

**Before the Expert Panel appointed
under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024**

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
(Act)

And

In the Matter of an application for approvals by
Matakanui Gold Limited to establish,
operate, rehabilitate and ultimately
close an open pit and underground
gold mining operation known as the
Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

**Statement of Evidence of
Damian Francis Spring on behalf of
Matakanui Gold Limited in response to
Section 53 Feedback**

Corporate

Dated: 17 April 2026

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INTRODUCTION

1. My name is Damian Francis Spring.
2. I hold a Bachelor of Engineering (Mining) degree from the University of Auckland, a Western Australian First Class Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency and a New Zealand First Class Mine Manager's Certificate of Competency.
3. I am a Fellow of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy and have over thirty years of experience in the mining industry, principally in New Zealand but also significant periods in Australia and Argentina, in a diverse range of roles as an underground miner, mining engineer, mine manager, consultant and mining executive.
4. I am the Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of Santana Minerals Limited, Santana Minerals (NZ) Limited (SMI), Matakanui Land Limited and Matakanui Gold Limited (MGL), the latter being the Applicant under this FTA application.

OVERVIEW

5. I consider that the Bendigo Ophir Gold Project (**BOGP**) fulfils the purpose of the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 (**FTA Act**) to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. The following comments support this.
6. MGL was incorporated in New Zealand in 2014 for the purpose of exploring and should it result in a discovery, mining of gold. The New Zealand Government granted through the mineral permitting system, a legal right for MGL to undertake that exploration.
7. In 2020, SMI, an Australian Stock Exchange (ASX) listed company, acquired full ownership of MGL including its mineral permits with the necessary legal approvals from the New Zealand regulators. SMI undertook a capital raising of A\$7 million that enabled increased exploration on the permit.
8. In March 2021, MDD007 returned gold values and intercept thicknesses that outshone results to date. The current mineral resource in accordance with Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC)¹ 2012 is 34.3 million tonnes of ore at a grade of 2.1 grams per tonne of gold for 2.34 million ounces of gold.

¹ The Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) is the professional body responsible for establishing the standards for public reporting of exploration results, mineral resources and ore resources in Australasia.

9. From 1 January 2016 to 31 March 2026, MGL has spent a total \$100.7 million in New Zealand alone on exploration, mining studies, environmental studies, legal and access arrangements and was justified due to the magnitude of the discovery, the resulting proposed gold mine and has been well supported by SMI's shareholders. In July 2024, SMI listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange (NZX) to give all New Zealanders an opportunity to participate in the largest gold discovery in 40 years. In March 2026, SMI entered the ASX 300 index, putting it in the top 300 listed equities on the ASX. As of 31 March 2026, 39.1% of the SMI shareholder register resided in New Zealand.
10. BOGP is predicted to produce 1.2 million ounces of gold over 13.8 years generating \$5.8 billion dollars of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), creating an approximately 351 full time jobs at site in Central Otago on average per year, and 257 indirect and 206 induced jobs. Average wages of \$140,300 per job will be double the average for Central Lakes or Inland Otago².
11. The BOGP will deliver \$1.0 million per worker which is 7.7 times the average for Otago. Over 60% of the gross profits will remain in New Zealand through corporate tax, Crown and private royalties and New Zealand resident shareholders. Conservatively, these numbers were based on our Updated Pre-Feasibility Study (PFS)³, and showed BOGP will generate \$1.8 billion dollars of total government revenue at a gold price of \$5,410⁴ per troy ounce of gold. The government revenue jumps to \$2.8 billion dollars at gold prices of \$8,469 per ounce.
12. That said, the project remains subject to normal risks associated with commodity prices, energy prices, and exchange rates. However, with an all-in cost of A\$2,245 per ounce based on the closing price on 16 April 2026 of A\$6,701 per ounce, BOGP has a margin of A\$4,456 per ounce or 198%, representing significant headroom to withstand these normal project cost fluctuations.
13. These benefits with the wide-ranging packages of mitigation of the effects on the environment and cultural values, it is clear this application meets the purpose of the Act.
14. This brief of evidence is in response to comments made through the FTA Act Section 53 process. On behalf of the staff and Board of Matakanaui Gold and Santana Minerals, I wish to thank all the participants for their time and effort to provide their written comments to this application in the tight timeframe given. Of course, our experts and advisors also need to be acknowledged and thanked for the herculean

² Refer to Benje Patterson's s53 Statement of Evidence and B.01 Benje Patterson (People and Places)- Economic Impacts of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

³ Updated Pre-Feasibility Study, released to the ASX on 1 July 2025.

⁴ As per Quarterly Activities Report, released to the ASX on 27 January 2026.

effort to compile this body of work in response. The quality of the submissions is generally very high and, as the Panel will comprehend, have been dutifully answered in our response.

15. Naturally, of course, I wish to thank those submitters who support the project and ask us the questions to ensure the project delivers on its stated benefits.
16. My statement covers the following topics which have been raised in Section 53 comments:
 - (a) economic, employment, and regional effects;
 - (b) Kā Rūnaka enhanced participation;
 - (c) mine and infrastructure design and management;
 - (d) environmental effects management and governance;
 - (e) engagement and consultation; and
 - (f) conclusions.

ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT, AND REGIONAL EFFECTS

17. Comments were received from the following submitters in regarding employment outcomes, economic benefits, the duration of those benefits, royalty calculations, taxation, and the distribution of economic returns between New Zealand and offshore entities:
 - (a) Central Otago District Council (**CODC**).
 - (b) Kā Rūnaka.
 - (c) Crown Ministers.
 - (d) Sustainable Tarras.
 - (e) Queenstown Business Chamber of Commerce.
 - (f) Business South Incorporated.
 - (g) Central Otago Winegrowers Association.

ECONOMIC, EMPLOYMENT AND REGIONAL EFFECTS

Employment levels, automation, and duration of benefits

18. Direct employment from operations would generally sit between 320 to 350 workers over the 14-year mining period. The MGL employment assessments were made with an understanding of the mining technologies available to them and the intended nature of operations.
19. The suggestion that advances in mining technology and automation will significantly reduce employment opportunities is not supported by the evidence underpinning the mine plan. The employment assessment reflects modern mining technologies and does not assume legacy, labour-intensive practices.
20. While mining is finite in duration, the economic activity directly generated by the BOGP extends well beyond the 14 year mine life. This includes sustained procurement of goods and services, civil and infrastructure works, rehabilitation and restoration activity, and post-closure monitoring and management obligations. These activities generate ongoing employment and economic activity over and beyond the active mining phase, such as:
 - (a) Electricity resilience for the Upper Clutha paid, in part, by the mine.
 - (b) The opportunities that workers can create for themselves, and their families based on mine jobs paying double the current average wage in Inland Otago, for example, house ownership.
 - (c) The flow on effects of 351 well paid workers procuring goods and services in the local communities and contributing to the likes of schools, clubs, societies, and charities.
 - (d) MGL has an access agreement with CODC under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) that will require MGL to pay \$1.25 million per year for every year gold is produced, to CODC for “expenditure of such funds to benefit the Central Otago community”.
 - (e) MGL has binding agreements to purchase parts of Bendigo and Ardgour Stations at levels 6-times the price received for comparable recent sales since 2023 for similar properties.
 - (f) The funding that will be put in place to maintain water quality for decades as required after mine closure and ecological enhancements in perpetuity.

Doré Pricing, Royalties, and Tax Revenue

21. In the Sustainable Tarras comments, it was suggested that MGL financial modelling had not adequately reflected the differences between prices for impure gold doré and the refined value of pure gold. I consider that this statement is incorrect.
22. MGL financial models used in the updated PFS (2025) and the economic impact assessments account for the full value of the gold as revenue at its per-ounce price, and then net out the transport and refining margin as a cost that is excluded. The transport and refining margin, which accounts for the cost of refining doré into pure gold bars, was assumed at \$8 per ounce in the updated PFS.
23. As such, the direct GDP estimates and associated government revenue estimates are based on the full market value of gold production and account for refining and transport costs as operating expenses. Assertions that doré pricing materially reduces New Zealand royalties or corporate tax are, therefore, incorrect.

Distribution of Economic Benefits (local vs offshore)

24. Claims that the beneficiaries of viticulture GDP are all local, while the majority of BOGP GDP will flow offshore, are not substantiated by evidence. Calculations in Benje Patterson's economic Statement of Evidence show that Gross National Product (GNP) from the BOGP is approximately \$230 million per year, estimated to be 64% of the direct GDP of \$360 million per year.
25. By comparison, no equivalent evidence was provided regarding the residency of shareholders or workforce composition in viticulture operations. Research released for Central Otago District Council in 2024 shows that approximately 74.5% of vineyard workers were temporary overseas workers.
26. MGL notes New Zealand First announced in March 2026 its campaign policy that will see 50% of any royalties gained from mining to be directly returned to the region from which it came. If this policy is enacted in law, this could mean at least \$16 million per year would be returned to the region because of royalties for BOGP based on the PFS.

Supportive Submissions

27. Supportive submissions from Crown Ministers, local authorities and business and community groups acknowledged that the project is projected to generate significant employment and community opportunities, Crown royalties and corporate tax revenue, stimulate demand for goods and services, and contribute to regional and national economic activity.

28. Submissions also recognised that large-scale mining projects typically require overseas capital investment due to the scale of funding required, while still delivering substantial domestic economic benefits through wages, procurement, taxation, and royalties.
29. Industry submissions supporting the project noted that mining typically requires foreign investment due to its scale and capital intensity. MGL agrees that New Zealand's regulatory stability makes it an attractive jurisdiction for such investment, while noting that substantial economic benefits remain within the domestic economy through labour income, procurement, taxation and royalties.

KĀ RŪNAKA ENHANCED PARTICIPATION

No Inconsistency Under Section 7 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

30. MGL recognises Ngāi Tahu's special standing and unique relationship with their ancestral lands.
31. Prior to pursuing this application under the FTA Act, MGL gave consideration to what Treaty obligations, if any, needed to be met. In keeping with the precise wording of the FTA Act we looked to whether the BOGP was inconsistent with any *existing Treaty settlement*.
32. We acknowledge the Crown's undertakings under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (**NTCSA**). Our view from the outset has been that the Ngāi Tahu settlement is the only settlement that can be relevant to this application and there is no inconsistency between the mine project and the NTCSA.

Consultation with Kā Rūnaka

33. Notwithstanding our view that this application is not inconsistent with the Ngāi Tahu settlement, we also recognise our obligations under Section 11 of the FTA Act to consult with any relevant iwi authorities, hapū and Treaty settlement entities.
34. I have first-hand knowledge and experience of the steps taken to consult with iwi. Since project inception, over the years we have engaged constructively. Over a number of years, we have tried to engage constructively and in good faith with Kā Rūnaka, as mana whenua over the takiwā where the project is located and recognised by Ngāi Tahu. While progress has been uneven, my understanding from this engagement has always been that Kā Rūnaka is not opposed to the mine in principle but that iwi are seeking a fulsome package of effects management including financial compensation in return for support. I will address this later in this statement, but from the outset MGL accepted it would pay a reasonable and fair

sum to Kā Rūnaka. The issue to date is that the parties have not been able to reach agreement on what constitutes a reasonable and fair sum as part of the overall package.

History of Engagement Between the Parties

35. Under mineral permit obligations, a draft annual report on iwi engagement is submitted to iwi and any feedback is incorporated into the final report submitted to New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (**NZPAM**) as part of the Annual Summary Report due 31 March each year. MGL has fully complied with this requirement. These reports form a substantial record of the consultation and engagement that has taken place with mana whenua.
36. A schedule of the engagement between MGL and Kā Rūnaka is attached to this statement at **Appendix 1**. It has been extensive. To assist the Panel I set out some key events below.
37. The exploration permit for the BOGP was granted in 2016 and in 2018 consolidated adjacent and contiguous permits into the current, single minerals exploration permit (MEP60311).
38. In February 2018, MGL hosted on site Aukaha, the mana whenua owned organisation engaged by Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou. Aukaha responded by sending a Cultural Values Statement and a map identifying nearby archaeological sites, recognised outstanding natural landscapes and a recommendation that Taramea areas should be avoided. Aukaha proposed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be established between MGL and Nga Runanga to provide a process for consultation throughout the development of this Project.
39. We continued to engage with each other throughout 2018, with a focus on the immediate applications for resource consent for earthworks to enable drilling exploration and the related authority from the Department of Conservation under the conservation covenant.
40. In respect of the exploration activities, in 2019 Aukaha, on behalf of Ngā Rūnanga, stated in a letter to MGL, that “the proposal is not inconsistent with the Kāi Tahu ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005”.
41. From November 2018 to February 2021 there were many exchanges to develop an agreed Protocol on Engagement (**POE**) between the parties. Despite many drafts being shared, no agreed protocol was established. Instead, in February 2021 Kā Rūnaka (who, by then was the representative group engaging with MGL) confirmed

there would be no POE. Instead Kā Rūnaka indicated a preference to provide feedback iteratively “in the spirit of trust and co-operation”.

42. In late 2022, with the scale of exploration work increasing and projected to further increase, MGL submitted a further request to Aukaha for engagement with Kā Rūnaka.
43. In 2023, when I began my role with MGL as the General Manager, I made consultation with iwi a high priority. I have experience from my time as General Manager at Bathurst Resources Limited in engaging with iwi including Waikato Tainui and related hapu, and Murihiku Runanga through their consultancy Te Ao Marama.
44. In 2023, meetings were held with the Listed Investments team at Ngāi Tahu Investments of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to present the investment opportunity of Santana Minerals Ltd (only on the ASX at the time) centred on the BOGP. A number of subsequent meetings were held but ultimately in 2024 the Listed Investments team advised MGL that any investment would need to be endorsed by mana whenua, Kā Rūnaka.
45. Also in August 2023, a hui was held at Aukaha’s office to make personal introductions and give an update on the project. Further updates were provided via Teams.
46. In November 2023, MGL provided Aukaha with ecology study area maps and scope of work documentation. Aukaha was invited to participate in initial ecology baseline fieldwork scheduled to be undertaken by MGL consultants from January to March 2024. By February 2024, Kā Rūnaka had not yet accepted the invitation to join or visit during the ecological surveys and so MGL resent the invitation with finalised schedules for the five ecology study programmes.
47. In March 2024, a hui was held at the Aukaha office in Dunedin to provide an update on the project and again, MGL extended the invitation for Kā Rūnaka to visit the site. Aukaha indicated a strong focus on water, hydrology, ecology, and archaeology aspects of the project and requested copies of their draft POE and 2018 Cultural Values Statement. MGL subsequently provided these.
48. In April 2024, Aukaha employees were hosted on site by MGL. MGL agreed to share draft of technical reports at 80% completion to support Aukaha to develop the Cultural Impact Assessment (**CIA**). Subsequent engagement with Aukaha continued as technical reports became available and were supplied.
49. In April 2024, direct contact was also made with representatives of the seven papatipu rūnanga inviting them to visit the BOGP site. Most acknowledged the

invitation but declined and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou invited Santana Minerals representatives to visit Ōtākou marae instead.

50. In mid-April 2024, a hui was held at Ōtākou Marae attended by representatives of Ōtākou Rūnaka, Moeraki Rūnanga, Aukaha, Ngāi Tahu, and MGL representatives and their advisors. Key topics discussed included background information from both sides, relationship building, consultation processes, project concerns, and future actions. It was agreed to develop a Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) to facilitate the exchange of information and build trust, and there was discussion about a reference group being established from the rūnaka to liaise with MGL.
51. Subsequently in April 2024, an initial reference group engaged with MGL, and confidentiality deeds were signed. Representatives from the group visited the site with MGL representatives in May 2024. The reference group advised that all seven papatipu rūnanga supported engagement with MGL. The parties negotiated and finalised a Process Agreement between MGL and Kā Rūnaka. In August 2024, MGL signed a copy of the Process Agreement and sent it to Kā Rūnaka who acknowledged receipt and advised they would initiate the formal process for Kā Rūnaka consideration and approval to sign. In September 2024, MGL were advised four Rūnaka had signed whilst the others were still considering it.
52. Consultation increased as the technical reports to support the Assessment of Environmental Effects (**AEE**) were drafted. Kā Rūnaka constituted a steering committee (komiti) from the reference group and nominated a Project Director as the primary contact between MGL and Kā Rūnaka. In addition, Kā Rūnaka advised Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, and Hokonui Rūnanga would be the primary mana whenua for this project, while other members of papatipu rūnanga would be kept informed through engagement between Aukaha and Te Ao Marama.
53. MGL supplied Kā Rūnaka with the first tranche of technical reports as they became available in December 2024. These were ecological reports covering bats, invertebrates and mammalian pests. Throughout 2025, draft reports continued to be made available for review by Aukaha (nominated by Kā Rūnaka as the technical lead on the CIA). A formal proposal for the scope of works for the CIA from Aukaha was agreed to and signed by MGL in February 2025, with funding by MGL.
54. In March 2025, MGL submitted its Minerals Mining Permit Application (**MMPA**) to NZPAM for the Rise and Shine area. Kā Rūnaka confirmed it was the appropriate contact for NZPAM's Crown consultation with iwi. Consultation between the Crown and Kā Rūnaka was in accordance with the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Outside that process, Kā Rūnaka supplied their submission to NZPAM on the MMPA in June

2025 (NZPAM granted Minerals Mining Permit 61326 to MGL in November 2025). A copy was supplied to MGL.

55. In May 2025, MGL agreed to the proposal from Kā Rūnaka to engage certain experts, including Aukaha, to evaluate MGL's technical reports and recover costs as allowed for under the Process Agreement. The Kā Rūnaka Project Director requested all technical reports be sent to him for distribution to their experts, which MGL agreed to.
56. In June 2025, the Project Director advised the Chairs of Kā Rūnaka wanted a hui with the Santana Minerals Board at Ōtākou Marae, tentatively scheduled for 18 July. The hui was held on 18 August 2025, attended by four Santana Minerals directors and Kā Rūnaka representatives. The meeting covered cultural context, environmental and cultural interests, heritage and legacy, cultural mapping, and the history of working with mining companies. Discussions emphasised the importance of relationship building and the approach taken when assessing projects. Partnership opportunities were also explored, and MGL reinforced its intention to be transparent, build mutual understanding, and acknowledge the importance of a strong ongoing relationship.
57. Complete or near complete drafts of technical reports continued to be shared with the Kā Rūnaka Project Director, including the AEE report and both parties appeared to be working collegially.
58. On 2 October 2025, Kā Rūnaka advised in writing that while engagement had progressed and technical material has been provided, their review was incomplete pending receipt of the full FTA Act application, and they reserved their position. Kā Rūnaka identified the Dunstan Range (Matakinui) as wāhi tupuna.
59. On 9 October 2025 Kā Rūnaka sent a draft Cultural Impact Assessment (**CIA**).
60. There was further correspondence throughout October, with MGL proposing a partnership approach to resolve outstanding issues with funded participation through a joint steering group, and commitments to integrate Kā Rūnaka cultural, environmental and socio-economic expectations into the FTA Act process.
61. By this stage MGL had advanced its own thinking and had indicated a willingness for Kā Rūnaka to share in the commercial benefit of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. By doing so it was hoped to achieve an intergenerational, net-positive outcome.
62. The FTA Act application was submitted to the Environment Protection Authority (**EPA**) on 31 October 2025 with the expectation the EPA would publish it within a short period of time. However, Aukaha requested a copy on 12 November 2025 which was duly supplied by MGL.

