reporting will increase confidence in the Project's water management.

Potential impacts to drinking water, irrigation, and stock water could affect local households and viticulture, horticulture, and agriculture operations, cultural values associated with wai Māori, recreation and environmental wellbeing. For rural landholders, concerns about water can have practical, financial and wellbeing implications, particularly where water is essential to farm operations and business resilience. Concern about risks associated with seepage, tailings and water-storage performance, water treatment, downstream and groundwater connections, and the potential effect of a seismic

event persist in stakeholder feedback. There are concerns that uncaptured and untreated seepage could be an intergenerational risk to aquifers and connected water bodies.

Experts on behalf of MGL have continued to develop technical water management measures.

- The Soil Management Plan will manage risks associated with elevated arsenic in discharge waters.
- Water metering will be implemented and will include instantaneous daily, weekly, monthly and yearly monitoring through a data telemetry link to Otago Regional Council enabling consent limits to be observed and enforced.
- The BOGP has added several ground and surface water monitoring locations in response to concerns about downstream water quality, with reporting of water quality monitoring results to be made public. Water monitoring results are shared with adjacent landowners who are able to discuss results with technical specialists.

Experts on behalf of MGL are currently addressing concerns about uncaptured seepage through a range of ground water and water quality workstreams in response to Panel questions asked in the Fast-track process. In addition, further information about the water monitoring is provided in the response to RFI's 1-8 relating to water.

It is the intention that The Matakui Trust will take over long-term water treatment once MGL's operations and closure are complete. The Trust will maintain water treatment to ensure ongoing compliance with water quality resource consent conditions as well as decommissioning when appropriate. A bond secures compliance with consent conditions and closure obligations if MGL can no longer undertake this work themselves.

3.8. Cultural and intergenerational impacts

Intergenerational and cultural impacts are likely to be significant as the BOGP will reshape the physical landscape and may reshape the social, economic and cultural relationships connected to it. The BOGP is also forecast to create enduring local employment, training, business capability, community investment, recreation access, heritage interpretation and environmental restoration benefits, provided these are deliberately targeted locally, funded, monitored and maintained beyond the life of the mine.

Operation may produce long-term or permanent changes to the way future generations experience and relate to the landscape and the BOGP also creates liabilities that extend beyond its life including long-term landform change, resulting in closure and rehabilitation obligations, water treatment requirements, potential workforce and economic transition issues, and cultural impacts on a landscape that Kāi Tahu has identified as significant wāhi tūpuna. Workers, local businesses, and community organisations may also become economically dependent on mine-related income or spending over time. At closure, this could create transition risks unless workforce retraining, business diversification and local resilience measures are planned early.

The 2025 SIA and Benje Patterson Economic Assessment acknowledge the significance of these benefits alongside the need for robust mine closure planning and a Mine Closure Plan has been lodged with a commitment to three-yearly reviews.

MGL has responded to concerns about intergenerational impacts with the proposed establishment of the Matakui Trust, a long term independent entity designed to manage the site post-closure. It is intended the Trust be established as an enduring stewardship or Kaitiaki vehicle with long-term environmental and intergenerational cultural objectives with oversight from relevant regulators. Proposed governance arrangements include iwi-led representation together with regulator, community and independent trustees and transitional Project representation during closure phases. The Trust will be funded via an escrow fund to be established at Year 6 of gold production with \$5 million per annum to be placed into the fund up to total of \$50 million. It is understood that discussions with Kā Rūnaka remain ongoing. As these discussions progress, they may identify opportunities for additional mitigation, monitoring, cultural recognition, or other management measures to be incorporated into the BOGP.

3.9. Vulnerable and sensitive populations

Groups more exposed or sensitive to Project related change may bear a disproportionate amount of negative Project impacts while experiencing less of the positive impacts of the BOGP. Vulnerable and sensitive households and groups

have been considered to some extent within existing management measures. The 2025 SIA recognises that impact assessment should consider potentially vulnerable groups, and this Addendum (section 2.1) identifies likely vulnerable groups for the BOGP in terms of the EHINZ vulnerability criteria. It is important to note that these groups are not vulnerable for the same reasons. Some are more exposed because they depend on affordable housing, local health services, seasonal accommodation or water security. Others are more sensitive because of age, income, cultural connection, reliance on local networks, limited access to information, or reduced ability to influence decisions related to the BOGP.

