

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
Fast Track Application FTAA-2507-1089

Grant Porter

Director - Shine Irrigation Company Limited

1460 Tarras Cromwell Road RD3 Cromwell 9383



Shine Irrigation Company Limited has a 260 liter per second water right to take water from two bores beside the Clutha River and provides this water to irrigate 330 hectares of our shareholders land immediately neighboring the proposed Bendigo Ophir mine land. The water is delivered via a pressurized pipeline to two holding dams that hold 70 million cubic liters of water which is then distributed across the irrigated land. The holding ponds are approximately one kilometer below and to the north west of the proposed mine land.

The 330 hectares of irrigated land is owned by Cherry Holdings Limited and Bendigo Station Limited who are both 50/50 shareholders in the Shine Irrigation Company.

Cherry Holdings Limited has approximately 90 hectares of Cherries planted across its 192ha's and Bendigo Station Ltd irrigates its land with four centre pivot irrigators along with a workers house and stock water system that all comes from the holding dams.

I have read the applicants submissions and supporting documentation to the Fast Track panel and I am comfortable that any mine would not adversely affect our irrigation scheme or business in the future.

Our irrigation scheme has already changed the landscape of the land that immediately neighbours the mine land with extensive cherry plantings which include nets, windmills and centre pivot irrigators. Indeed, the whole surrounding landscape in this basin has changed significantly with the advent of irrigation across multiple irrigation schemes in the last forty years.

We also have no issues with the air quality and noise impacts of the mine given the predominant wind comes from the north west which heads away from us. We already have significant noise impacts on the land with bird bangers to control birds on vineyards and orchards in this area. This noise occurs pre grape and cherry harvest from January to April. Tractors that use air blowers to sprat chemicals and fertiliser on these vineyards

and orchards normally takes place from October to April pre-dawn and while there is noise at this time of the morning in the still air, we have not had any complaints about these activities in the past.

We see positive benefits to our shareholders and for the irrigation scheme by way of improved roading and access and we have found Santana Minerals employees to be very professional, trustworthy and open to working with us and the land owners since they arrived eight years ago.

Our irrigation scheme has seen a large number of foreign workers employed seasonally to allow the Cherry's to be harvested and pruned each year and so we have no issue with any workers or increased activity in the area should they be foreign or local. More families that come to the area to live and work means our shareholders may be able to use their children to assist with fruit picking in future.

Our biggest concern would be ensuring that the water quality and compliance monitoring on the mine site are imposed and enforced to ensure that the land is restored post mine including the proposed water capture and treatment infrastructure. This should be relatively easy to maintain in our low rainfall environment and is probably the prime reason why it is essential for our irrigation scheme to exist given our annual rainfall over our irrigated land averages 400mm per annum. Our irrigation scheme like all the others exists because we require three times this amount for our shareholders to be able to grow pasture, crops and fruit.

Given our source of water is from the Clutha we see no risk to the quality at the source from the mine. Given our water holding dam is closer at one kilometer away the risk of any water contamination may be greater which is why we would like to see the appropriate conditions imposed for water quality monitoring during and post mining and that the appropriate conditions are enforced. It has been our experience in the area that noise conditions which were covenanted on vineyard land are not enforced which is why noise is not an issue as some vineyards have no respect for these private covenants due to no enforcement.

We look forward to the panel's decision and a review of any draft conditions.

Grant Porter

Shine Irrigation Company Ltd