63. On 27 November 2025, Kā Rūnaka wrote to MGL asserting that MGL had breached its legally binding Process Agreement with Kā Rūnaka by failing to operate on a no-surprises basis, withholding key reports, lodging consent conditions without notice, and not responding to substantive feedback or engagement efforts. Kā Rūnaka stated that these actions demonstrated a lack of good-faith consultation and threatened to oppose the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project unless the breach was resolved urgently.
64. On 3 December 2025, MGL sent Kā Rūnaka a letter rejecting allegations of breach, affirming that governance, engagement, and decision-making had proceeded lawfully under statutory processes, and confirming that the Process Agreement had not been operative because it remained unsigned, while engagement had nevertheless continued in good faith.
65. I was disappointed at Kā Rūnaka's stated opposition and proposed resetting the relationship through direct dialogue to establish a practical path forward.
66. The signed Process Agreement was received by MGL on 16 December 2025.
67. On 9 December 2025, the Chair of Santana Minerals and the Chair of the Steering Komiti exchanged emails reaffirming MGL's commitment to a "new way" of mining based on respectful, transparent, mana-to-mana engagement, while Kā Rūnaka emphasised the importance of direct leadership relationships and honouring those commitments given the enduring role of mana whenua beyond the life of the mine.
68. In late December 2025, MGL and Kā Rūnaka met to discuss matters related to the Cultural Impact Agreement (**CIAg**) that would give effect to matters raised in the CIA. It was clear from this meeting that Kā Rūnaka was seeking intergenerational compensation in return for their support of the project.
69. In January 2026, MGL and Kā Rūnaka began planning for technical experts for both parties to attend workshops covering water, landscape, ecology, and other priority areas. On 4 February 2026, MGL issued direct invitations to Kā Rūnaka experts for workshops on mining, water, landscape, ecology and economic benefits, and asking for feedback on MGL's written responses to the 76 items in their combined technical review. A number of comments were raised regarding post-closure residual issues and long-term management mechanisms, landscape, and economic resilience. Invitations were extended to Kā Rūnaka experts to attend specific workshops on 21 February alongside the relevant local authorities and government agencies,
70. The workshops were held on-line between MGL and Kā Rūnaka experts regarding:
- (a) landscape (on 3 March 2026);

- (b) socio-economic effects (on 10 March 2026); and
 - (c) post-closure geochemistry residual issues and long-term management mechanisms (on 31 March 2026).
71. On 4 April 2026 Kā Rūnaka sent the final version of the CIA. It is this version that was supplied to the Panel under the Statement of Evidence by Edward Ellison.
72. The Project Director and I continued (and continue) to hold regular meetings and to correspond to advance the CIAg term sheet and other points. This included the 2025 annual iwi engagement report that was reviewed by Kā Rūnaka and then finalised and submitted to NZPAM to meet MGLs permit obligations.
73. Of importance, MGL sought clarification about the statement made in the submission to the Panel Convener's conference by counsel for Kā Rūnaka that the proposed BOGP would give rise to a potential breach of the Treaty settlement. I had no knowledge of what this might be and MGL had consistently stated our intention to work with Kā Rūnaka to ensure the mining project is consistent with the Treaty and the NTCSA. At the time of preparing this brief, Kā Rūnaka has still not identified any particulars that would render the project inconsistent with the Ngāi Tahu settlement in terms of section 7 of the FTA Act.
74. On 23 March 2026 MGL wrote to Kā Rūnaka setting out its view on the proposed Cultural Impact Agreement and Joint Steering Group framework for the BOGP, aligning iwi participation with FTA Act obligations. The letter proposes defined governance, cultural and environmental mitigation programmes, and significant long-term funding to support Kā Rūnaka participation, capability building, and monitoring within statutory and operational limits.
75. The Joint Steering Group we have agreed to in principle, is to provide a structured forum for engagement and input:
- (a) to support the discussion and development of initiatives that contribute toward positive cultural, environmental and socio-economic outcomes associated with the Project, recognising Kā Rūnaka aspirations where reasonably practicable;
 - (b) to facilitate ongoing engagement between the parties in respect of the BOGP consent application and MGL mining operations;
 - (c) to provide Kā Rūnaka with the opportunity to provide input on the implementation of management plans and other documents required by BOGP consent conditions, including when such plans are updated or new

activities are undertaken, and to inform refinement of mitigation measures, where appropriate;

- (d) to receive mātauraka-informed input from Kā Rūnaka in relation to the Project and surrounding environment, and to consider that input in good faith.;
 - (e) to support the sharing of relevant information with Kā Rūnaka relating to the BOGP, having regard to operational, commercial and regulatory considerations;
 - (f) to support the recognition and incorporation of tikaka and kawa in Project activities and engagement processes, where reasonably practicable and consistent with statutory and operational requirements;
 - (g) to provide Kā Rūnaka with input into the design of offset, restoration or remediation projects related to BOGP, where appropriate and within defined scope; and
 - (h) to provide a forum for discussion of mātauraka-informed research to support ongoing environmental and cultural outcomes associated with the Project.
76. On 26 March 2026, Santana Minerals Chairman Peter Cook and I met with the Project Director and the Chair of the Steering Komiti, to discuss cultural, commercial, and governance concerns related to the project, aiming to clarify expectations before FTA Act milestones. Discussions highlighted the roles, positions, and expectations of both parties regarding compensation, cultural matters, and project participation. Kā Rūnaka indicated they remained open to discussion but were unlikely to actively support consents, viewing a “neutral” position as effectively equivalent to support.
77. On 2 April 2026, Mr Cook wrote to the Chair of the Steering Komiti to formally set out MGL’s position and inviting further discussion focused on ownership participation rather than monetary settlement. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix 2.

MGL’s understanding of Kā Rūnaka’s position

78. Notwithstanding Kā Rūnaka’s submission to the Panel, dated 10 April 2026, mana whenua representatives have engaged with MGL over a protracted period with a clear intention of gaining some rights to participate in and financially benefit from the Bendigo Ophir Gold Project.
79. In Mr Cook’s letter to Kā Rūnaka he set out MGL’s most recent offer which includes (NZ dollars):

- (a) The establishment of a joint steering group to inform the development of a cultural effects mitigation programme, with funding from MGL of up to \$75,000 a year;
 - (b) MGL funding for a Kā Rūnaka Relationship Manager during each year of the CIA (at \$120,000 per year during construction and \$80,000 per year during operations);
 - (c) Monitoring and mitigation of cultural effects (such as seed and species collection) to be funded by MGL up to \$250,000 per year;
 - (d) A contribution of \$40,000 towards mitigating landscape and visual impacts;
 - (e) Offset of damage or loss to all wetlands, protected and taoka species, with a one-off fee of \$120,000 to be paid (in excess of any consent conditions); and
 - (f) The establishment of an annual Iwi Capability and Participation Fund of \$500,000 per year of sustainable gold production.
80. Our 2025 updated PFS demonstrated the mine life is currently 13.8 years meaning contributions to Kā Rūnaka would be approximately \$12 million. With a number of exploration results announce on the ASX and NZX since the PFS, there are strong indications the life of the mine would extend beyond the 14 years.
81. In principle, we have also agreed to a range of initiatives that would accrue additional benefits to Kā Rūnaka in the form of iwi-owned suppliers and contractors, direct and indirect employment in the project, and partnership in areas of training and apprenticeships.
82. Mr Cook also records in the same letter that in March this year Kā Rūnaka indicated they were seeking monetary compensation similar to that awarded to iwi impacted by the Meridian Energy and Genesis Energy Waitaki Scheme, which I understand to be \$180 million.
83. Discussions between the parties are on-going, with the most recent communication received from a representative of Kā Rūnaka on 16 April 2026.

MINE AND INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

84. Comments were received from the following submitters in relation to range of mining operation and design including stability, underground mining, tailings, processing plant, cyanide, geotechnical risk, road closure, vesting, access arrangements and public infrastructure:

- (a) Otago Regional Council (**ORC**).
 - (b) CODC.
 - (c) Department of Conservation (**DOC**).
 - (d) Kā Rūnaka.
 - (e) Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency.
 - (f) Sustainable Tarras.
 - (g) Environmental Defence Society Incorporated (**EDS**).
 - (h) New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
 - (i) Professor Geoffrey Kearsley & Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn.
 - (j) QWIL Investments (NZ) Pty Limited.
 - (k) Bruce and Sandra Calder.
85. Submitters raised extensive and repeated technical concerns regarding mine design, waste rock volumes, open pit versus underground mining, processing plant design, cyanide handling, contractor capability, chain-of-responsibility arrangements, and supporting infrastructure such as roads and access.
86. A number of these specific technical aspects are responded to in the evidence of the relevant technical experts, on behalf of MGL.
87. International mining standards through bodies, such as the AusIMM, impose engineering and economic evaluation standards on mining professionals in the evaluation and design of a proposed mine including JORC 2012.

Open Pit vs Underground Mining

88. In terms of considerations of open pit versus underground mining. Open pit mining has positive attributes for mineral recovery and reduced health and safety risks, while underground mining has reduced mineral recovery and increased health and safety risks. The numerous mine optimisation studies completed on the BOGP, that have considered all aspects and have been informed by evaluation by both internal and external experts. Based on the advice MGL has received, we arrived at a proposed combination of initial open pit and later underground components, making use of the topography and geology to shield the majority of the landform change from general view. It is our expectation that the completed and rehabilitated mine

will provide interest to future tourists as historic mining areas do today. Therefore, whilst underground mining would likely reduce surface effects, this application is aligned with the purpose of the CMA, and of course the FTA Act.

89. In response to comments asserting excessive waste rock production, I confirm that mine planning is undertaken with the objective of minimising waste rock removal while maximising gold recovery through detailed optimisation and mine design. This is standard mining practice and is reflected in the mine plan provided with the application.

Buffer Zones

90. Furthermore, buffer zones were conservatively added to the planned areas of disturbance to arrive at the final area of Direct Disturbance Footprint (**DDF**). At a practical mining operation level, these buffer zones allow some minor flexibility in design and execution of the mine plan due to a range of factors, despite industry aligned efforts to understand, control or minimise including latent condition of earthmoving.
91. As such, our experts have assumed the full geographical area of the buffer zones are cleared to inform, on a conservative basis, their assessment of effects. In reality, as per paragraph 86, the mine only clears what it requires and the rate of clearance of the buffer zone is expected to be low.

Other Operational Comments Received

92. Concerns were raised that MGL lacks experience in constructing, operating a gold mine and processing plant. MGL confirms that mining operations will be regulated under the Mining Operations and Quarrying Operations Regulations 2016, which require suitably qualified and experienced personnel to be appointed to safety-critical roles. These appointments have been made in accordance with the regulations. Development of a comprehensive health and safety management system compliant with the Health and Safety at Work Act and associated regulations is well advanced.
93. Multiple submitters questioned whether reliance on contractors for high-risk activities creates unacceptable safety or performance risk. MGL confirms that it intends to self-perform the significant works of construction, mining, drilling and blasting, and processing. Where contractors are engaged, they will be subject to MGL's contractor management system, and hazard management plans compliant with national legislation will apply. High-risk consumables and hazardous substances will be delivered by licensed manufacturers and logistics providers operating under New Zealand regulatory requirements.

94. Concerns were raised regarding cyanide storage, processing, catastrophic failure scenarios, ammonia emissions, and compliance with international standards. Cyanide will only be supplied by a company that is certified under the International Cyanide Management Code.
95. Solid sodium cyanide will be delivered in steel isotainers and dissolved through a controlled solid-to-liquid system utilising PLC/HMI automation and remote monitoring. Cyanide concentration and slurry pH will be monitored continuously with redundancy throughout the processing circuit. Cyanide detoxification of tailings will occur prior to discharge to the tailings storage facility, with process water fully recycled. For the protection of mine workers, an HCN gas monitoring systems will be installed in the processing plant with alarm and evacuation thresholds and personal HCN monitors will be used by personnel within the circuit. Reagent storage systems will be designed with secondary containment bunds capable of containing at least 110% of the volume of the largest storage vessel. Storage areas will be segregated by compatibility to prevent reagent interaction.
96. Concerns that the International Cyanide Management Code is voluntary are acknowledged. While MGL acknowledges the Code is voluntary, the processing plant and reagent systems are designed to comply with its requirements and will operate under enforceable New Zealand legislative and regulatory standards, including continuous monitoring and reporting requirements.

Roads, Access, and Infrastructure

97. Infrastructure related submissions raised concerns about the closure of Thomson Gorge Road, gradients of replacement routes, vesting, and access. MGL confirms that updated designs have been provided to the CODC. Replacement routes, including Ardgour Rise, are intended to comply with applicable standards. Separate statutory processes are being undertaken outside the FTA Act where required to address road closure and vesting matters. Ardgour Rise will be vested with the relevant road controlling authority. CODC and MGL agree that the proposed Ardgour Rise Road fulfils the need for the replacement and alternate route for the partial closure of Thomson Gorge Road. The parties agree to vest Ardgour Rise in Council as fee simple land. DOC in their Section 53 written comments advise that their preference is that land for roading should be vested in the relevant road controlling authority rather than being authorised by way of easements over public conservation land. We understand and accept that perspective.
98. Taking into account the high-country environment, as CODC has for the existing Thomson Gorge Road, MGL has engaged early and frequently with CODC to resolve any engineering standards specified by CODC and work towards a solution. An updated design was provided to CODC 12 November 2025 that meets the

gradient specified by CODC for a like replacement of Thomson Gorge Road. CODC have advised us in writing that they will not review the design until after the approvals are approved under the FTA Act.

99. I anticipate several of these matters will be the subject of expert conferencing through the FTA Act process.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

100. We have received comments from the following submitters in relation to ecology, biodiversity, water, contamination risk, mitigation and monitoring and governance of bonding, covenants, closure responsibility, intergenerational risk and long-term management:

- (a) ORC.
- (b) CODC.
- (c) DOC.
- (d) Kā Rūnaka.
- (e) Environmental Defence Society Incorporated.
- (f) New Zealand Fish and Game Council.
- (g) Forest & Bird Protection Society of New Zealand.
- (h) Professor Geoffrey Kearsley & Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn.
- (i) Bruce and Sandra Calder.
- (j) Sharon Brodie.
- (k) QWIL Investments (NZ) Pty Limited.

Long-term Responsibility for Ecological Areas

101. As the consent holder, MGL will be solely responsible for the development, operation, and maintenance of the proposed ecological rehabilitation and enhancement areas, including the Mine Regeneration Zones, Ardgour Restoration Area, and the Bendigo and Ardgour Sanctuaries, for the duration of the consents sought and for any future consents required.

102. These areas are detailed in G.07A&B Landscape and Ecological Rehabilitation Management Plan, G.08 Ardgour Restoration Area Management Plan and G.09 Matakanui Sanctuary Management Plan and shown in the plan C.23 Ecological Rehabilitation and Enhancement Area.
103. These areas will be protected in perpetuity by new covenants which will provide legal protection and ongoing obligations including funding, in perpetuity in relation to the environmental outcomes to be achieved.
104. They will also be captured by the activities provided for in the Bond.
105. Technical experts for MGL provide further assessment of this in their evidence.

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION AND ACCESS

106. Comments were received from the following submitters in relation to engagement and consultation, access to information, responsiveness and transparency:
- (a) ORC.
 - (b) Department of Conservation.
 - (c) Kā Rūnaka.
 - (d) Central Otago Winegrowers Association (**COWA**).
 - (e) Environmental Defence Society Incorporated.
 - (f) Sustainable Tarras.
 - (g) Professor Geoffrey Kearsley & Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn.
 - (h) Bruce and Sandra Calder.
 - (i) Sharon Brodie.
107. MGL confirms it has implemented an extensive engagement programme, including more than 70 community drop-in sessions, over 20 of which were held in Tarras.
108. In addition to drop-in sessions, MGL has undertaken:
- (a) More than 50 presentations to community and business groups
 - (b) Regular attendance at major regional events since September 2024 (including A&P shows, Blossom Festival and Wheels at Wānaka)

- (c) Ongoing one-on-one engagement with nearby and affected residents and landowners
 - (d) Regular publication of The Prospectors Post; our community newsletter
 - (e) Ongoing media engagement, including regular radio interviews (progressing from monthly to weekly updates)
 - (f) Dedicated community phone and email channels, providing continuous access for enquiries and feedback; and
 - (g) Santana Minerals website and Facebook page.
109. The drop-in format has been a key part of this approach, allowing community members to engage directly with project experts rather than through a formal presentation setting. Please refer to **Appendix 3** for a record of the drop-in sessions.
110. Discussions have covered a wide range of topics, including project design and location, water management, the tailings storage facility, traffic and access (including Thompson Gorge Road), ecology and rehabilitation, and employment and business opportunities. Feedback has been varied, including both expressions of support and the raising of concerns, which MGL recognises as an expected and constructive aspect of engagement for a project of this scale.
111. This engagement approach has been designed to ensure that community members have had a range of accessible and ongoing opportunities to obtain information, ask questions, and provide feedback.
112. MGL has provided extensive opportunity for community engagement and remains committed to continuing this engagement as the project progresses. In this context, MGL strongly disagrees with assertions that there has been a lack of engagement, noting the frequency, and accessibility of the opportunities provided.
113. Broad claims that MGL declined to answer questions or withheld information are general in nature and not supported by specific examples or detail. rejects these general assertions and confirms it can clearly demonstrate that it has responded through regular meetings and direct communication.
114. Concerns by commenters that engagement ceased during critical periods are misleading as engagement sessions were paused only after attendance declined and fewer attendees were present. MGL communicated to the public that the pause was temporary, and engagement would resume as appropriate.

115. Concerns by commenters regarding access to workshops are addressed by confirming that technical advisors were invited to workshops alongside regulators. Where attendance was not possible due to timing constraints, online workshops were held.

CONCLUSIONS

116. The written comments raise a wide range of technical, environmental, economic and engagement issues. MGL considers these have been addressed through detailed technical assessment, conservative design, enforceable consent conditions and management plans, bond mechanisms, and enduring covenants that secure long-term, meaningful environmental outcomes and assign responsibility clearly to the consent holder.
117. Economic and employment benefits are well grounded in detailed mine planning and financial modelling that accounts for modern mining practice and full gold value.
118. Mine and infrastructure design incorporates conservative engineering assumptions, regulatory oversight and industry-standard safety and reagent management systems.
119. Environmental effects management is secured through enforceable management plans, monitoring and adaptive management.
120. Long-term and intergenerational risks are explicitly addressed by ensuring MGL as the consent holder is solely responsible for post-closure activities of the BOGP. The bonding mechanism provides for not only mine closure but the funding of post-closure activities, and maintenance of conditions to be maintained in perpetuity
121. MGL has extensively engaged with the community as documented above and continues to do so.
122. Where submissions raise general opposition without supporting technical analysis, MGL acknowledges the concerns but considers there is no evidential basis for further technical response beyond that already provided. Remaining matters are appropriately addressed through the Panel process under the FTA Act.