There are potential benefits of the BOGP for vulnerable and sensitive groups, particularly through employment, training, procurement, community investment, recreation access and local capability building, but these benefits will not automatically reach the groups most exposed to adverse effects. Considering the following groups in the implementation of management measures, the social investment strategy, and closure planning will enhance equity of access to participation in economic benefits of the BOGP:

- Lower-income households, particularly those already affected by high housing and living costs.
- Renters and people in insecure housing, who may be exposed to increased rental competition or rising rents.
- Seasonal workers, especially those in horticulture, viticulture, tourism and hospitality who rely on temporary or affordable accommodation.
- Workers in lower-paid local sectors, including hospitality, retail, tourism, aged care, health support, agriculture and community services who may experience barriers to mining employment opportunities.
- Young people and early-career workers, who may face housing affordability barriers but may also benefit from training and employment pathways.
- Families with children, particularly if housing, schools, childcare, recreation access or road safety are affected.
- Older residents and people on fixed incomes, who may be more sensitive to cost increases, service pressure, traffic changes and community disruption.
- People with disability or chronic health needs, who may be more affected by health service access, transport disruption, emergency response capacity or environmental concern, and may not be as easily able to participate in the economic benefits of the BOGP.
- Residents experiencing stress, anxiety or uncertainty, particularly those close to the BOGP, affected by water concerns, or worried about community change.
- Small settlement communities, especially Tarras, Bendigo, and Luggate, where even modest changes may be strongly felt because of limited housing, services and community scale.

Potential impacts on these groups include reduced housing affordability, increased competition for accommodation, pressure on health and emergency services, stress and anxiety associated with uncertainty, concern about water availability and quality, reduced trust in environmental management, changed sense of place, community division, and unequal access to BOGP benefits.

4. Tarras Community Plan

This section considers the Project's alignment with the Tarras Community Plan, in accordance with RFI 11 question 22. For this section to address question 22 independently outside the Addendum in the RFI process, information from previous sections has been repeated here.

The Tarras Community Plan vision is for Tarras to be *"a strong, thriving community that is a great place to live, work and visit, set in an outstanding environment,"* and is structured around six value areas: natural environment, connected community, community places and spaces, economic vitality, infrastructure and land use, and Tarras voice¹¹.

It sees Tarras maintaining its identity as an agriculture (sheep, beef, deer), horticulture, and viticulture area with a "rich gold mining heritage." The plan sees opportunities to link recreational and cycling infrastructure to create interaction with the historic diggings, and preservation of the historical mines to assist in local story telling. It also recommends a group be formed to oversee the community plan and connect with other organisations. If a group is established MGL would be available and willing to participate, as appropriate.

Alignment with the BOGP

The BOGP is consistent with aspects of the Tarras Community Plan aspirations around economic vitality, places and spaces, and infrastructure improvements. Particular areas of alignment are supporting a strong thriving community through increased livelihoods, enhanced recreation access and heritage protection, support for Tarras School and the local fire brigade, road upgrades, worker transport, and potential wider transport benefits.

The BOGP could be considered less aligned with community values around peace and quiet, rural character, dark skies, uninterrupted landscapes, environmental protection, community cohesion and local voice, suggesting areas of potential tension around Tarras' influence on the BOGP, and maintaining environmental amenity.

Regarding economic vitality, the BOGP provides opportunities but there may be some local difference of opinion about how these fit with existing industries. It is possible that confidence in the BOGP will grow over time with the flow of economic benefits to Tarras alongside a track record of effective and responsive environmental management.

With the varying perspectives on the BOGP in the Tarras community, there is a risk that differences could be exploited resulting in a greater split of the community, impacting social cohesion. Ongoing and responsive engagement will be important to continue to provide Tarras with a voice. As described in the engagement sections above MGL has sought to facilitate engagement across a range of viewpoints, including offering participation in the BOGP Community Liaison Group to groups and individuals both supportive of and opposed to the BOGP.