123. Finally, MGL has extensively engaged, in good faith, over many years with who we recognise as holding rangatiratanga over this takiwā. While agreement has not yet been reached between MGL and Kā Rūnaka, both parties are open to ongoing discussion to progress agreement on remaining matters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Damian Spring', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Damian Spring

17 April 2026

APPENDIX 1 – LOG OF ENGAGEMENT WITH MANA WHENUA

Record of Engagement with Iwi – Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

Santana Minerals Limited / Matakanui Gold Limited – as at 12 April 2026

Date	Subject	Summary
August 2018	Annual Review Meeting	During the NZPAM Annual Review Meeting, MGL reported that contact had been established with the local Rūnanga and described good relations with local iwi. Aukaha (previously known as KTKO) had approached MGL as Rūnanga's representative. MGL provided a complete site visit across the project area in February 2018, after which a thank you letter, Cultural Values Statement, and map highlighting nearby archaeological sites and recognised outstanding natural landscapes were received, with a recommendation to avoid Taramea. An ecological report for DOC noted no ecological concern with Taramea but acknowledged its cultural significance. MGL outlined plans to form an MOU with Aukaha for ongoing consultation.
August 2018	Ongoing Iwi Dialogue	MGL contacted Aukaha to request updates on ongoing iwi input regarding the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
September 2018	Ongoing Iwi Dialogue	Aukaha responded to MGL's earlier request for updates, apologising for the delay and advising that a response would be provided within the next couple of weeks.
November 2018	Ongoing Iwi Dialogue	MGL again contacted Aukaha to request updates on ongoing iwi input.
November 2018	Draft MOU Provided	Aukaha responded to MGL's request by providing a draft Memorandum of Understanding for the ongoing engagement relationship.
November 2018	Iwi Ongoing Dialogue	MGL issued correspondence to iwi related to ongoing dialogue. The specific content of the communication was not available for extraction, though the record confirms ongoing iwi engagement was occurring at this time.
February 2019	Resource Consent Assessment	Aukaha, on behalf of Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou (Kā Rūnaka), assessed MGL's application for earthworks associated with the 2019 drilling programme and track construction on the Dunstan Ranges. The proposal was found not inconsistent with the Kāi Tahu ki Otago Natural Resource Management Plan 2005. Kā Rūnaka did not oppose the application proceeding by non-notified resource consent, subject to conditions including avoidance of Taramea areas, adherence to the Archaeological Discovery Protocol, appropriate disposal of excavated material, avoidance of mature indigenous vegetation, dust minimisation, and limiting earthworks. Kā Rūnaka also supported DOC's conditions and noted any changes would require further consultation.
March 2020	Protocol of Engagement	MGL provided the Protocol of Engagement (POE) to the Mana Taiao Team for consideration by Kā Rūnaka.
March 2020	POE Acknowledgement	The Mana Taiao Team acknowledged receipt of the Protocol of Engagement and advised MGL that the document would be forwarded to Rūnanga for their consideration.
September 2020	POE Status Update Request	TPG contacted the Mana Taiao Team to request a status update regarding Rūnanga's feedback on the Protocol of Engagement.
October 2020	POE Status Update	The Mana Taiao Team advised TPG that it hoped to have an update on the status of the Protocol of Engagement by the end of the following week.
October 2020	POE Status Update Request	TPG again contacted the Mana Taiao Team to request a status update regarding Rūnanga's feedback on the Protocol of Engagement.
February 2021	POE Outcome Advised	The Mana Taiao Team advised TPG by telephone, followed by a confirming email, that Kā Rūnaka would not enter into the Protocol of Engagement.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2021	Iwi Engagement Report	MGL reported to NZPAM that Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou (Kā Rūnaka) preferred to agree in the spirit of trust and co-operation that both parties would keep lines of communication open on the progression of the exploration projects, with Kā Rūnaka retaining the opportunity to provide feedback as they wished.
August 2021	Exploration Activity Update	MGL provided Kā Rūnaka, via Aukaha, with an update on activity undertaken in 2021, including photographs of drilling in progress and a partially rehabilitated drillhole. The correspondence also covered upcoming exploration work for the remainder of 2021, forthcoming consent applications, further ecological and archaeological studies, and an update on previously identified cultural concerns regarding Taramea and cultural/archaeological sites. MGL invited feedback. Aukaha acknowledged receipt and confirmed the correspondence had been forwarded to Rūnanga for consideration.
August 2021	Annual Review Meeting	During the NZPAM Annual Review Meeting, NZPAM summarised recent hui with Aukaha and Rūnaka which had included a brief discussion on the Bendigo-Ophir Project. MGL provided an update on iwi engagement progress, noting direct engagement with both Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou through Aukaha. MGL confirmed that Kā Rūnaka had chosen not to sign the Protocol of Engagement but wished to act in its spirit. MGL had recently provided Aukaha with updates and copies of upcoming consent and DOC access applications. Rūnaka interests in Taramea, historical/cultural sites, and native vegetation were discussed. NZPAM advised MGL on best practice guidance, including the potential to fund Rūnaka engagement and the importance of strategic relationship-building and adequate lead times for discussions about mining.
August 2021	Consent Applications and Site Visit	MGL provided Kā Rūnaka, via Aukaha, with copies of resource consent applications to CODC for tracks on Ardgour Station and to DOC for further exploration within a conservation covenant area. Feedback was requested and an open invitation for a site visit was extended. MGL also flagged the potential for eventual development of a mine and sought a conversation on how best to engage with iwi on this matter. Aukaha acknowledged receipt and forwarded the correspondence to Rūnanga. Further correspondence in early September addressed review of the consent application and confirmed the site visit invitation had been communicated to Rūnanga.
September 2021	POE Sharing Request	MGL corresponded with Aukaha regarding a request from NZPAM to share a copy of the Protocol of Engagement.
January 2022	Consent Update and Draft Application	MGL provided Aukaha with an update on recently granted resource consents and a copy of a draft application for a new resource consent, requesting comment on the draft. Aukaha responded by advising MGL of new contact systems, directing consent applications through an online form and future project updates to a dedicated email address.
March 2022	Annual Iwi Engagement Report	MGL's town planning adviser prepared the annual report to NZ Petroleum & Minerals summarising iwi engagement activity undertaken during 2021.
March 2022	Annual Iwi Engagement Report	MGL submitted its annual iwi engagement report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM covering multiple matters. The correspondence identified encouraging resource results and requested consultation regarding future mining activity, seeking advice from Aukaha on meaningful engagement with iwi. Updates were provided on 2021–2022 exploration activity, primarily drill holes and tracks at Rise-and-Shine, along with overviews of archaeological and ecological studies, copies of resource consents from CODC, conservation work with DoC, and updates on previously identified cultural concerns including taramea and cultural/archaeological sites. Projected upcoming work was outlined. Aukaha acknowledged receipt and forwarded the report to Rūnaka, who requested additional information including exploration permit copies and maps, which MGL subsequently provided.
November 2022	Escalating Engagement Request	MGL submitted a further request to Aukaha for engagement with Kā Rūnaka, noting that the scale of exploration work was increasing and projected to further increase. The correspondence included an update on work conducted in the vicinity of a suspected umu and the recalibration of activities to avoid the site. An auto-response was received indicating the previous contact no longer worked at Aukaha. MGL forwarded the email chain to Aukaha's generic email address with a request for a new point of contact.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2023	Initial Introductions	An associate of MGL thanked Ngāi Tahu representatives for their time discussing the Bendigo gold project and introduced MGL's leadership to arrange future meetings to review drilling data and discuss the project's multi-decade potential.
February 2023	Meeting Offer to Ngāi Tahu	MGL confirmed enthusiasm about the project and offered to meet with Ngāi Tahu representatives in Christchurch or host them on site to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
February 2023	Ngāi Tahu Acknowledgement	A Ngāi Tahu representative acknowledged the associate of MGL's introduction to the project and requested time to reflect before raising questions, while inviting the company to make contact if needed.
March 2023	Exploration Activity Update	A town planning consultant acting for MGL circulated an overview update to Aukaha Consents and MGL covering future cultural consultation, recent exploration activity, assessment reports, archaeological authority, resource consents, DoC matters, cultural values, environmental monitoring, and projected work over 2023.
March 2023	Annual Iwi Engagement Report	
March 2023	Consultation Request to Aukaha	A planning consultant acting for MGL updated Aukaha on MGL's 2022/2023 exploration activities in the Dunstan Ranges and requested consultation on how to engage meaningfully with iwi regarding potential future mining activity at the Rise & Shine deposit.
March 2023	Meeting Follow-Up	MGL followed up with a Ngāi Tahu representative to discuss an ASX presentation covering Santana Minerals' development timeline and resource quality, offering to meet in Christchurch or at the Bendigo site.
March 2023	Meeting Availability Confirmation	MGL reiterated its availability to meet with a Ngāi Tahu representative in Christchurch to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
March 2023	Ngāi Tahu Structure Enquiry	MGL requested a brief meeting with NT in Christchurch to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project and gain an understanding of Ngāi Tahu's organisational structure and key contacts.
April 2023	Post-Meeting Follow-Up	MGL thanked an external contact for a recent meeting and provided a copy of the Santana Minerals presentation for their records.
May 2023	Aukaha Engagement Initiated	MGL made various calls to Aukaha to arrange a meeting. Application forms were subsequently lodged through Aukaha's online portal to request engagement, and a letter of engagement was signed and returned by MGL.
May 2023	Aukaha Letter of Engagement	Aukaha issued MGL a letter of engagement outlining its services, hourly rates, and terms and conditions following the company's application. Aukaha advised of potential delays due to COVID-related staff shortages. MGL signed and returned the letter of engagement on the same day.
May 2023	Engagement Letter Signed	MGL returned the signed letter of engagement to Aukaha, formalising the consultancy arrangement.
June 2023	Hui Scheduling Request	MGL requested to book a one-hour hui with Aukaha for late July to early August, offering either an in-person meeting at Aukaha's office or an online session.

Date	Subject	Summary
August 2023	In-Person Hui with Aukaha	An in-person meeting was held between MGL and Aukaha representatives. The meeting covered the July 2023 corporate presentation, which outlined the history and discovery of the deposit and the pathway to permitting for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
August 2023	Hui Reported to NZPAM	MGL reported to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM that an in-person meeting had been held with Aukaha representatives. The meeting covered the July 2023 corporate presentation outlining the project's history, discovery, and pathway to permitting.
August 2023	Bi-Monthly Meeting Proposal	MGL requested the establishment of a bi-monthly meeting schedule with Aukaha to inform progress on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
October 2023	Hui Duration Confirmed	MGL specified that 30 to 60 minutes would be required for an upcoming meeting with Aukaha's team scheduled for November.
November 2023	Project Update Hui	A hui was held online via Microsoft Teams between Aukaha representatives and MGL. The meeting covered a project update including infill drilling progress, the appointment of a new Chairman to Santana Minerals, baseline environmental studies, and planning for a site visit in February 2024 with MGL ecology consultants present ahead of commencing a Cultural Impact Assessment in April.
November 2023	Ecology Study Scope	MGL provided Aukaha with ecology study area maps and scope of work documentation for field studies associated with the Matakanui project. MGL offered to include Aukaha in planned fieldwork during January to March 2024.
November 2023	Annual Iwi Engagement Report	MGL submitted its 2023 Annual Iwi Engagement Report for EP60311 to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM. The report documented a Microsoft Teams meeting between MGL and Aukaha covering infill drilling progress, the appointment of a new Chairman to Santana Minerals, baseline environmental studies, and planning for a site visit in February 2024 with ecology consultants present ahead of commencing a Cultural Impact Assessment in April.
November 2023	Ecology Fieldwork Invitation	MGL provided Aukaha with ecology study area maps and scope of work documentation for the Matakanui project and offered to include Aukaha in planned fieldwork during January to March 2024.
January 2024	Fieldwork Schedule Update	MGL provided Aukaha with finalised fieldwork schedules for five ecology study programmes planned for February to April 2024. MGL also notified Aukaha that representatives from seven papatipu Rūnaka had been invited for a separate site visit.
January 2024	Rūnaka Site Visit Invitation	MGL invited representatives from seven papatipu Rūnaka to visit the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project site on 17 February 2024 between 10am and 2pm. Transport and lunch were offered, and RSVPs were requested by 5 February 2024.
February 2024	Site Visit RSVP Update	MGL updated NT on the RSVP status for the upcoming mana whenua site visit, reporting three confirmed or possible attendees at that stage. MGL also shared the company's investor presentation as background material.
February 2024	Engagement Background Acknowledged	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of background information provided by MGL regarding Santana Minerals' prior engagement with Aukaha in relation to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
February 2024	Project Brochure Shared	MGL shared a project brochure with Kā Rūnaka outlining Santana Minerals' company values and engagement approach. MGL expressed interest in discussing findings with both Aukaha and the local rūnaka.
February 2024	Project Summary Forwarded	A summary of Aukaha's work to date, along with key project facts and location details for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, was sent to Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2024	Ōtākou Letter Forwarded	Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou forwarded a letter to MGL regarding the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. The correspondence was circulated to representatives of multiple papatipu Rūnaka.
February 2024	Field Visit Scheduling	MGL sent Aukaha a project brochure for distribution to mana whenua and requested scheduling a field visit while ecologists were on site during the summer and autumn period.
February 2024	Ōtākou Marae Counter-Invitation	Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou declined the invitation for a mana whenua site visit at Bendigo scheduled for the following day. The Rūnanga extended a counter-invitation for Santana Minerals representatives to visit Ōtākou marae on a mutually agreed date for relationship building. The Rūnanga signalled a preference for engagement on its own terms and tikanga to support future discussions regarding the project's environmental and community implications.
February 2024	Marae Visit Dates Proposed	MGL accepted Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou's invitation to meet at the marae and proposed five alternative date ranges between March and May 2024 to discuss the project and future relationship.
February 2024	Marae Meeting Scheduling	Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou confirmed it would canvas member availability for the proposed marae meeting with MGL. Potential scheduling conflicts with titi season were noted, and the Rūnanga indicated it would provide proposed dates as soon as possible.
February 2024	ASR Report Feedback Request	MGL emailed its 2023 Annual Iwi Engagement Report for EP60311 to Aukaha for feedback prior to submission to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM.
February 2024	Meeting Scheduling	NT confirmed availability for a 30-minute Teams meeting with MGL, having initially requested to reschedule due to attending a tangi.
February 2024	Kā Rūnaka Advisory Meeting	An online meeting was held between Kā Rūnaka representatives and MGL to discuss project matters.
March 2024	Project Discussion Meeting	A Microsoft Teams meeting took place between Kā Rūnaka representatives, NT, and MGL. The meeting lasted approximately 51 minutes.
March 2024	Project Overview Meeting	An in-person meeting was held at the Aukaha office in Dunedin attended by Aukaha and MGL representatives. MGL described the project and invited Aukaha to visit the site. Aukaha noted it would focus strongly on water and hydrology, as well as ecology and archaeology in its assessment. Discussion covered the cultural impact assessment completed during the exploration phase in 2017/18, and a copy was requested and subsequently provided by MGL.
March 2024	Project Overview Meeting	MGL met with Aukaha in Dunedin and provided an overview of the proposed Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project and ongoing exploration on MEP60311. Aukaha was invited to visit the project site. Aukaha indicated a strong focus on water and hydrology, ecology, and archaeology aspects of the project. Aukaha requested copies of the draft Protocol of Engagement and Cultural Impact Statement. This engagement was recorded in the 2024 MEP60311 Annual Report.
March 2024	Project Location Clarification	Aukaha requested detailed maps showing the study area, affected water bodies, and location within the Bendigo Conservation Area, expressing concern about open-cast mining in a conservation area. MGL responded by clarifying that the project does not involve mining on Department of Conservation land, noting that the approximately 1,500-hectare project study area is separate from three adjacent DoC-managed reserves: the Bendigo Historic Reserve, Ardour Conservation Area, and Bendigo Conservation Area. Aukaha acknowledged receipt of this clarification.
March 2024	Hui Date Confirmation	MGL confirmed acceptance of a proposed date in April 2024 for a hui with Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou. The confirmation was communicated to representatives of multiple rūnaka and associated parties.

Date	Subject	Summary
March 2024	Annual Engagement Report Acknowledgement	Aukaha reviewed the 2023 EP60311 Annual Iwi Engagement Report and acknowledged that it accurately reflected engagement over the 2023 calendar year, noting one minor correction was required.
March 2024	Provision of Key Documents	Aukaha provided MGL with the Protocol of Engagement previously developed between Aukaha and MGL, along with the Cultural Values Statement, as requested at the earlier Dunedin meeting. Aukaha also confirmed who the individual that visited the site with Aukaha in 2017. MGL subsequently sent the Cultural Values Statement and Protocol of Engagement to Aukaha and requested confirmation of a site visit date and desired visit duration.
March 2024	NDA Deferral Discussion	Kā Rūnaka proposed delaying execution of the confidentiality deed (NDA) until after the upcoming April hui, in order to respect mana-to-mana protocols. MGL agreed to the deferral. Following clarification from NT that the reference was to the NDA rather than a separate MOU, MGL provided the NDA document. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the document.
April 2024	Ecological Information Request	Aukaha requested from MGL any draft reports, ecologist updates, or preliminary findings relating to ten ecological fieldwork programmes conducted between February and April 2024 for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
April 2024	Project Site Visit	Aukaha and MGL representatives conducted a site visit at the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. Aukaha attendees included planning, communications, and ecology staff. MGL attendees included senior management and a consultant ecologist. The visit comprised a presentation at the site office followed by a drive around the project area, with stops at various locations to discuss proposed works and potential effects, including exploration activities. MGL agreed to share copies of technical reports at 80% completion to support development of a Cultural Impact Assessment and to provide a copy of a PhD thesis on the history of the area.
April 2024	Hui at Ōtākou Marae	A hui was held at Ōtākou Marae in Dunedin, attended by representatives of Ōtākou Rūnaka, Aukaha, Moeraki Rūnanga, Ngāi Tahu, and MGL along with MGL's advisors. Attendees included senior leadership from Aukaha, consents and ecology staff, a Ngāi Tahu tourism advisor, and representatives with expert consenting panel experience. MGL was represented by its CEO, environment manager, and supporting advisors.
April 2024	Signed NDA Submitted	Kā Rūnaka submitted the signed confidentiality deed (NDA) on behalf of Ōtākou Ltd. to MGL, following the earlier agreement to defer execution until after the April hui.
April 2024	NDA Execution	NT advised that Hokonui Rūnanga would also sign the confidentiality deed and proposed scheduling a meeting in Christchurch or Queenstown for the end of May. MGL returned the counter-signed NDA for Ōtākou Ltd to Kā Rūnaka.
April 2024	Hokonui Confidentiality Deed	NT transmitted the executed confidentiality deed from Hokonui Rūnanga to MGL. MGL confirmed receipt of the signed confidentiality agreement and returned a countersigned copy.
May 2024	Site Visit Planning	NT requested a detailed project briefing in Queenstown for representatives from Kā Rūnaka, and associated advisors. MGL confirmed the proposed dates were suitable and offered either a Queenstown meeting or a site visit requiring three to four hours plus travel time. They acknowledged the offer and committed to providing a finalised itinerary.
May 2024	Site Visit Confirmation	NT confirmed the group would visit the project site at 11am and requested site directions and PPE requirements. MGL confirmed the site visit, provided the address at 305 Bendigo Loop Road, and advised that only outdoor shoes or boots would be needed rather than full PPE.
May 2024	Site Visit Reconfirmation	NT reconfirmed the site visit for the agreed date and time at the provided address. MGL acknowledged and confirmed the appointment.
May 2024	Site Visit Final Confirmation	MGL confirmed the scheduled site visit appointment with Kā Rūnaka representatives.

Date	Subject	Summary
June 2024	Ngāi Tahu Holdings Update	Ngāi Tahu Holdings indicated an understanding that the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project was progressing and requested a catch-up meeting within the following couple of weeks for a project update.
June 2024	Ngāi Tahu Holdings Meeting	MGL scheduled a meeting with Ngāi Tahu Holdings representatives to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. The meeting was arranged for a one-hour session to cover project developments and Ngāi Tahu Holdings discussions.
June 2024	Annual Iwi Engagement Report	As part of the 2024 MEP60311 Annual Summary Report to NZPAM, MGL recorded engagement activity with Kā Rūnaka. This included an email to Aukaha requesting meeting times to provide a project update, along with provision of a non-disclosure agreement for signing.
June 2024	Ngāi Tahu Holdings Discussion	MGL held a 54-minute meeting with Ngāi Tahu Holdings representatives to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
June 2024	Project Description Meeting Scheduled	MGL scheduled a meeting regarding the Santana Minerals BOGP Project Description with internal and external stakeholders, including Aukaha representatives. The meeting was arranged as a Microsoft Teams session.
June 2024	Project Footprint Update	MGL provided Aukaha with an overview of the revised project (V2), noting the new project footprint with all infrastructure relocated to Shepherds Valley, which was why Project Description V1 had not previously been sent. Attendees included MGL and Aukaha representatives. Aukaha noted that Mana Whenua Health is based in Alexandra and suggested establishing a connection with GHD so that details could be forwarded.
June 2024	BOGP Footprint Discussion	As recorded in the 2024 MEP60311 Annual Summary Report, MGL met with Aukaha to provide an update on substantial changes to the BOGP footprint, with most of the project area being moved from RAS Valley to Shepherds Valley. Discussions covered light, noise, dust, roads, traffic, native fauna and flora, drainage, and land damage. The meeting included representatives from MGL and Aukaha.
July 2024	MOU Progress Follow-Up	MGL requested an update on progress with a Memorandum of Understanding with Contact regarding the Matakanui Gold project, following up on a hui held approximately one month prior. MGL subsequently acknowledged the update on the project with approval.
July 2024	Process Agreement Discussion	It was reported that the Contact Agreement was nearly executed and committed to discussing the Santana Minerals Process Agreement at upcoming Murihiku hui meetings. A follow-up with MGL was planned after those meetings.
July 2024	Presentation Slides Shared	Aukaha sent a copy of the presentation slides in PDF format from the meeting held on 27 June 2024 to relevant parties.
July 2024	Annual Engagement Summary	MGL recorded in its annual summary report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM that Aukaha had provided a copy of presentation slides from the meeting held on 27 June.
July 2024	Contact Details Exchange	MGL recorded in its annual summary report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM that Aukaha had facilitated an email introduction sharing contact details of GHD and Aukaha representatives to enable contact with Mana Whenua Health in Alexandra.
July 2024	Hui Outcome Inquiry	MGL inquired about the outcomes of the Combined hui and Murihiku Chairs hui that had been planned.
July 2024	Murihiku Hui Outcomes	Iwi reported that the combined Murihiku Rūnaka hui had proceeded well and confirmed that all seven Rūnanga supported engagement with Santana Minerals. They proposed negotiating a draft Process Agreement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes.

Date	Subject	Summary
July 2024	Meeting Availability Offered	MGL provided availability for a Teams call to negotiate the Process Agreement, offering multiple dates and times in late July and mid-August.
July 2024	Process Agreement Call Proposed	NT proposed scheduling a Zoom or Teams call for 31 July to discuss the Process Agreement, copying Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel on the correspondence.
July 2024	Process Agreement Meeting Scheduled	MGL scheduled a Microsoft Teams meeting for 31 July with Kā Rūnaka representatives regarding the Matakanui Gold Ngāi Tahu draft Process Agreement. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel was included in the invitation.
July 2024	Meeting Invitation Confirmed	MGL confirmed that a Teams meeting invitation for the 31 July call had been sent as requested.
July 2024	Meeting Details Circulated	MGL created and circulated a Microsoft Teams meeting invitation for 31 July regarding the Matakanui Gold Ngāi Tahu draft Process Agreement, including both internal MGL participants and external representatives from Kā Rūnaka and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
July 2024	Draft Process Agreement Meeting	An online meeting was held between MGL and Kā Rūnaka representatives, including Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel, to discuss the draft Process Agreement for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
July 2024	Project Overview Discussion	MGL recorded in its annual summary report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM that it had met with representatives of the Rūnanga to provide an overview of the project and discuss ongoing engagement with respect to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
July 2024	Marked-Up Agreement Sent	Following the hui held earlier that day, MGL sent a marked-up copy of the Process Agreement with proposed revisions, expressing hope that the changes would be acceptable.
July 2024	Process Agreement Teams Meeting	MGL held a 47-minute Teams meeting with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel and Kā Rūnaka representatives to discuss the Matakanui Gold Process Agreement.
August 2024	Agreement Clauses Rejected	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel rejected two clauses in MGL's marked-up Process Agreement: Clause 2.1(c)(iv), which restricted Rūnaka public statements without approval, and Clause 4.1(c), which allowed assignment only on reasonable grounds. It was clarified that individual Rūnaka approval was required before the agreement could be finalised.
August 2024	Project Description Circulated	MGL recorded in its annual summary report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM that the project description had been circulated to all Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project consultants, including Aukaha.
August 2024	Clause Revisions Accepted	MGL confirmed that the updated Matakanui Gold agreement clauses were acceptable and committed to having the agreement ratified by the MGL Board.
August 2024	Internal Approval Commenced	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu General Legal Counsel acknowledged MGL's approval of the revised clauses and indicated the team would proceed with internal Rūnaka approval processes for the document.
August 2024	Signed Agreement Submitted	MGL submitted a signed but undated copy of the Process Agreement and confirmed readiness to proceed with next steps in constructive engagement with Kā Rūnaka.

Date	Subject	Summary
August 2024	Agreement Signing Process	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu confirmed it would initiate the formal process for Rūnaka consideration and approval to sign the Matakānui Gold agreement. This communication was directed to MGL, with Kā Rūnaka representatives copied.
September 2024	Meeting Request to Aukaha	As part of the 2024 annual iwi engagement activity reported under MEP60311, MGL sent emails to Aukaha requesting a meeting to provide a project update on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
September 2024	Agreement Signing Progress	MGL inquired about the progress of the Matakānui Gold document signing process. Kā Rūnaka representatives were copied on the correspondence.
September 2024	Process Agreement Update	Four out of seven Rūnaka had signed the agreement, comprising two from Otago and two from Murihiku, with two more expected by mid-October. They requested a Teams call for mid-October to discuss consenting engagement. MGL confirmed the proposed meeting date and committed to sending a Teams meeting invitation.
September 2024	Consenting Meeting Scheduled	MGL circulated a Teams meeting invitation for a Matakānui Gold and Kā Rūnaka Bendigo-Ophir consenting meeting, scheduled for mid-October. T
October 2024	Aukaha Briefing Arranged	MGL contacted Aukaha by telephone and arranged a project update briefing. Aukaha noted they were very busy but were happy to arrange a time. The briefing was scheduled for the following week.
October 2024	Kā Rūnaka Consenting Meeting	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a Teams meeting to discuss project status and key environmental effects, including geochemistry and water quality. Kā Rūnaka advised that Aukaha would take the lead on technical issues on their behalf. MGL provided presentation slides to Kā Rūnaka representatives following the meeting. The meeting lasted approximately 54 minutes and included representatives from Kā Rūnaka, and MGL.
October 2024	Aukaha Project Update	MGL provided an online project update presentation to Aukaha senior planners. The project footprint was shown on Felt, with the caveat that it could not be made public until the PFS was released. Aukaha noted that Thomson Gorge Road is a sensitive area due to its significance as a traditional Māori travel route and expressed interest in the loss of waterways. Aukaha requested a copy of the presentation, excluding non-public content, for discussion with Rūnanga. The consent application and Fast Track process were also discussed.
November 2024	Shared Report Repository	Aukaha requested that MGL set up a shared online repository for technical reports and maps relating to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, noting this approach had worked well for other major infrastructure projects. MGL agreed to create the shared space. MGL noted the need to balance community consultation with shareholder disclosure obligations, as Santana Minerals was sensitive to information becoming public before being shared with shareholders. MGL advised that further project detail would be released to the market shortly.
November 2024	PFS Summary Presentation	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a Teams meeting to provide a summary of the Pre-Feasibility Study. Discussion covered the management and review of technical reports by Aukaha, environmental effects and their proposed management, and the consent application and Fast Track process. A copy of the presentation was provided to attendees. The meeting lasted approximately one hour and 24 minutes and included representatives from MGL, Kā Rūnaka, and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
December 2024	Next Steps and Advisers	Kā Rūnaka requested an update on the environmental reports required by Aukaha for assessing environmental effects and noted that the Kā Rūnaka team was finalising appointments of technical, RMA legal, and economic advisers, pending MGL's approval of fees. Kā Rūnaka proposed scheduling a follow-up meeting in late January. MGL confirmed that environmental reports would be prepared and made available and confirmed availability from early January. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged MGL's commitment and confirmed it would coordinate with its team to schedule a call in the new year.

Date	Subject	Summary
December 2024	Technical Reports Shared	MGL provided draft ecological reports — covering bats, invertebrates, and mammalian pests — to Aukaha for review via a shared online space. MGL advised that the bat report was complete, while the invertebrate and pest reports would be updated with results from spring surveys undertaken in November. MGL indicated that further reports would be made available progressively and that Aukaha would be notified as each became accessible.
December 2024	Annual Report Summary	MGL recorded in its 2024 annual report to NZPAM a summary of iwi engagement activity for the year. The entry noted that draft copies of the bat, invertebrate, and mammalian pest reports had been provided to Aukaha for review as part of ongoing consultation on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
December 2024	Meeting Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka proposed a placeholder Teams meeting for late January when the full team would be available, and asked whether an interim update call should be scheduled for early January when some team members returned. MGL confirmed the late January meeting request and proposed a brief update call on 9 January. A formal Teams meeting invitation for the Matakānui Gold and Kā Rūnaka Bendigo-Ophir update was issued accordingly, along with a separate invitation for the brief early January update.
January 2025	Project Update Meeting	MGL held a Teams meeting with Kā Rūnaka representatives lasting approximately 97 minutes. A presentation was delivered during the session, and MGL circulated copies of the presentation slides to attendees by email the same day.
January 2025	Meeting Rescheduling	MGL requested that the Matakānui Gold and Kā Rūnaka Bendigo-Ophir update meeting originally planned for 21 January be rescheduled to 29 January due to changes arising from a Board site visit. Kā Rūnaka responded that 28 or 31 January would be preferable and sought input from other participants. A revised Teams meeting invitation was subsequently issued by MGL.
January 2025	Bendigo-Ophir Update Meeting	A scheduled Teams meeting was held between MGL, Kā Rūnaka, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and Hokonui Rūnanga representatives for approximately 51 minutes to discuss the Matakānui Gold and Kā Rūnaka Bendigo-Ophir project update. Following the meeting, MGL proposed a date for the next update session in February and asked attendees to confirm availability or suggest alternatives.
February 2025	Cultural Impact Assessment Approval	MGL sought Kā Rūnaka's approval to sign a scope of works proposal from Aukaha for cultural impact assessment work that had been discussed after a previous meeting. Kā Rūnaka authorised MGL to execute the proposal once Aukaha's revised version, incorporating minor wording changes recommended by the Rūnaka Project Group, was received. Aukaha subsequently provided the updated proposal and requested that MGL supply project slides and technical report scopes to enable work to commence.
February 2025	Signed Proposal and Reports	
February 2025	Early Works Briefing	MGL held a half-hour online meeting with Aukaha to present the Srex resource drilling and early works programme. The presentation materials were stored on MGL's SharePoint stakeholder presentations folder for reference.
February 2025	Technical Report Access	Aukaha advised MGL that it had established a job for the Matakānui Gold Project cultural impact assessment but currently had access to only three technical reports. Aukaha requested the Pre-Feasibility Study and geotechnical reports to complete its technical scope assessment and identify gaps. MGL proposed providing a website-hosted PFS presentation summary and a project description for the AEE in lieu of the full Pre-Feasibility Study, and committed to discussing the timing for releasing reports ahead of Board sign-off with planners and legal counsel at an upcoming consent meeting.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2025	CIA Technical Information Request	Aukaha conveyed Beca's request for the full Pre-Feasibility Study, geotechnical detail on the tailings storage facility and mining areas, water management plans, and risk registers/mitigation studies required for the cultural impact assessment. It was confirmed that any documents shared with Aukaha would be covered by the existing confidentiality agreement, with a potential amendment needed to include Beca.
February 2025	Reports Shared with Aukaha	Aukaha advised that five MWM reports had been placed in the shared folder for review in connection with the cultural impact assessment.
February 2025	Kā Rūnaka Advisory Proposals	Kā Rūnaka forwarded a letter and accompanying proposals regarding the Kā Rūnaka advisory team to MGL for consideration. It was noted that no feedback was expected at the following day's hui.
February 2025	Bendigo-Ophir Update Meeting	MGL scheduled a meeting with Kā Rūnaka representatives regarding the Bendigo-Ophir project update and requested confirmation of the proposed date and time or suitable alternatives.
February 2025	Bendigo-Ophir Update Hui	A 45-minute Microsoft Teams meeting was held between MGL and Kā Rūnaka representatives, including a Hokonui Rūnanga representative, to discuss the Bendigo-Ophir project update. Participants joined at various points during the session.
February 2025	Technical Review Meeting	Aukaha scheduled a Microsoft Teams meeting with MGL representatives for a technical review of the Matakanui Gold Project. The meeting was arranged to include relevant Aukaha technical staff.
March 2025	Cromwell Housing Enquiry	Kā Rūnaka inquired about MGL's worker accommodation needs, including location, typology, and tenure requirements, as part of exploring a surplus Crown land development opportunity in Cromwell for medium-density townhouse housing.
March 2025	Workforce Housing Projections	MGL provided detailed workforce projections to Kā Rūnaka, estimating 364 direct workers annually, 873 total jobs generated, and a potential need for approximately 226–542 new homes depending on recruitment sources and household occupancy rates.
March 2025	Housing Enquiry Follow-Up	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged MGL's workforce analysis and confirmed the intent to pursue the surplus Cromwell land acquisition, requesting further details as they became available.
March 2025	Whānau Water Enquiry	Aukaha forwarded a community enquiry to MGL asking whether the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project involves large water needs and discharge into the Clutha/Mata-au River. The enquirer had mentioned the Conservation Board in their correspondence.
March 2025	Water Enquiry Clarification	MGL clarified that Santana Minerals had given a brief presentation to the Conservation Board in October 2024 and confirmed there were no planned discharges to the Clutha/Mata-au River. The project location and bore field had been discussed at that presentation.
March 2025	Bendigo-Ophir Project Meeting	A 38-minute Microsoft Teams meeting was held between MGL and Kā Rūnaka representatives, including members of the Kā Rūnaka advisory team and a Hokonui Rūnanga representative, regarding the Bendigo-Ophir project.
March 2025	Technical Documents Uploaded	MGL uploaded three draft technical documents to the shared Aukaha folder: a Geotechnical Factual Report, a Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Report, and a Preliminary Site Investigation report for the Bendigo-Ophir project.
March 2025	Mining Permit Application Filed	MGL advised Kā Rūnaka that Santana Minerals had submitted a 3,000-hectare minerals mining permit application to NZPAM for the Rise and Shine area. MGL requested confirmation of the appropriate contact for NZPAM's Crown consultation with iwi.

Date	Subject	Summary
March 2025	Iwi Consultation Contact Confirmed	Kā Rūnaka confirmed the appropriate point of contact for NZPAM's iwi consultation regarding the mining permit application.
March 2025	Reports Dispatch Commitment	MGL committed to having its team update and send through relevant reports to Kā Rūnaka that day, following an earlier discussion about outstanding documentation.
March 2025	Report List and Distribution	MGL provided Kā Rūnaka with a list of in-progress technical reports and their page counts, and sought confirmation that completed reports should continue to be uploaded to the SharePoint drive shared with Aukaha for team review.
March 2025	Document Distribution Management	Kā Rūnaka requested to take control of report document distribution going forward, citing the involvement of a wider group and the need to manage access permissions. Kā Rūnaka asked MGL to identify a team member for coordinating administrative tasks.
April 2025	Report Coordination Contact	MGL identified a team member as the primary contact for coordinating the sharing of reports with Kā Rūnaka.
April 2025	NZPAM Iwi Consultation Introduction	MGL introduced the Kā Rūnaka project manager to NZPAM representatives to facilitate iwi consultation for mining permit application MPA61326 (Rise and Shine area).
April 2025	Technical Review Meeting	Aukaha scheduled a Microsoft Teams meeting with MGL representatives for a technical review of the Matakanui Gold Project.
April 2025	NZPAM Iwi Consultation	NZPAM acknowledged an email introduction and confirmed to Kā Rūnaka that they would be included in the iwi consultation process for the Minerals Mining Permit application MPA61326 (Rise and Shine).
April 2025	Updated Project Footprint	MGL distributed updated project footprint files, an interim figure, and a revised project description to all technical consultants for the BOGP project. Key changes related to pit design, plant location, facilities positioning, and haul road alignments. Consultants were reminded to include executive summaries and consent condition recommendations in their reports.
April 2025	FTA Submission Timeline	MGL informed Kā Rūnaka that Santana had publicly announced the Fast-Track Approvals application would be submitted by the end of June. Reports would be shared as finalised via a SharePoint site that MGL would establish. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the update.
April 2025	Corrected Project Footprint	MGL distributed corrected project footprint figures and aggregated footprint versions to all technical consultants for use in their BOGP reports.
May 2025	Technical Reports Update	MGL offered to meet with Kā Rūnaka to review 13 completed technical reports covering surface and groundwater, TSF, geotechnical, heritage, air quality, noise, traffic, recreation, economic, bonding, and invertebrate, bat, pest, and aquatic ecology assessments. Several key reports remained outstanding but were due for completion that month. Kā Rūnaka confirmed availability to receive the environmental reports.
May 2025	BOGP Update Meeting	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a project update meeting. Attendees included representatives from MGL and Kā Rūnaka along with members of the wider project team. The meeting was convened to restart project updates as final reports became available for review.
May 2025	Archaeological Authority Support	Aukaha provided a letter of support for the Srex Ore Body archaeological authority application. Kā Rūnaka confirmed satisfaction with the letter following internal discussion. MGL acknowledged receipt of the support letter.