Table 4 provides an assessment of how the BOGP aligns with the six value areas of the Tarras Community Plan. Overall, there appears to be a moderate level of alignment between the BOGP and the Tarras Community Plan.

Table 4: Project alignment with Tarras Community Plan

Value area	Project consistency	Contribution or tension	MGL management actions
Natural environment	Low - moderate	Key value – The stunning Tarras environment is maintained and enhanced for future generations. The plan strongly values uninterrupted vistas, dark skies, peace, quiet, rivers, wildlife and natural landscapes. <i>The community wants to ensure that the stunning natural environment is maintained and enhanced for future generations</i> (pg 21) Notwithstanding the Project's environmental and ecological commitments, mining activity in an	The Project includes extensive environmental management across 2,219 Ha including rehabilitation, ecological enhancement, and compensation, two predator proof fences and a \$10m Biodiversity, Ecological, and Heritage Fund (BEHF). Environmental management and monitoring include water, air quality, noise, lighting and biodiversity with

¹¹ Tarras Community Plan accessed at <https://www.codc.govt.nz/services/community-development/community-plans>

Value area	Project consistency	Contribution or tension	MGL management actions
		Outstanding Natural Landscape is likely to remain a point of tension.	annual reports to be provided to regulating authorities and published on the Santana Minerals website. Potential social impacts relating to environmental impacts from noise, dust, lighting, traffic, etc will be managed through mitigation measures outlined in the respective technical assessments.
Connected community	Low - moderate	Key value – Tarras continues to be a strong, thriving community that looks out for each other. The BOGP has established a Community Liaison Group and undertaken engagement, sponsorship and community support. A member of the Tarras community is in the CLG and Sustainable Tarras has also been invited to also have a representative in the CLG. The Plan expresses mixed sentiment towards growth and development in Tarras, and the BOGP may intensify division with diverse views. <i>Tarras' country village brings its own special characteristics, and many people want to retain this to ensure that sense of connection remains. Some would like further development of the village, and to bring new families into the area who can grow the school and the many clubs/groups and societies. (pg21)</i> <i>Tarras has a strong community spirit but in the face of change from the external world, people have acknowledged there are now many uncertainties, and this has been challenging for many (pg26).</i>	The Project has an established Community Liaison Group which will remain in operation during the construction and operation phases of the Project, as per relevant consent conditions. Sustainable Tarras has been invited to join the CLG and there is a member of the Tarras community in the CLG. The Project engagement programme, sponsorship, and community support activities include Tarras, as will a Project contribution of \$1.25 m per annum to CODC for community benefit, as determined by CODC.
Community places and spaces	Moderate	Key value - The community spaces and places of Tarras are celebrated, well known and well used, with new opportunities explored and fostered. There is a theme of both 'retain' and 'grow' the community in the plan. <i>"The community is mindful that any new development is done 'sensitively' to maintain the rural country village feel, and preservation of a traditional New Zealand town". (pg 21)</i> The BOGP contributes to Tarras through recreation access, proposed improvements to Ardgour Rise, heritage management (outlined further below) and provided support for Tarras School and other community facilities including the fire brigade. The investment in heritage protection by the BOGP directly contributes to the desire in the community plan to <i>"Protect and celebrate the unique heritage of the area and explore opportunities to tell local stories"</i>	A range of measures are proposed to preserve and protect heritage. These include: • The \$10 million BEHF fund includes supporting the protection and enhancement of cushionfield habitat (or other threatened species and ecosystems) within the Dunstan Ecological District and historic values beyond BOGP within Central Otago. • Recording and Documentation of: Stone huts, dams, culverts and revetments to Level II standard as per HNZPT's guidelines, with details provided in the Archaeological and Heritage Management Plan with stone to be repurposed locally. • Site Protection: Sites G41/4 (Rabbit's Hut) will be protected during works - no works will take