Date	Subject	Summary
May 2025	Report Review Fee Estimate	Kā Rūnaka requested page numbers for multiple critical reports covering ecology, geochemistry, geotechnical, and landscape matters, and proposed providing a phased fee estimate based on currently available reports with an updated estimate at month's end rather than waiting for all reports. MGL approved the phased approach and confirmed that MGL would update the Excel file with missing page numbers, new reports, and dates for final report transfers to the shared space. Kā Rūnaka confirmed agreement.
May 2025	Project Matters Discussion	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 31-minute Teams meeting to discuss project matters.
May 2025	SharePoint Access Request	MGL queried whether Aukaha should retain access to the SharePoint space for reports following a company renaming that had removed Aukaha's access. Kā Rūnaka requested temporary reinstatement of Aukaha's SharePoint access and indicated a cost estimate for the first tranche of required resources would be provided by the end of that week, pending approval before work commenced.
May 2025	Advisory Team Cost Approval	Kā Rūnaka (Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou, and Hokonui Rūnanga) submitted a formal letter to MGL requesting cost approval for services in accordance with the Process Agreement (Clause 2.1(c)). The letter outlined the proposed external and internal advisory team, including the Kā Rūnaka advisory team as specialist mining advisor covering water impacts, geochemistry, geotechnical, air quality, bonding, and noise. Legal support across three phases: review of the consent application, negotiation of mitigation measures, and legal opinion on acceptability of mitigations. Kā Rūnaka noted historically strained relationships with the mining industry and emphasised the advisory team would enable meaningful, informed engagement rather than an oppositional or litigious approach. Some technical documents and page numbers remained outstanding, and the fee estimate was subject to update as the consent application became clearer.
May 2025	Cost Approval Discussion	MGL provided feedback on a cost request from Kā Rūnaka, questioning the necessity of a new PwC economic assessment given an existing study by their economist and querying whether work could be recovered through EPA lodgement fees under the FTA process. All other proposed costs were approved pending clarification on these two items. Kā Rūnaka clarified that EPA lodgement fees are limited to \$7,000 total under FTA regulations and explained that PwC would review rather than duplicate the existing work to ensure rigour. Kā Rūnaka proposed a call to resolve the cost allocation, and MGL agreed. Contact details were exchanged to confirm the afternoon call.
May 2025	Technical Report Requirements	Kā Rūnaka forwarded technical report requirements from Aukaha to MGL, identifying aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology with offset mitigation, and landscape/rehabilitation/closure reports as key impediments to completing the Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA). A two-to-three-week timeline for draft delivery was indicated once all documents are received.
May 2025	PwC Fee Approval	Kā Rūnaka advised MGL that PwC's economic impact assessment review fee had been negotiated down and requested approval to proceed before the end of June. MGL conditionally approved the fee on the basis that a copy of the resulting report be provided. Kā Rūnaka accepted this condition.
June 2025	Technical Report Timeline	MGL provided a detailed timeline for outstanding technical reports for the Bendigo-Ophir project, with most due in the week of 11 June and terrestrial ecology/offset mitigation due the week of 23 June. Kā Rūnaka confirmed receipt and queried whether Santana Minerals still intended to submit its application before end of June, advising that feedback on the mining permit would be sent to NZPAM that Friday. MGL indicated it would not submit early without at least a draft CIA. Kā Rūnaka sought clarification on water-related technical reports needed for the CIA. MGL reported that groundwater and surface water reports had been uploaded between mid- and late May, with environmental chemistry and other water reports due that week. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged the update.
June 2025	Mining Permit Submission	Kā Rūnaka submitted formal feedback on Mining Permit Application 61326.01 to NZPAM, with a copy provided to MGL.

Date	Subject	Summary
June 2025	Vendor Arrangements	Kā Rūnaka requested that Santana Minerals establish a new vendor entity in its financial system before the end of the first week of July to accommodate the first Rūnaka invoice. MGL forwarded the request internally for action. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged the referral. MGL confirmed that vendor setup required invoices to be made out to Matakanui Gold Limited and sent to admin@matakanuigold.co.nz, with payment terms achievable provided invoices include sufficient supporting documentation and details.
June 2025	Mana-to-Mana Hui Request	Kā Rūnaka provided advance notice to MGL that the Chairs of Kā Rūnaka would likely request a mana-to-mana hui between their leadership and the Santana Minerals board at Ōtākou Marae, tentatively scheduled for 18 July.
June 2025	Mana to Mana Hui	MGL acknowledged receipt of the notification regarding a proposed mana-to-mana hui with Kā Rūnaka.
June 2025	Technical Reports Update	MGL provided a status update on Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project technical reports, confirming the aquatic ecology report had been uploaded on 17 June. Multiple additional reports were noted as due or uploaded by 30 June, including terrestrial ecology, avifauna, vegetation, wetlands, and lizard reports. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged the update and confirmed their team was mobilising to review reports as they became available.
July 2025	Hui Rescheduling Request	Kā Rūnaka requested that the planned mana-to-mana hui be rescheduled due to scheduling congestion and committed to proposing alternative dates within the following week.
July 2025	Technical Reports Update	MGL uploaded the full draft lizard report and clarified that the Closure report had been uploaded on 27 June. It was noted that the Ecology AEE, Landscape, and Rehabilitation reports remained in progress. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged the update.
July 2025	Landscape Assessment Upload	MGL uploaded the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment along with accompanying Visual Simulations, and committed to responding separately to a previous email from Kā Rūnaka. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the landscape assessment. MGL also updated the Environmental Chemistry folder with the Net Percolation Assessment, ELF Options Assessment, and Engineered Landform Philosophy documents, noting that the Geoenvironmental Hazards report was still in progress.
July 2025	Outstanding Reports Notice	MGL notified Kā Rūnaka that the two outstanding reports — the Ecology AEE and the Rehabilitation Plan — were expected to be issued on 1 August. Kā Rūnaka subsequently requested a 30-minute meeting early the following week to reconcile received and outstanding reports, proposing late Monday afternoon or Tuesday as potential times.
August 2025	Report Uploads and Meeting	MGL uploaded the 95% draft Ecology AEE report and confirmed the Rehabilitation Plan was expected that evening. Availability was confirmed for a reconciliation meeting the following afternoon. Kā Rūnaka referenced a Santana SharePoint document showing received report status, identified additional outstanding documents, and requested confirmation of the latest versions of the Baseline Water Quality Report and Geoenvironmental Hazards Factual Report given changes to the Project Financial Summary.
August 2025	Consent Documents Meeting	Kā Rūnaka scheduled a Microsoft Teams meeting with MGL to discuss consent documents. MGL confirmed attendance and advised it would review the document list at the meeting. Updated versions of the Bendigo Baseline Water Report, Geoenvironmental Hazards Factual Report, and a draft Rehabilitation Management Plan were uploaded to the project site ahead of the meeting.
August 2025	Consent Documents Meeting	Kā Rūnaka and MGL held a 21-minute Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss consent documents.
August 2025	Meeting Attendees Confirmed	MGL notified Kā Rūnaka of attendees for a meeting scheduled the following Monday, including representatives from MGL's leadership and advisory team. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the attendee list and committed to providing protocol details (tikaka) in response.

Date	Subject	Summary
August 2025	Geotechnical Report Request	Kā Rūnaka forwarded a request from the Kā Rūnaka advisory team for a copy of the BOGP Site Geotechnical Factual Report Draft Rev B. MGL responded by providing the final version of the report (BOGP Site Geotechnical Factual Report Final Rev 2).
August 2025	Board and Iwi Meeting	A formal in-person meeting was held at Tamatea Marae, Dunedin, between the SMI Board and Kā Rūnaka representatives. The meeting covered cultural context, environmental and cultural interests, heritage and legacy, cultural mapping, and the history of working with mining companies. Discussions emphasised the importance of relationship building and the approach taken when assessing projects. Partnership opportunities were also explored, and MGL reinforced its intention to be transparent, build mutual understanding, and acknowledge the importance of a strong ongoing relationship.
August 2025	Geotechnical Report Receipt	Kā Rūnaka confirmed receipt of the geotechnical report provided by MGL.
August 2025	Management Plans Request	Kā Rūnaka requested copies of the Lizard Management Plan and an updated version of the Mammalian Pest Control Management Plan from MGL, noting that these documents were referenced in impact assessments but were unavailable in the shared folder.
August 2025	Management Plans Update	MGL advised that the requested management plans were nearly finalised and would be delivered that day.
August 2025	Management Plans Delivered	MGL uploaded the Lizard Management Plan (August 2025) and the updated Mammalian Pest Control Management Plan (BOGP_MPMP_v002) to the SharePoint and provided them as attachments to Kā Rūnaka. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of both documents.
September 2025	AEE and CIA Timing	Kā Rūnaka inquired about the timing for delivery of the Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE). MGL confirmed that the main FTA application deadline was 26 September 2025. In subsequent correspondence, MGL requested confirmation regarding the status of the draft Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA). Kā Rūnaka reported that the draft CIA had completed cultural expert review that day and would be updated for presentation to the steering committee. MGL acknowledged receipt of the CIA review update.
September 2025	Water Reports Status	Kā Rūnaka requested confirmation of the status of the Water Management Plan and Summary report for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, noting that only a baseline water report had been received. MGL advised that the consultant had delayed delivery of these documents but expected them by the end of the following week. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged the updated delivery timeline.
September 2025	Mining Permit Submission	Kā Rūnaka submitted a formal submission to NZPAM regarding the Matakanui Gold Permit Application. The submission was also provided to MGL.
September 2025	Biodiversity Monitoring Plan	Kā Rūnaka inquired whether the Biodiversity Outcome Monitoring Plan referenced in project documents had been developed and was available. MGL provided the requested plan as an attachment and uploaded it to the shared drive. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the document.
September 2025	Water Summary Report Draft	MGL submitted the Water Summary Report in 95% draft form to Kā Rūnaka and provided the shared folder location for access.
September 2025	Proposed Tangata Whenua Conditions	MGL submitted proposed iwi-specific conditions for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project to Kā Rūnaka, including Iwi Advisory Group requirements. The conditions were presented pending completion of the Cultural Impact Assessment, and feedback was requested from Kā Rūnaka.
September 2025	Conditions Feedback Pending	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the proposed tangata whenua conditions and indicated that feedback would be provided following the completion of upcoming board meetings.

Date	Subject	Summary
September 2025	Revised Draft Conditions	MGL provided revised draft tangata whenua conditions to Kā Rūnaka for review, noting that the conditions remained a work in progress.
October 2025	FTA Application Update	MGL provided a project update to Kā Rūnaka advising that the FTA substantial application would be finalised by 10 October with portal submission targeted for 17 October. MGL requested updates on the status of the technical matters letter and the draft Cultural Impact Assessment.
October 2025	Application Status Request	MGL followed up with Kā Rūnaka requesting an update on the BOGP FTA substantial application, specifically regarding the expected technical matters letter and draft Cultural Impact Assessment status, noting the "pens down" deadline of 10 October and portal submission target of 17 October.
October 2025	Engagement Status Letter	Kā Rūnaka transmitted a formal letter to MGL detailing the status of engagement and key feedback themes for the FTA application. A conversation was proposed for the following week to discuss proposed consent conditions.
October 2025	Kā Rūnaka Status Update	Kā Rūnaka (Te Rūnaka o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnaka o Ōtākou, and Hokonui Rūnanga) provided a formal status update on their review of technical documentation for the BOGP. The letter acknowledged responsive document provision by MGL but noted the review was incomplete as the FTAA application had not yet been received. Key themes included the cultural significance of the Dunstan Range (Matakinui) as wāhi tūpuna with significant cultural, landscape, and archaeological values including ara tawhito. Kā Rūnaka reserved their position should final documents differ from drafts reviewed and sought forums for detailed advisory team feedback.
October 2025	Meeting Scheduling	MGL and Kā Rūnaka exchanged correspondence to arrange a Teams meeting to discuss the engagement status and feedback themes letter. After revising availability windows, a meeting was confirmed for the following Monday.
October 2025	Meeting Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka confirmed availability and revised the proposed meeting time, indicating availability at 9:30am–10am or after 1pm, superseding the earlier proposed window.
October 2025	Meeting Invitation Issued	MGL issued a formal Teams meeting invitation to Kā Rūnaka for a one-hour meeting titled "MGL Ka Runaka" to discuss engagement matters related to the BOGP.
October 2025	Availability Correction	Kā Rūnaka corrected previously communicated availability, confirming the meeting time as 9:30am–10am or after 1pm on the Monday, superseding the earlier 10am–12pm window.
October 2025	Draft Agreement Letter	MGL shared a draft letter for Kā Rūnaka's agreement to the submission of the FTA application, subject to ongoing consultation. MGL noted that substantial progress on the CIA and socio-economic impacts would enable EPA submission and requested delivery of the draft CIA and supporting documentation by the following day.
October 2025	MGL–Kā Rūnaka Meeting	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 27-minute Teams meeting to discuss matters related to the BOGP engagement and FTA application process.
October 2025	Draft CIA Transmitted	Further correspondence between the parties.
October 2025	Meeting Request on CIA	MGL requested a short meeting with Kā Rūnaka for the following afternoon to discuss context and expectations for addressing the letter and documents regarding the CIA and related matters.
October 2025	Meeting Confirmed	Kā Rūnaka confirmed the proposed meeting time and issued a Teams meeting invitation, advising MGL to bring any relevant team members to the discussion regarding the CIA letter and associated documents.

Date	Subject	Summary
October 2025	Working Draft CIA	Aukaha, on behalf of Kā Rūnaka (Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, and Hokonui Rūnanga), provided an unendorsed working draft Cultural Impact Assessment for the BOGP. The document assessed cultural impacts against mana whenua values, Kāi Tahu historical connections, and the statutory framework, covering methodology, project description, mana whenua associations, the Kāi Tahu history of loss, and proposed conditions. The CIA was prepared with input from Te Komiti Keritaka, the four rūnaka, and MGL. Cultural information was identified as intellectual property restricted to assessing the BOGP's cultural impacts.
October 2025	Technical Review Feedback	Kā Rūnaka's advisory team provided a technical review of MGL's consent application documents, focusing on the Landscape and Ecological Rehabilitation Management Plan and the Landscape, Natural Character and Visual Effects Assessment. Significant concerns were raised regarding rehabilitation uncertainty in the dryland environment, intergenerational maintenance obligations post mine closure, and the failure to incorporate Te Ao Māori perspectives in landscape assessments. Kā Rūnaka required rehabilitation goals to be contractualised or made consent conditions, co-design involvement in rehabilitation planning, and oversight of data collection and reporting.
October 2025	Kā Rūnaka Letter	The Kā Rūnaka Steering Komiti sent a letter to MGL.
October 2025	CIA and Agreement Framework	Kā Rūnaka transmitted a cover letter to MGL accompanying three key attachments: the unendorsed working draft CIA, the technical review of consent documents, and Kā Rūnaka's positions on environmental, cultural, and relationship management mitigations. The Steering Komiti articulated that any Cultural Impact Agreement must deliver intergenerational abundance across cultural, environmental, and socio-economic outcomes — expressed as 'Mō tātou, ā, mō kā uri ā muri ake nei' — as the benchmark for Kā Rūnaka to adopt a neutral position on the consent application. MGL was invited to provide factual corrections, and forums were proposed to discuss how technical feedback would be addressed.
October 2025	Kā Rūnaka Letter Meeting	Kā Rūnaka scheduled a Microsoft Teams meeting with MGL to discuss a Kā Rūnaka letter. The meeting was arranged for the same day.
October 2025	Kā Rūnaka Letter Discussion	A 37-minute Microsoft Teams meeting took place between Kā Rūnaka and MGL representatives to discuss the Kā Rūnaka letter. Three participants attended the meeting.
October 2025	Agreement Template Shared	Kā Rūnaka provided MGL with a contents page from an electricity generation project agreement to serve as a template example for structuring a potential agreement between Matakānui Gold and Kā Rūnaka.
October 2025	Template Acknowledgement	MGL confirmed receipt of the agreement template and advised that Santana Minerals was drafting a letter to be delivered by the following day, ahead of Kā Rūnaka's meeting the following week.
October 2025	Response Letter Submitted	MGL submitted Santana Minerals' response letter for consideration at the Steering Komiti meeting and announced binding agreements to purchase 800 hectares from Bendigo Station and Ardgour Station to advance the project.
October 2025	Partnering Approach Proposal	Kā Rūnaka and MGL correspond

Date	Subject	Summary
October 2025	Feedback Timing Confirmed	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of MGL's response letter and committed to providing feedback following a Monday hui, likely on the Tuesday after returning from Melbourne.
October 2025	Acknowledgement of Email	MGL briefly acknowledged Kā Rūnaka's email regarding the timing of feedback on the response letter.
October 2025	Draft Term Sheet	Kā Rūnaka provided MGL with a first working draft term sheet and requested feedback on Kā Rūnaka's technical team comments as well as MGL's proposals for security regarding remediation and rehabilitation at end of mine life.
November 2025	Term Sheet Format Request	MGL requested that Kā Rūnaka resend the Version 2 Draft Term Sheet as a Word document rather than as an email attachment. Kā Rūnaka resent the file, and MGL confirmed successful receipt of the document.
November 2025	FTA Application Sharing	MGL sought Kā Rūnaka's approval to provide a representative of Aukaha with a copy of the FTA Substantive Application. Kā Rūnaka approved the request but asked that future requests of this nature be directed through Kā Rūnaka to maintain coordination.
November 2025	Breach of Process Agreement	Kā Rūnaka delivered a formal letter to MGL's Chair raising serious concerns about alleged breaches of the Process Agreement entered into in late 2024 with southern Papatipu Rūnanga. The letter detailed multiple failures including withholding approximately ten technical reports from the Fast Track application, lodging consent conditions without incorporating Kā Rūnaka feedback provided in October 2025, failing to proactively share the substantive application, and not responding to Kā Rūnaka's earlier feedback on technical documents and a proposed cultural impact agreement. Kā Rūnaka asserted that the no-surprises principle and open and transparent engagement commitments under the Process Agreement had been violated.
November 2025	Breach Letter Acknowledged	MGL's Chair acknowledged receipt of the Kā Rūnaka Steering Komiti's letter regarding the alleged breach of the Process Agreement and committed to responding early the following week.
December 2025	Cultural Impact Assessment Delay	Kā Rūnaka notified MGL that review of previously undiscovered documents would delay finalisation of the Cultural Impact Assessment. MGL agreed to schedule a call with Kā Rūnaka to discuss the delay.
December 2025	Technical Review Response	MGL submitted Santana Minerals' response to approximately 76 items raised in a technical review of Attachment B and offered to meet with technical advisors to discuss next steps for progressing the Cultural Impact Assessment.
December 2025	LERMP Technical Review Response	MGL provided a detailed point-by-point response to Kā Rūnaka's technical review of the Landscape and Ecological Rehabilitation Management Plan prepared by Boffa Miskell/Landcare. The response addressed concerns regarding rehabilitation goals, long-term pest control, intergenerational assurance, and input into decision-making. MGL referenced enforceable consent conditions with quantitative success criteria (e.g., ≥75% seedling survival at 3 years, ≥20% native cover by Year 10, pest plant cover <5%). Rehabilitation was outlined across Foundation, Main Implementation, and Completion phases. Mining of the CIT Pit was noted as conditional on successful cushionfield rehabilitation.
December 2025	Process Agreement Breach Response	MGL forwarded its Chairman's response to Kā Rūnaka's letter alleging a breach of the process agreement related to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project and offered to discuss the matter further.
December 2025	Process Agreement Breach Rebuttal	MGL's Chairman responded to Kā Rūnaka's breach allegation, noting the Process Agreement was never signed by Kā Rūnaka and therefore not operative under its own terms (clause 3.1). The letter reaffirmed MGL's engagement commitment while clarifying the project sits on freehold land governed by statutory instruments including the Fast-track Approvals Act and the RMA. The EPA had accepted the application as complete. Proposed consent conditions were characterised as the beginning of dialogue. Kā Rūnaka's 9 October documentation was noted as reflecting a divergent interpretation, with references to legacy issues from other mines.

Date	Subject	Summary
December 2025	Cultural Impact Agreement Queries	MGL notified Kā Rūnaka that questions on the Cultural Impact Agreement would be emailed over the weekend to enable progress discussions at a subsequent meeting.
December 2025	CIAG Questions Submitted	MGL submitted its list of questions on the Cultural Impact Agreement to Kā Rūnaka, proposed a meeting to discuss them, and emphasised Santana Minerals' commitment to extensive, funded, and consistent engagement within statutory frameworks while seeking to reset the process on a disciplined basis.
December 2025	CIAG Questions Acknowledged	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of MGL's Cultural Impact Agreement questions and indicated they would be reviewed with a response to follow.
December 2025	Process Concerns Reiterated	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of MGL's Chairman's letter, raised concerns about process breaches, and reaffirmed expectations for transparent communication and direct mana-to-mana engagement. Kā Rūnaka emphasised that mana whenua communities hold perpetual interests extending beyond the mine's operational life.
December 2025	Engagement Commitment Reaffirmed	MGL's Chairman acknowledged Kā Rūnaka's correspondence, confirmed openness to direct contact, and reaffirmed commitment to respectful and open engagement. A proposal was made to discuss the matter in person during the Chairman's next visit to New Zealand with Kā Rūnaka and MGL's CEO.
December 2025	CIAG Meeting Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka proposed a Microsoft Teams meeting time to discuss MGL's questions on the Cultural Impact Agreement.
December 2025	Hui Postponement Request	MGL requested postponement of the scheduled hui due to the CEO's absence in Northland owing to a family illness.
December 2025	CIAG Meeting Rescheduled	Kā Rūnaka proposed a rescheduled Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss MGL's Cultural Impact Agreement questions and requested confirmation of availability.
December 2025	Executed Process Agreement Provided	Kā Rūnaka provided MGL with an executed version of the Process Agreement that should have been sent previously. It was noted that Ōraka-Aparima and Waihōpai had not executed the agreement, as their interest was secondary to the geographic areas of the other parties.
December 2025	CIAG Discussion Meeting	A Microsoft Teams meeting was held between representatives of Kā Rūnaka and MGL, lasting approximately one hour and five minutes, to discuss matters related to the Cultural Impact Agreement.
December 2025	CIAG Responses Provided	Kā Rūnaka provided MGL with written responses to the Cultural Impact Agreement questions previously submitted and invited clarification if needed.
December 2025	Term Sheet Response Delayed	MGL advised that a written response to the term sheet had not been completed due to bereavement and year-end commitments. Delivery was expected in the week commencing 5 January, pending Board approval.
January 2026	Jurisprudence Letter Request	MGL requested Kā Rūnaka to resend a letter describing jurisprudence previously referenced before Christmas. MGL also confirmed awareness of the Panel Convener conference scheduled for 21 January, noting Kā Rūnaka representatives would be attending.
January 2026	Hold Harmless and Term Sheet	Kā Rūnaka clarified that PwC would provide a hold harmless letter early the following week and confirmed Kā Rūnaka's representation at the Convenor Conference. It was explained that the Draft Term Sheet represented Kā Rūnaka's position for a neutral stance on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, with some elements potentially becoming consent conditions rather than term sheet provisions.
January 2026	Hold Harmless Letter Forwarded	Kā Rūnaka forwarded PwC's proposed hold harmless letter to MGL for consideration. A cultural effects letter was expected to follow the next week.

Date	Subject	Summary
January 2026	Technical Workshops Proposed	MGL requested Kā Rūnaka's availability to organise technical expert workshops covering water, landscape, ecology, and other priority areas.
January 2026	Workshop Planning Progressed	Kā Rūnaka confirmed near completion of the substantive application document review and proposed scheduling technical workshops with the Kā Rūnaka advisory team on mining aspects. Confirmation of workshop topics was to be finalised with MGL over the weekend.
January 2026	Hold Harmless Agreement	MGL proposed amendments to the PwC hold harmless letter, including removal of warranty representations and modifications to the indemnity clause to exclude claims resulting from PwC's fraud, dishonesty, wilful misconduct, or gross negligence. Kā Rūnaka confirmed receipt of the proposed changes and forwarded them to PwC for review.
January 2026	Cultural Effects Payment Letter	Correspondence between the parties
January 2026	Hold Harmless Amendments Finalised	PwC accepted MGL's proposed hold harmless letter amendments with modifications to remove "gross negligence" (not recognised under New Zealand law) and add a definition of wilful misconduct. PwC then issued a formal hold harmless letter to MGL permitting release of the Cultural Effects Payment letter originally prepared for Puketeraki Limited. The letter disclaimed all warranties regarding accuracy or appropriateness of the information and required MGL to indemnify PwC against claims arising from reliance on the released letter, with exceptions only for PwC's fraud, dishonesty, or wilful misconduct.
January 2026	Cultural Effects Letter Exchanged	MGL returned the signed hold harmless letter and requested that Kā Rūnaka supply the cultural effects letter so MGL could finalise markups on the term sheet within the week. Kā Rūnaka forwarded PwC's final cultural effects mitigation payment letter, aligned with the scope extension dated 14 January 2026, and clarified that the letter was commercial in confidence and without prejudice.
January 2026	Technical Workshops Proposed	Kā Rūnaka proposed expert-led technical workshops covering water, landscape, ecology, economics, and rehabilitation/remediation topics, with Kā Rūnaka advisors coordinating directly with MGL's advisors. Kā Rūnaka indicated possible attendance at select meetings.
January 2026	Expert Engagement Agreed	MGL agreed to proceed with expert engagement and designated a coordinator for scheduling. MGL explained its mine closure bond process and intergenerational protection through consent conditions, and requested an additional week for Board consideration of term sheet markups.
February 2026	Mine Closure Bond Discussion	Kā Rūnaka requested a copy of the risk assessment underpinning the mine closure bond to provide comfort on the basis for bond-setting, and confirmed no issue with the extended timeline for the term sheet response. MGL provided the bond report and clarified that the bond process did not include a standalone risk assessment for bond-setting but referenced risk assessments conducted for health and safety and other regulatory compliance purposes. The final bond was to be lodged prior to commencement of FTA-approved activities.
February 2026	Technical Expert Coordination	Kā Rūnaka provided contact details for four technical experts covering mining/water/rehabilitation, ecology/offsetting, landscape/rehabilitation, and economics. MGL directed its coordinator to contact the four Kā Rūnaka technical experts to arrange meetings to clarify the scope of their technical review and identify outstanding requests for further information on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
February 2026	Technical Review Follow-up	MGL contacted four Kā Rūnaka technical experts individually to confirm whether they had further comments on MGL's December 2025 written responses to 76 technical questions and to request guidance on the scope of matters Kā Rūnaka wished to discuss. The experts contacted covered mining/water/rehabilitation, ecology/offsetting, landscape/rehabilitation, and economics disciplines.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2026	Post-Closure Issues Identified	The Kā Rūnaka advisory team indicated no further comments on the supplied information but identified unresolved post-closure residual issues and long-term management mechanisms requiring discussion with MGL's geochemical engineering team (MWM) and biodiversity offset design team. MGL requested specification of the residual post-closure issues and offered attendance at a Biodiversity and Offsetting workshop on 21 February, a community open day on 1–2 March, or a separate meeting with MWM and the biodiversity offset team.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	The Kā Rūnaka advisory team confirmed he would be overseas until early March and proposed meeting with MWM and the offset team via Teams from the week starting 9 March, in follow-up to the December 2025 responses on the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review.
February 2026	Technical Review Discussion	Kā Rūnaka advisor accepted MGL's meeting invitation and indicated availability for a Teams discussion early the following week regarding the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review. MGL responded by requesting that the advisor outline specific issues or topic areas she wished to discuss prior to the meeting and offered availability from 24 February onwards.
February 2026	Term Sheet Meeting	MGL proposed a Teams meeting with Kā Rūnaka the following week to progress work on a term sheet. Kā Rūnaka indicated availability on Tuesday or Wednesday. MGL confirmed availability on Wednesday from 1 pm onwards, and Kā Rūnaka proposed 1:30 pm on Wednesday for the meeting.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	PwC proposed meeting times for the following week to discuss MGL's email regarding the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. Kā Rūnaka confirmed availability for Wednesday and Friday of that week. MGL indicated unavailability for all proposed times and requested rescheduling to the following week. PwC confirmed availability for the rescheduled week with specific time slots on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.
February 2026	Capital Raising Invitation	MGL requested urgent confirmation by close of business on whether Puketeraki, Kā Rūnaka, or Ngai Tahu Holdings were interested in participating in a capital raising led to fund development and long-lead items for the project. Kā Rūnaka declined the invitation, reaffirming their preference to invest in the local project entity rather than the listed entity, consistent with their mana whenua rangatiratanga principles.
February 2026	MGL Hui Scheduled	MGL scheduled a Microsoft Teams hui with Kā Rūnaka for the following week.
February 2026	Technical Review Acknowledgement	A representative of Puketeraki Rūnaka acknowledged receipt of the 76 technical question responses and requested time to consult with his wider team before providing further guidance on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project technical review.
February 2026	MGL–Kā Rūnaka Hui	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 34-minute Microsoft Teams meeting.
February 2026	Technical Review Follow-Up	MGL acknowledged Puketeraki Rūnaka's need to consult internally and confirmed willingness to provide further clarification or technical input once internal discussions had been completed.
February 2026	Phased Pathway Proposal	MGL proposed a phased pathway to agreement comprising: Shared Principles, a Refined Draft CIA (to proceed only after agreement on principles), a Term Sheet, a Binding MOU, a Finalised CIA, and a Side Letter to the Process Agreement outlining how the parties would arrive at an agreed Term Sheet and MOU.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	PwC proposed multiple meeting time slots for the week of 24–27 February for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review and requested confirmation of availability from participants.
February 2026	MGL Hui Scheduled	MGL sent a Microsoft Teams meeting invitation to Kā Rūnaka for an MGL hui scheduled later that week.
February 2026	Project Discussion Meeting	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 19-minute Teams meeting to discuss matters related to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	PwC provided availability for the first week of March and requested that Kā Rūnaka and MGL confirm suitable times for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review meeting.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	MGL relayed Boffa Miskell consultant availability for the technical review meeting, offering Monday afternoon or Tuesday afternoon the following week.
February 2026	Landscape Review Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka advisor confirmed a preferred time of 3:00 pm on Tuesday 3 March for the Kā Rūnaka Landscape review meeting.
February 2026	Landscape Review Invitation	MGL issued a Microsoft Teams meeting invitation for the Kā Rūnaka Landscape review scheduled for 3 March. Invitees included Kā Rūnaka advisor, Boffa Miskell representatives, and other consultants, with Kā Rūnaka and MGL copied.
February 2026	Shared Principles Draft	MGL sent Kā Rūnaka a draft Shared Principles document for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project pathway forward. MGL requested feedback ahead of a Friday morning discussion and noted that agreed principles should be established before any updated draft Cultural Impact Assessment is prepared.
February 2026	Draft CIA Forwarded	Kā Rūnaka forwarded an updated draft Cultural Impact Assessment to MGL and advised that a final version approved by Kā Rūnaka was expected within three weeks.
February 2026	Technical Review Rescheduling	PwC notified MGL that availability had changed for the originally proposed date and suggested Friday 6 March at 10:00–10:30 am as an alternative for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review.
February 2026	Technical Review Rescheduling	MGL declined the proposed Friday 6 March time slot for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review and committed to providing alternative meeting times for the following week.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	MGL proposed three time slots the following week — Tuesday 3:00–5:30 pm, Wednesday 3:15–4:45 pm, and Thursday 2:00–4:30 pm — for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review meeting.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	PwC confirmed availability for Tuesday 3 March at 3:00–4:00 pm or Wednesday 4 March at 3:00–4:30 pm but noted that Kā Rūnaka was unavailable on those dates. PwC proposed exploring dates the following week instead.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka indicated the proposed dates were problematic and offered alternative availability: Monday 9 March 9:00 am–1:00 pm, Tuesday 10 March 11:00 am–3:00 pm, or Wednesday 11 March 10:00 am–3:30 pm.
February 2026	Technical Review Scheduling	MGL proposed Tuesday 10 March at 11:00 am as the meeting time for the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review.
February 2026	Technical Review Confirmed	PwC confirmed that the PwC representatives could attend the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review at 11:30 am–12:00 pm and committed to issuing a calendar invitation.
February 2026	Technical Review Attendees	MGL requested that their economist be added to the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review meeting invitation.

Date	Subject	Summary
February 2026	Technical Review Attendees	PwC confirmed the addition of the economist to the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review meeting invitation.
February 2026	CIA Document Request	MGL requested that Kā Rūnaka provide a Word version of the Cultural Impact Assessment document for review.
February 2026	Project Discussion Meeting	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 17-minute Teams meeting to discuss project-related matters.
March 2026	Side Letter Review	Further correspondence between the parties
March 2026	Meeting Request	MGL requested a hui with Kā Rūnaka, proposing either Monday 10 March or Wednesday 11 March as potential meeting dates.
March 2026	Technical Review Meeting	A Kā Rūnaka Technical Review meeting was confirmed and held via Microsoft Teams. Attendees included representatives from MGL, Kā Rūnaka, and other advisory participants. The meeting ran for approximately 30 minutes and covered matters related to the ongoing technical review process.
March 2026	Hui Scheduling	Kā Rūnaka declined availability for a proposed hui due to travel commitments and offered alternative times later in the week. MGL confirmed scheduling the meeting for the following Thursday at 10am. A Microsoft Teams meeting invitation for the hui was subsequently issued by MGL to Kā Rūnaka.
March 2026	NZPAM Annual Report Review	MGL requested that Kā Rūnaka and Aukaha review draft NZPAM annual reports for Permits MEP80311 and MMP61326, specifically the iwi engagement sections, ahead of an end-of-March submission deadline. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt and committed to providing feedback by early the following week.
March 2026	Hui Rescheduling	Kā Rūnaka requested postponement of the scheduled hui with MGL due to a scheduling conflict and proposed alternative times. MGL agreed to reschedule the meeting to 11am as requested.
March 2026	MGL-Kā Rūnaka Hui	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a 50-minute meeting via Microsoft Teams to discuss matters related to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.
March 2026	Technical Review Follow-up Scheduling	The Kā Rūnaka advisory team confirmed willingness to meet with MGL's experts to discuss offsetting and geochemistry matters arising from the Kā Rūnaka Technical Review, subject to calendar alignment. MGL coordinated availability and proposed scheduling the meeting for 30–31 March, after MWM's advisor returned from Japan. The Kā Rūnaka advisory team provided available dates and confirmed the proposed late March arrangement. A potential meeting in Christchurch was also discussed.
March 2026	Offer Inclusions and Exclusions	Kā Rūnaka sought confirmation from MGL that its verbal offer included mitigation measures for JSG (Rakitirataka and Whakawhanaukataka) but excluded mitigation for environmental, cultural, and socio-economic effects, with compensation to be handled separately.
March 2026	Statement of Principles and CIA	MGL submitted marked-up versions of the Statement of Principles and Cultural Impact Assessment documents to Kā Rūnaka, reflecting MGL's final position for the Fast-track application. MGL also requested clarification from Kā Rūnaka regarding specific Treaty settlement inconsistencies that had been identified in relation to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

Date	Subject	Summary
March 2026	Treaty Compliance Discussion	Kā Rūnaka proposed that MGL submit its analysis of compliance with the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act as part of its substantive application rather than in advance. MGL confirmed availability for a Teams meeting and noted it was only aware of potential Treaty breaches related to the schedule of taonga species not detected in baseline studies. MGL committed to remediation if breaches were identified and undertook to respond separately regarding the inclusions/exclusions framework. A Teams meeting was scheduled for the following day.
March 2026	Inclusions/Exclusions Offer Clarification	MGL clarified that its \$500k per annum offer addressed all mitigation and compensation areas in the CIAG term sheet, with an additional \$500k per annum allocated for Kā Rūnaka initiatives. MGL proposed an in-person meeting to discuss details with Kā Rūnaka and the Steering Komiti, confirming availability to discuss at the scheduled Teams meeting.
March 2026	Meeting Acceptance Confirmed	Kā Rūnaka confirmed acceptance of the Teams meeting invitation for the Korero discussion with MGL.
March 2026	Offer Framework Response	Kā Rūnaka acknowledged MGL's offer clarification and advised that the verbal offer framework had been presented to the Steering Komiti, with feedback to follow in due course. A Teams meeting between Kā Rūnaka and MGL took place, lasting approximately 30 minutes.
March 2026	Offer Rejection Acknowledged	MGL acknowledged the Steering Komiti's rejection of the \$500k per annum JSG and \$500k per annum compensation offer. Concerns were noted that both figures lacked sufficient detail and depth, and that the compensation amount was considered inadequate compared to benchmarks such as the Waitaki Hydro Scheme. MGL confirmed that a senior representative was travelling to Queenstown to pursue further engagement despite the Komiti's initial reluctance to meet.
March 2026	Intergenerational Effects Feedback	Kā Rūnaka provided feedback on bonding and endowment arrangements for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, emphasising grave concerns about intergenerational effects. These included post-closure maintenance of mitigation measures, impacts on waterways and endangered species, inadequate consideration of Te Ao Māori perspectives, and insufficient ecological offsetting design and timing. MGL acknowledged receipt, committed to responding with questions, and urgently requested confirmation of whether the Komiti would reconsider a face-to-face meeting.
March 2026	Urgent Komiti Escalation	Kā Rūnaka confirmed that MGL's offer of \$500k per annum for the JSG and \$500k per annum compensation had been urgently escalated to Steering Komiti members, though limited availability might constrain flexibility to meet on short notice. MGL acknowledged the escalation and expressed thanks for passing the urgent correspondence to the Komiti.
March 2026	Annual Engagement Report	MGL submitted the 2025 MEP60311 Engagement Report to Kā Rūnaka and NZPAM as part of its annual summary reporting obligations.
March 2026	Dunedin Airport Hui	A hui was held at Dunedin Airport between MGL and Kā Rūnaka representatives to discuss cultural, environmental, commercial, and governance matters ahead of Fast-track Approvals milestones. The Advisory Komiti clarified its role as advisors to rūnaka leadership of approximately 20–30 decision-makers across four rūnaka, with wānanga planned for the following week. Cultural and environmental mitigation and commercial terms were described as an inseparable package. MGL expressed frustration at the time taken for engagement on technical review and the draft Term Sheet shared in October 2025. Kā Rūnaka referenced a PwC letter citing approximately \$180m compensation associated with the Waitaki hydro-electric consent renewal as a benchmark. Specific concerns were raised regarding taonga species, waterways including Shepherd Creek and Rise & Shine Creek, mauri of water, and land guardianship rights. The parties acknowledged they remained significantly apart on mitigation arrangements.
March 2026	Technical Review Meeting Scheduling	MGL confirmed that a technical consultant was available for a Teams meeting and proposed a time, offering to host in-person with refreshments. The Kā Rūnaka advisory team advised they had returned to the Coast and requested the meeting be conducted virtually, confirming they looked forward to receiving the meeting invitation.