Value area	Project consistency	Contribution or tension	MGL management actions
			place within the fenced boundary around site G41/5. Future re-use may require a separate archaeological authority. • Public Interpretation: During mine closure the paths of water races G41/584 and G41/586 will be sympathetically marked on the landscape, and digital information could be incorporated into on-site interpretation to allow visitors to understand the various phases of landscape transformation. • Covenant Uplift Mitigation: MGL will improve access to and preserve heritage sites outside the project area and fund Department of Conservation heritage projects, including removal of willows along Clearwater Creek, restoration of a damaged retaining wall within the Come-in-Time battery site, and establishing an alternative walking route to the Come-in-Time battery.
Economic vitality	Strong	Key value - The economic vitality of Tarras is strong, built on great farming, quality produce and products, with a vibrant country village. Mixed views in the community about future growth. A number of new developments changing the economic profile of the area from arable farming to viticulture and horticulture and now potential mining (back to the future?) Regardless of differing views there is an action to <i>“keep actively involved in future community engagement and discussions on proposed developments in the area, and ensure opportunities to be involved are taken advantage of”</i> (pg 28)	The project has potential to support jobs, local procurement, higher incomes, supplier opportunities and regional economic diversification. Alignment is stronger if benefits flow to Tarras businesses, growers, tourism operators and residents rather than mainly to Cromwell, Queenstown, Wānaka and wider Otago.
Infrastructure and land use	Moderate	Key value - Core infrastructure, including land use planning frameworks, meets the current and future needs of Tarras. Seems to be a desire for more permissive development provisions in the District Plan with smaller lot sizes – “Reducing subdivision sizes from eight hectares to quarter-acre sections and creating a subdivision near the village to facilitate growth”	The Project proposes to undertake road upgrades aligned with infrastructure aspirations along Thomson Gorge Road, the Ardgour Road/Thomson Gorge Road and the SH8 Ardgour Road intersection. To address worker accommodation needs, MGL has leased 35 beds with kitchen facilities at the Otago Polytechnic in Cromwell. A 30-bed camp will be constructed at the mine site alongside a permanent 18 berth caravan park (associated utilities will be constructed). Both facilities will have a manager in place and residents will be subject to workforce behaviour

Value area	Project consistency	Contribution or tension	MGL management actions
			policies. MGL plan to assess the need for continued accommodation after construction and extend the lease if available and required. Mine site accommodation will minimise traffic impacts on access roads and bus transport will be provided from/to key residential locations such as Cromwell, Alexandra, Wanaka, Hawea and Queenstown as required.
Tarras voice	Moderate	Key value - The Tarras community feels and is heard on things that matter to them. <i>The Tarras community is facing a lot of change and uncertainty, and this has become challenging for many. A key objective for this community is to feel heard and be heard on things that matter to them. It is important that local people are able to speak and have control over their own community, and to gain assistance from central and local government on matters of local significance. (pg 21)</i>	While the CLG and Project engagement channels provide the Tarras community with opportunities to be heard, comments from some in the community show that some residents do not feel the Project aligns with the Plan. There also appears to be support from other parts of the community. As mentioned above, the Project has an established Community Liaison Group, engagement programme, sponsorship, and community support activities. In addition, a contribution of \$1.25 m per annum will be made to CODC for community benefit, as determined by CODC. The Project is required by consent conditions to investigate, respond to and maintain a register of all complaints including follow up actions to prevent recurrence of problems. This register must be made available to the Councils on request and summarised annually in the Annual Monitoring and Compliance Report, which is submitted to the Councils.

5. Conclusion

The BOGP is forecast to make a substantial and enduring contribution to Central Otago through employment, local procurement, training, community investment, and environmental and heritage initiatives. The progress made in developing social and environmental management measures recommended in the 2025 SIA provides a strong basis for managing potential adverse effects and supporting positive outcomes for local communities over the life of the BOGP and beyond. Ongoing implementation, transparent monitoring and reporting with continued engagement with affected communities and mana whenua will enhance the effectiveness of management measures.

Appendix A

Name of appendix here