Date	Subject	Summary
March 2026	Hui Minutes Circulation	MGL sent Kā Rūnaka the minutes from the 26 March hui and requested confirmation of accuracy or any corrections at the earliest opportunity. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged receipt, confirmed they would review the minutes over the coming days, and reiterated that all engagements regarding potential effects and mitigations were to be treated as without prejudice and commercial in confidence.
March 2026	Geochemistry Discussion Meeting	MGL organised a Microsoft Teams meeting to discuss geochemistry matters related to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. The meeting invitation was sent to multiple recipients including the Kā Rūnaka advisory team and was scheduled to take place at the Cromwell Boardroom.
April 2026	MGL Position on Consenting	MGL formally wrote to Kā Rūnaka parties (Te Rūnanga o Moeraki, Hokonui Rūnanga, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, and Kāti Huirapa Rūnanga ki Puketeraki) recording its position following the 26 March hui, having taken legal advice. The letter addressed the history of engagement and requirements of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024, particularly sections 7, 84, and 85 regarding Treaty settlement obligations. MGL stated that Treaty of Waitangi and NTCSA obligations, including principles of rangatiratanga and enhanced participation rights, are owed by the Crown, not MGL. MGL disputed the without-prejudice labelling of the 26 March meeting and noted the MfE section 18 report had not identified Treaty settlement breaches in the BOGP area. MGL acknowledged Kā Rūnaka as a crucial stakeholder and reaffirmed commitment to ongoing consultation.
April 2026	Chairman's Letter Delivery	MGL sent Kā Rūnaka the formal letter from MGL's Chairman outlining Santana's stance on matters requiring resolution and offered to meet in Christchurch the following Tuesday to progress discussions. Kā Rūnaka declined the proposed meeting due to school holidays, advised that the Steering Komiti was reviewing a letter from the Kā Rūnaka side before sending, and committed to finalising the meeting minutes shortly.
April 2026	Minutes Review Exchange	Kā Rūnaka sent MGL marked-up responses to the draft meeting minutes, reviewed by Kā Rūnaka representatives, and suggested discussing them the following Tuesday. MGL acknowledged receipt of the marked-up minutes, proposed a Teams call with an option for an in-person meeting with MGL's Chairman, and enquired whether Kā Rūnaka still intended to send the letter referenced in an earlier phone call.
April 2026	Cultural Impact Assessment Discussion	MGL informed Kā Rūnaka that the hearing Panel's Request for Information sought both the draft and final Cultural Impact Assessments. MGL indicated an inclination not to provide the draft and asked whether the final CIA could be updated to incorporate information submitted with the application. Kā Rūnaka replied that they were compiling the final CIA, endorsed by the Steering Komiti in March, along with recreated Appendices 8 and 9 with additional material covering substantive application reports. Kā Rūnaka suggested a phone call to clarify the question and subsequently accepted a Teams meeting invitation for the discussion.
April 2026	CIA Teams Call	MGL and Kā Rūnaka held a sixteen-minute Teams call to discuss the CIA-related Panel information request.
April 2026	March Invoice Advisory	Kā Rūnaka advised MGL that the March invoice would be larger than usual due to accumulated internal costs, advisor fees (including the Kā Rūnaka advisory team), the wānanga with four rūnaka, technical advisor engagement, and legal support for Cultural Impact Agreement discussions. Kā Rūnaka noted they would absorb some incurred effort given MGL's support to date. MGL acknowledged receipt of this notification.
April 2026	Participant Comments Forwarded	Kā Rūnaka forwarded to MGL the confidential Kā Rūnaka participant comments and expert evidence submitted to the EPA as part of the Fast Track process for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. The submission covered mining, ecology, landscape, Kāi Tahu cultural values, Treaty-cultural issues including a Cultural Impact Assessment, and legal submissions. MGL acknowledged receipt of the package.

**APPENDIX 2 – LETTER FROM MR PETER COOK TO THE CHAIR
OF THE STEERING KOMITI**

2 April 2026

Te Rūnanga o Moeraki Incorporated
Hokonui Rūnanga Incorporated
Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou Incorporated
Kāti Huirapa Rūnanga ki Puketeraki Incorporated
("Kā Rūnaka Parties")

Attn: [REDACTED]

CC [REDACTED]

By email

Dear [REDACTED]

Matakanui Gold Limited ("MGL") position on consenting of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project ("BOGP") under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 ("FTAA") and Kā Rūnaka input

- 1 We write further to our discussion about the BOGP on 26 March 2026 at Dunedin to now formally record MGL's position, having taken advice. Whilst anticipating correspondence from yourself, in the interests of progress we send you this letter outlining and advising of our stance on matters that need a resolution.
- 2 For completeness, a minute of the meeting on 26 March is re-attached at Appendix 1 to this letter. In summary, you expressed a willingness to discuss, but not negotiate, the Komiti's position as set out in your email to Damian Spring of 27 October 2025. You further observed that the parties remain 'poles apart' on both cultural and commercial matters.
- 3 We note your email of 31 March labelling the discussion at Dunedin airport as "without prejudice and commercial in confidence". While some of our correspondence has been labelled without prejudice and commercial in confidence, we understood the discussion at Dunedin airport to be on the record. MGL will need to update the Panel on the consultation we are undertaking with Kā Rūnaka, which will include our recorded discussions.

History of engagement

- 4 MGL notes that Kā Rūnaka considers there has been inadequate consultation, and notes the Kā Rūnaka view that Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi ("**Treaty**"), the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 ("**NTCSA**") and the Resource Management Act 1991 give rise to principles of rangatiratanga, which are effectively enhanced participation rights. MGL considers that, as a matter of law, to the extent these obligations arise, they are obligations owed by the Crown. MGL is not a party to the Treaty or NTCSA.
- 5 Notwithstanding this, we include at Appendix 2 a non-exhaustive record of the engagement between MGL and the Kā Rūnaka parties to date. MGL recognises that Kā Rūnaka is a crucial stakeholder in the BOGP. As this has taken place over a number of years, some interactions may have been inadvertently missed. We include this to demonstrate that there has been considerable engagement, and we remain committed to ongoing consultation in line with the offers extended to date. We will provide a more comprehensive list next week for your records.

Requirements of the FTAA and alleged Treaty settlement breach

- 6 As you well know, section 7 of the FTAA requires all persons exercising functions, powers and duties under the FTAA to act in a manner consistent with obligations arising under relevant Treaty settlements. Section 85 of the Act requires an expert panel to decline an application if approving it would breach section 7 of the Act. Section 84 allows an expert panel to set conditions to protect a relevant Treaty settlement.
- 7 We are agreed that the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 (the “**NTCSA**”) is the relevant treaty settlement for the BOGP area. It sets out the Crown’s obligations in respect of the settlement.
- 8 In its section 18 report to the Panel, the Ministry for the Environment has not identified any other Treaty settlement obligations that are relevant to the BOGP area. Neither have our advisors.
- 9 We understand your position is that you desire long term governance and custodianship of the land (including private land holdings that fall outside the NTCSA), participation rights in the project, protection of taonga species (both flora and fauna), the landscape treasure and waterways. Many of these issues (particularly those relating to private property) are matters for you and the Crown. Notably, being on private land, the BOGP area does not contain a statutory acknowledgement area under the NTCSA.
- 10 We note that at our meeting on 26 March, taoka species, the landscape treasure and waterways were discussed. It would be useful from our perspective to understand further the impact you consider the project will have on taoka species, the landscape treasure and waterways, and how in your view this renders the project inconsistent with the Crown’s obligations under the NTSCA.
- 11 From MGL’s position, we have designed the project with the protection of the above matters in mind, and have made remediation commitments more generally to restore the BOGP land post-mining. These are further described below, and in our offer of 23 March 2026.
- 12 MGL fully expects the Panel to ensure that these commitments are captured in the conditions that it will impose on MGL going forward. As such, MGL’s position is that the project is not inconsistent with existing Treaty settlements and no breach arises.

Cultural Impact Agreement

- 13 We note the various requirements that Kā Rūnaka have outlined, to be included a Cultural Impact Agreement (“**CIAg**”), in order to achieve a non-objection to BOGP. A term sheet has been in circulation since 27 October, and we believe this version is the version preferred by the Komiti.
- 14 We consider these requirements can be divided into four parts: acknowledgements, collaboration, environmental protection, and monetary compensation. The sections below outline our thoughts on each aspect of the CIAg.

Acknowledgements

- 15 The term sheet makes a number of claims with respect to BOGP and the status the land has. MGL acknowledges Kā Rūnaka have stated ancestral and spiritual connections to the land. We support you in this.
- 16 However, MGL notes the BOGP area falls entirely on land that is privately held and is not subject to any statutory acknowledgements under the NTCSA. The land is privately owned by third parties. Neither of

you can interfere with those rights. Nevertheless, you have continued to assert broad tikanga concepts to claim an interest in this private property. MGL cannot assist you with this. If Kā Rūnaka wishes to assert further rights in respect of private property it needs to take that matter up with the Crown, not MGL.

- 17 If your interest is in owning that land post completion of mining and rehabilitation and you are willing to purchase the land at that time, then MGL is open to assisting you with this.

Collaboration

- 18 A joint steering group was envisaged, and has been agreed. A funding commitment of \$75,000 p.a. is agreed by MGL to support this group's operation, in line with the Komiti's request. However, a broad commitment to intergenerational abundance needs further discussion and understanding but we do not agree to the joint steering group to be considered a body with veto or audit rights over BOGP. The joint steering group is an information sharing and consultation group, responsible for informing the development of a cultural effects mitigation programme and furthering our relationship.
- 19 MGL expects that matters such as mitigation/remediation measures and environmental protection will be primarily dealt with via the consent conditions for the BOGP, and via the usual regulatory framework which applies to mining in New Zealand, but with input from the joint steering group.
- 20 The request for a Kā Rūnaka Relationship Manager during each year of the CIAg for \$120,000 per year during construction and \$80,000 per year during operations is agreed. This role is in line with the term sheet, but with alternations made consistent with MGL's wider stakeholder obligations.
- 21 The term sheet required a cultural effects mitigation programme to acknowledge Kā Rūnaka's connection to the ara tawhito, which traverses the whenua on which the BOGP is being developed and provide access to the whenua for cultural activities, such as seed and species collection. It was also intended to implement monitoring and mitigation measures. MGL have agreed to a \$250,000 p.a. payment to support this, as well as participation in agreed monitoring activities.
- 22 This collaboration is outlined in more detail in our letter of 26 March, and we consider it largely addresses the term sheet concerns, and is consistent with good international practice (based on our research, and the examples provided in your PWC advice letter).

Environmental protection

- 23 The term sheet refers to a requirement to refresh the Landscape and Visual Impacts Agreement. MGL has agreed to a contribution of \$40,000 to this work, including to support the input of Te Pūkenga Rōpū.
- 24 The term sheet also required mitigation measures to address effects on water, and MGL have acknowledged the importance of this to Kā Rūnaka. MGL have agreed to a monitoring framework in accordance with consent conditions, and to receive input from Kā Rūnaka on the same. MGL will also meet all regulatory and consent conditions. This is consistent with the MGL position that it is not reasonable to be held to one set of conditions set by Kā Rūnaka and a separate set of statutory conditions.
- 25 Kā Rūnaka require offset of damage or loss to all wetlands, protected and taoka species, and whenua arising out of the project, through creation of other protected locations. Again, MGL have agreed to undertake offsetting and rehabilitation of impacts in accordance with consent conditions. Additional areas for rehabilitation will of course be considered where appropriate and feasible.

26 Lastly, the term sheet covered certain ecological matters, such as pest control and species management plans. Again, the letter of 26 March made various commitments to monitoring, and Kā Rūnaka input into management plans. The MGL view is that ecological concerns will be dealt with principally via the consent conditions.

27 A one-off fee of \$120,000 has been offered to assist with input into management plans.

Monetary compensation

28 We consider this is where the main disagreement between the parties lies. The meeting on 26 March reiterated that a reasonable compensation amount was required. MGL's strong contention is that the compensation which is offered is reasonable, and is in line with precedent elsewhere, per the letter from PWC to [REDACTED] on precedents for payments related to cultural effects.

29 MGL have offered to pay for the establishment of an annual Iwi Capability and Participation Fund of \$500,000 per annum of sustainable gold production (consistent with BHP and Barada Barna scheme), first access to selected site infrastructure at close, and a commercial arrangement for accommodation. This is in addition to the cultural effects mitigation programme offset.

30 We note that at our meeting of 26 of March, rather than addressing the detailed working plan we had provided, you encouraged us to look at these matters as an "overall package" to be agreed, with your then clearly started expectation of a large compensation or offset payment being made by MGL to Kā Rūnaka in some form.

31 You referred us to the Meridian Energy and Genesis Energy Waitaki Scheme consenting, and the very significant payments made in that case. You indicated that you expect a payment from MGL of similar magnitude, that is in the order of \$180m, as monetary compensation for effects which cannot be mitigated based on this precedent and associated advice from PWC. Your PWC advice lacks key details.

32 First, our understanding is that part of the \$180m payment made over the 35 year consent period also goes to DOC and Fish and Game. Media reporting suggests that \$104m went to Ngāi Tahu, rather than the full amount. Further, this payment is made over the term of the consent period.

33 Moreover, key to the Waitaki Scheme (and the compensation there) was the permanent destruction of sacred sites due to flooding/ environmental impacts of the hydroelectric scheme. The Cultural Impact Assessment prepared for Kā Rūnaka supports this and notes that major infrastructure works for hydroelectric generation have had the "biggest" impact on mana whenua values. In the case of the BOGP, we have undertaken to avoid the one and only archaeological site identified within the project area (again, distinguishing this project from the egregious Rio Tinto destruction of shelters continuously inhabited over 46,000 years sited by PWC) and the interruption of streams will be managed appropriately through the life of the project.

34 Lastly, key to the Waitaki Scheme consenting and associated payments is the fact that the consenting takes place under the RMA. BOGP is being assessed under the FTAA. The purposes of the RMA are quite different to the purposes of the FTAA, which has been passed specifically to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. The BOGP is a scheduled FTAA project.

35 The two projects (BOGP and Waitaki Scheme), their impacts, and parties involved are all extremely different and we do not consider the Waitaki Scheme to be a relevant comparator to BOGP.

- 36 Finally, we reiterate that it is not commercially feasible for us to offer payments larger than those already offered; our ASX obligations will require the disclosure of such compensation arrangements and we do not believe we will be able to secure shareholder approval of such a compensation package. Further, such large participation payments (whether royalties or free carry) are outside the bounds of our business case and financing plans and would be imprudent from a governance perspective. Further, we cannot be seen to be paying for a non-objection, and consider that to do so would cause serious governance and compliance concerns.
- 37 We consider that the offer made to date is a fair basis for proceeding, and adequately addresses the concerns raised to date.

We welcome your participation in BOGP

- 38 We continue to welcome Ka Rūnaka's participation in the project. We would like the Ka Rūnaka parties and the whanau they represent to benefit from BOGP's outputs and to have a seat at the table alongside us and other shareholders in matters of concern to you.
- 39 We have in the past offered a priority status to participate in our latest corporate capital raising, which was rejected. It was pleasing to hear on 26 March that your preference was for participation at direct ownership level in the project itself on a paid basis. This was very pleasing given your previous demands to be gifted a substantial stake and then option to buy further.
- 40 To enable us to process/advance this option of the Ka Rūnaka parties having a stake in MGL, without derailing our advanced equity and debt financing strategy, could you please advise the quantum of direct ownership you desire, the basis for payment of it (if not independently assessed fair value) and any other conditions you attach to it. Again I note that your position will likely need to be taken to Santana's shareholders at a duly convened shareholders meeting if the materiality impact of the proposal is deemed beyond the ability of the Board to accept it for and on behalf of our shareholders or is otherwise required by the ASX Listing Rules to which we are subject.

Next steps

- 41 In terms of a way forward, we ask you to respond on the ownership point and we propose a further discussion, based on the letter of 23 March, for which we have stakeholder support. We intend to submit both this letter, and the letter of 23 March to the panel, as a record of the consultation and mitigation proposals offered to date.
- 42 We remain committed to open discussion and transparency, and aim to develop a constructive working relationship notwithstanding our differences on compensation, and the basis for such compensation.
- 43 In alignment with the governing precedence of the FTA and the substantive baseline studies and propose effects mitigation which cover the other statutory requirements, I add that it would grossly disappointing if a project that offers so many socioeconomic and fiscal benefits to so many, is denied due to oppressive negotiating tactics
- 44 We wish you a peaceful Easter and suggest we meet after the holiday period to discuss a way forward. I am available on Tuesday 7th April in Christchurch as I will be there for a family reunion on the weekend.



Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and the last name "Cook" clearly distinguishable.

Peter Cook
Non-Executive Chairman
Santana Minerals Ltd
Matakanui Gold Limited (NZ)

Appendix 1- Record of Hui 26 March

Record of Meeting

Meeting between Matakanui Gold Limited (MGL) and Kā Rūnaka

Date: 26 March 2026

Time: 6:00 pm to 7:10pm

Location: Dunedin Airport

Matakanui Gold Directors:

- Peter Cook
- Damian Spring

Kā Rūnaka Representatives:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Purpose of Meeting

To discuss the Komiti position on cultural, commercial, and governance matters associated with the project, and to understand expectations ahead of upcoming Fast-track Approvals (FTA) milestones.

Context

The meeting occurred at the request of Matakanui Gold and was described as frank and candid. Clarification was sought regarding decision-making authority. Kā Rūnaka advised that while they are not final decision-makers, they act as gatekeepers and advisors to the Komiti, filtering information and shaping recommendations presented to approximately 20 to 30 decision-makers across the four rūnaka.

Discussion Summary

General Position

- Kā Rūnaka stated they were open to ongoing discussion.
- They indicated that a “neutral” Komiti position should be regarded as effectively equivalent to support.
- They also stated that they were not seeking to negotiate terms.

Key Positions Expressed by Kā Rūnaka

1. Negotiation and Compensation Expectations

- They stated there is no intention to negotiate, but rather an expectation that the project aligns with the Komiti’s position, including an appropriate compensation quantum.
- An example was given of the PwC letter compensation quantum of approximately \$180m associated with the Waitaki hydro-electric consent renewal as reported by media.

2. Cultural and Commercial Matters

- Cultural matters (including working groups and governance arrangements) and commercial settlement/compensation are viewed as a single, inseparable package.
- They indicated there is no intent to agree to one aspect without agreement on the other.

3. Assessment of Engagement to Date

- Kā Rūnaka stated that variations in the project’s engagement approach or efforts to date were not considered material to their assessment.

4. **Expectation Gap and Timing**

- They stated that the parties remain “poles apart” on both cultural and commercial matters.
- The responsibility was placed on Matakanui to develop a proposal that meets Komiti expectations.
- While acknowledging the 10 April milestone, they indicated discussions could continue (but not negotiations) through to the 29 October decision date.

5. **Process and Perceived Pressure**

- Kā Rūnaka questioned the timing of the engagement and stated a view that the project had not shown sufficient respect or responsiveness earlier in the process.
- They reiterated that the Komiti’s expectations were clearly set out in its letter dated 27 October 2025, implying acceptance of that position or objection.

6. **Expert Review**

- They expressed strong confidence in their experts’ review of the project documentation.
- They stated their experts are well regarded in both Māori and Pākehā contexts and that this satisfies the Komiti’s requirement for a robust evaluative process.

Treaty and Cultural Matters

When asked to specify alleged Treaty settlement breaches, Kā Rūnaka responded that, in their view, the project fails to address overall guardianship of land and the right of mana whenua to have a meaningful say. Specific matters raised included:

1. **Taonga Species**

- A desire to protect taramea and other taonga species under the NTCSA 1997, s97.
- They indicated that species surveys assessments were insufficient.

2. **Waterways**

- Concern regarding the “loss of kilometres of waterways,” specifically Shepherd Creek and Rise & Shine Creek.
- They rejected the characterisation of impacts as temporary, referring instead to the concept of mauri (the spiritual essence of water).

3. **Land Ownership**

- Private land ownership was stated to be irrelevant to their assessment.
- There was some acknowledgement that certain issues may be between iwi and the Crown; however, they stated this remains relevant to the project because iwi consent is required.

Social Licence

- Kā Rūnaka stated that the project would not proceed without social licence.

- They advised that the Komiti actively considers negative commentary and views expressed in local media and submissions.

Project Position Outlined

- Matakanui Gold stated that the current approach felt constrained by timing pressures.
- A preference was expressed for a cooperative outcome, potentially including elements of joint ownership.
- It was noted that proceeding through Fast-track with approval but remaining fundamentally at odds with iwi was not desirable.

Ownership and Participation Discussion

- Kā Rūnaka indicated a preference for meaningful participation via purchased equity, including a seat at the table (acknowledging a minority position).
- This participation would need to be at MGL level; there was no interest in corporate-level participation.
- Financing and security constraints were raised by Matakanui Gold. Kā Rūnaka acknowledged these constraints and stated they understood capital markets.

Other Benefits

- Matters such as scholarships and iwi business opportunities were not supported for further discussion, with reference made to these already being covered in the CIAg term sheet.
- The project was characterised as large, lucrative, and intergenerational, and therefore not comparable to smaller developments.

Closing Observations

- There were indications that land return or compensatory offsets in other locations may be of interest, although this was not developed in detail.
- Kā Rūnaka indicated that the Komiti will reconvene within the next 24-36 hours to finalise its position.
- That position will then be taken to the rūnaka decision-makers ahead of the 10 April deadline.

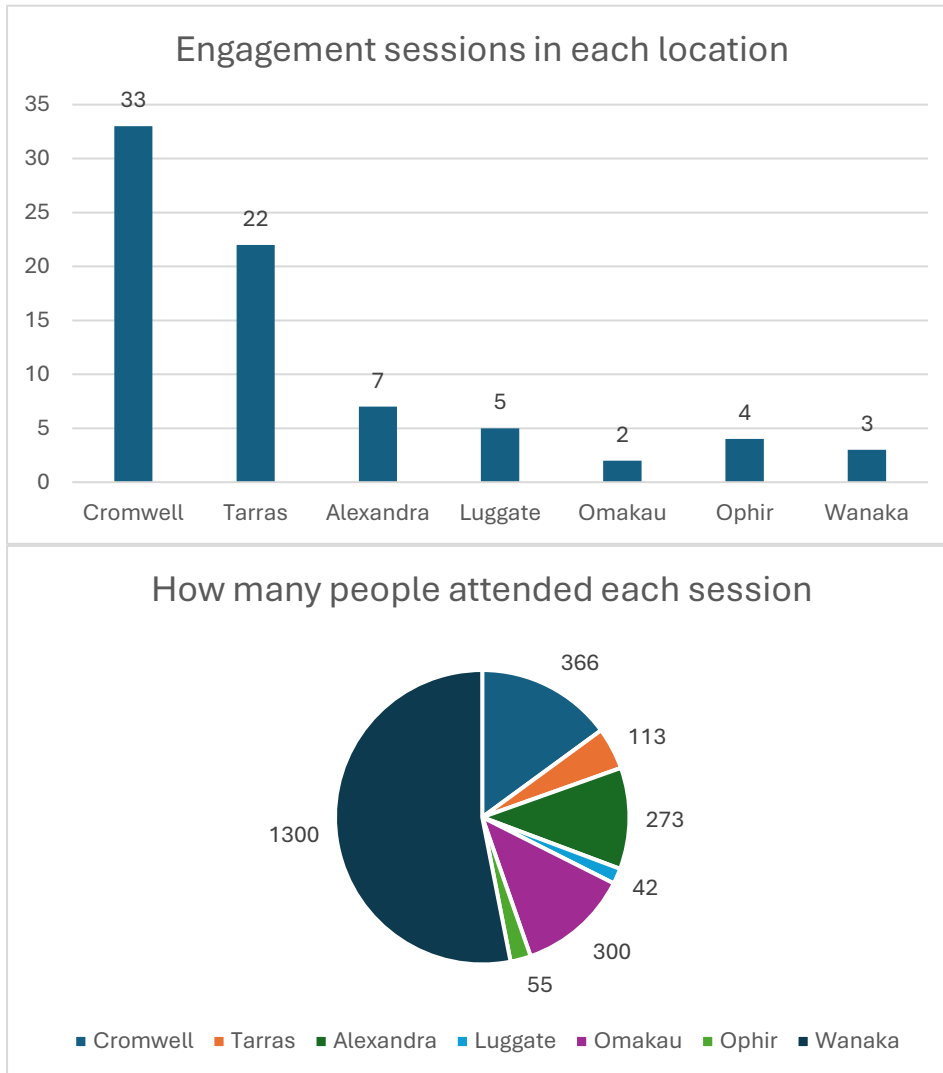
Appendix 2- Non-exhaustive Record of consultation on the Bendigo-Ophir Project

Date	Description	Comment
[2018]	Cultural Values Statement	Reviewed impact of mining operations on cultural values, archaeological sites, and flora.
[2018/20]	Protocol of Engagement between Kati Huirapa Rūnanga ki Puketeraki and Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou	Provided for information sharing, a consultation process, and a commitment to manage the effects of mining activities as far as practicable.
[2025]	Process Agreement between MGL and the Kā Rūnaka Parties	
10 July 2025	Hui with Board of Directors at Tamatea Marae	
23 & 25 September 2025	Correspondence with [REDACTED]	Draft consent conditions provided by MGL
2 October 2025	Letter to MGL from [REDACTED]	
9 October 2025	Letter to MGL from [REDACTED] on behalf of Kā Runāka parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided draft Cultural Impact Assessment • Provided feedback on technical review • Acknowledged consent conditions and set out mitigations • Required any CIAG to provide for a position of intergenerational abundance in order to adopt a neutral position on consents
17 October 2025	Letter to [REDACTED] and Steering Committee to Kā Runāka parties from SML	Noted criticism of how Kā Runāka's perspective had not been acknowledged in expert technical reports. Agreed CIAG and JSG as necessary. Noted a pathway to shared ownership for Kā Runāka's
27 October 2025	Email to MGL from [REDACTED] / Komiti	Draft cultural impact term sheet provided.
27 November 2025	Letter to Peter Cook from [REDACTED] as Chair of the Kā Runāka Steering Komiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stated MGL breached the Process Agreement, and outlined disappointment that FTAA reports and application had not been shared with technical team, and consent conditions lodged. Consultation considered inadequate. • De facto position of being in opposition
3 December 2025	Letter from Peter Cook to [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes alleged breach of Process Agreement but states that Agreement remains unsigned by all parties, so a breach has not occurred. Asserts material information has not been withheld • Notes land is freehold and has been farmed for 150 years

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addresses proposed 8.5% royalty or 5% free-carried interest with option to acquire equity and states that this is not commercially realistic nor capable of obtaining shareholder approval Notes commitment to employment and supplier opportunities
11 February 2026	Draft Cultural Impact Term Sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royalty of 0.5% of annual audited accounting profits or gift of 5% of the shares in MGL and right to purchase up to 9% MGL shares “at cost” until operations begin with extensive shareholder protections In return for a “will not oppose”
[10 March] 2026	Workshop/ hui to discuss cultural & economic impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of rangatirataka as recognised under the NTCSA 1998 play out as “enhanced participation rights”. Exercise of rangatirataka also needs the economic means to do so Discussed what possible Treaty breaches there might be. Suggested MGL request a formal description. Discussed compensation for effects that can’t be mitigated or avoided. Financing package has progressed and ownership now difficult Outlined MGL position of supporting the costs for Ka Rūnaka as part of the JSG via funding of \$500kpa plus a cash payment of another \$500k per year to a Ka Rūnaka entity of gold production.
12 March 2026	Statement of Principles mark-up from [REDACTED]	
[17] March 2026	Statement of Principles mark-up from MGL	
23 March 2026	Santana letter to [REDACTED]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Santana noted previous discussion on commercial participation but noted that present position was that project was now fully funded Responded on CIAG agreement framework, with a new draft for discussion Responded on funding levels for the CIAG, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$427k per annum payment \$160,000 in one-off payments to fund input Annual iwi capability and participation fund of \$500,000 per annum Payments related to sustainable gold production, and indexed.

<p>26 March 2026</p>	<p>Meeting at Dunedin airport between [REDACTED], Peter Cook and Damian Spring</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification sought regarding decision-making authority. Kā Rūnaka advised they are not final decision-makers, they act as gatekeepers and advisors to the Komiti, shaping recommendations presented to approximately 20 to 30 decision-makers across the four rūnaka • Open to discussion but commercial terms not open to negotiation • Expectations as per letter dated 27 October 2025 • Insufficient engagement by MGL early in the process • Kā Rūnaka indicated a preference participation via purchased equity in MGL, including a seat at the table (acknowledging a minority position). • Treaty breaches related to Taonga species, loss of waterways, private land irrelevant.
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APPENDIX 3 RECORD OF COMMUNITY DROP-IN SESSIONS



Interaction Date	Subject	Description	Count	Location	Staff Attendance
23/09/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement with attendees, including expressed support from a local winegrower, alongside general project information sharing and updates	6	Cromwell	2
23/09/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Six attendees engaged positively, with discussion focused on project updates and the site location.	6	Cromwell	2
23/09/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees raised concerns regarding water, tailings storage, light, dust, noise, and visual impacts. While initial feedback reflected these concerns, some attendees later expressed a more positive view of the project once the majority of the group has left.	8	Tarras	2
28/09/2024	Alexandra Blossom Festival	Attendees engaged positively, asking for general project information, including environmental and ecology work, and exploring potential contracting employment and supplier.	100	Alexandra	8
30/09/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with attendees seeking general project information, including environmental and ecology studies, and enquiring about contracting opportunities.	5	Cromwell	2
30/09/2024	Community Drop-in Session	All interactions were positive, with attendees discussing general project information, location, Thompson Gorge Road closure, and job opportunities.	5	Tarras	4
7/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees engaged in general project discussions, including community investment, with a request from one attendee to be included in the social impact study. Engagement was positive overall, with interest in the underground mining approach, construction methods, employment numbers, and considerations raised around regional accommodation capacity.	6	Cromwell	2
7/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Discussion focused on recruitment opportunities, visual impacts, water management, and access arrangements, including the proposed Thompson Gorge Road alternative route and mine site access.	7	Cromwell	2
7/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees showed general interest in the project, including its location and resource potential, with one repeat attendee seeking updated information.	3	Tarras	2
14/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with attendees asking general project questions, expressing interest in job opportunities, discussing geology, and seeking updates as shareholders.	6	Cromwell	2

14/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session		3	Tarras	2
21/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session		5	Cromwell	2
21/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with attendees asking general project questions, expressing interest in job opportunities, discussing geology, and seeking updates as shareholders.	8	Cromwell	2
21/10/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees asked general questions about the project, including location and company details, with discussions covering the tailings storage facility, processing, and pit location.	2	Tarras	2
4/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with attendees receiving a general project update and expressing interest in employment and business opportunities.	8	Cromwell	2
4/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Eight attendees were engaged and asked a range of questions, with overall positive sentiment toward the project.	8	Tarras	2
11/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Five attendees, all engaged positively with the session.	5	Cromwell	2
11/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Approximately 11 attendees engaged in detailed discussion, raising questions around dust, cyanide, noise, TGR rerouting, and rehabilitation. Overall sentiment was generally supportive, with some mixed or unsupportive views.	11	Cromwell	2
11/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	One attendee with a background in mining engaged positively, seeking information on the project, with discussion covering water, electricity, tailings, accommodation, pit mining, remediation and closure, and noise.	1	Tarras	2
18/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Five attendees engaged with questions covering water, employment, general project information, pit size (including comparison to Macraes), roading, infrastructure, and chemical use.	5	Cromwell	2
18/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Eight attendees engaged, including job seekers and local residents, with discussion covering employment opportunities, noise, water, accommodation, and hiring sources. Specific interest was also shown in landscape impacts and the need for clearer visual representations of the project location.	8	Tarras	2

25/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with recruitment enquiries and a range of questions, including discussion on the alternative route and noise impacts.	10	Cromwell	2
25/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees engaged in detailed discussion on underground mining methods and safety (including shotcrete), tailings storage, access and roading, and broader project aspects such as housing, water supply, blasting, closure, and legacy. Questions also covered potential open days and economic contributions, with some positive sentiment expressed.	6	Cromwell	2
25/11/2024	Community Drop-in Session	One attendee (a local shareholder) engaged with questions focused on noise, light, water, and project timelines.	1	Tarras	3
2/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Four attendees engaged positively, with discussion covering a general project overview, TGR road realignment, layout and tailings storage, mine life, remediation, housing and accommodation, future exploration, geology, project economics, and initial impacts.	4	Cromwell	2
2/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	No attendees at this session.	0	Tarras	2
9/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Nine attendees engaged with detailed questions covering water quality and management (including remediation), ecology, tailings storage, processing, open pit and underground mining, mine life, closure requirements, and TGR closure. Discussion also included blasting, chemical management (including arsenic and cyanide), and employment, particularly local hiring.	9	Cromwell	2
9/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Seven attendees engaged in discussion covering geology, the proposed TGR alternative route, ecology, independence of consultants, and employment and PR/communications opportunities.	7	Cromwell	2

9/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	One attendee engaged with questions focused on water and access to DOC land, with discussion also covering TGR closure and alternative routes, project information materials, and ecology.	1	Tarras	2
16/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Sixteen attendees engaged in discussion covering shares and project updates, TGR alternative route and Ardgour intersection improvements, tailings storage and on-site processing, traffic, noise and light effects, business opportunities, water use and management, and remediation and closure.	16	Cromwell	2
16/12/2024	Community Drop-in Session	Three attendees, one attendee expressed strong opposition to the project, raising concerns about visual representations, tailings dam risks, environmental and social impacts, perceived lack of local benefit to Tarras, and distrust regarding delivery of proposed commitments.	3	Tarras	2
13/01/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees showed interest in employment opportunities, with enquiries about roles available for locals, and a request for project reports to be made available earlier to support community understanding.	6	Tarras	3
20/01/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Positive engagement, with attendees enquiring about jobs, use of local suppliers and businesses, and accommodation partnerships, alongside shareholder questions on dividends and a general project update.	9	Cromwell	2
3/02/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees, including geologists and a former employee, engaged with interest in the discovery and project progress. Discussion also covered accommodation pressures, water requirements, and broader community impacts, including concerns about growth, infrastructure needs, and investment in services such as healthcare and roading.	12	Cromwell	2
8/02/2025	Central Otago A & P Show	Overall very positive engagement, with strong interest in employment opportunities. Attendees asked about pit size and project purpose, sought investor updates, and raised concerns regarding misinformation.	120	Omakau	8
10/02/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Three attendees engaged positively, including two seeking employment and one supplier, with interest in opportunities associated with the project.	3	Tarras	2

17/02/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Thirteen attendees engaged, with most seeking employment or supplier opportunities. Returning attendees sought project updates and timeline information, and a suggestion was made regarding accommodation options. Overall sentiment was very positive.	13	Cromwell	3
3/03/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees engaged with a range of questions covering housing, processing arrangements, project viability, accommodation solutions, and apprenticeship pathways. Discussion also included iwi and regulatory involvement, as well as regional agreements and potential community benefits.	20	Cromwell	3
7-8/03/2025	Wanaka A&P Show	Wānaka A&P Show – Strong attendance with high levels of interest. Attendees asked a wide range of questions covering drilling and core sampling, open pit depth and mining methods, water consents and groundwater management, project timing, employment opportunities and qualifications, accommodation, and shareholder engagement. Discussion also included visuals of the operation, environmental considerations, workforce diversity, tailings storage, the fast-track process, and potential noise and lighting effects. Overall sentiment was overwhelmingly positive.	400	Wanaka	10
10/03/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Seven attendees engaged positively, with interest in employment opportunities including HR/recruitment. Discussion covered project overview, common topics such as tailings storage, seepage, light, noise, cyanide, arsenic, and accommodation, with accommodation identified as a key concern.	7	Tarras	2
17/03/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Eleven attendees engaged positively with strong interest in the project, including employment enquiries and use of local contractors. Discussion covered machinery, water use, accommodation pressures and transport solutions, including regional pick-up options.	11	Cromwell	2
31/03/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees asked detailed geology and technical questions, including the RAS shear zone and strip ratio, alongside queries on operating model, transport logistics, and project timing, including transition to underground mining.	14	Cromwell	2
14/04/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Two attendees engaged, including a long-term local resident seeking assurance on groundwater impacts to a private bore, and another enquiring about employment opportunities.	2	Tarras	2

19-20/04/2025	Wheels at Wanaka	Strong attendance with positive sentiment, including significant interest in employment opportunities. Discussion covered project updates and overview, ecology, project location, TGR access and alternative routes (including access to hunting blocks), and the status and timing of the submission.	250	Wanaka	8
28/04/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees engaged with questions on Thompson Gorge Road access and traffic impacts, water management and source, project timelines, and construction camp arrangements. There was also interest in employment opportunities and company ownership, with overall positive sentiment about the project’s potential for the area.	7	Cromwell	2
12/05/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Two attendees, both positive, sought general information on the project, including its location and what is involved.	2	Tarras	2
19/05/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Three attendees, all seeking employment opportunities, including repeat attendees looking for project updates.	3	Cromwell	2
9/06/2025	Community Drop-in Session	No attendees at this session.	0	Tarras	2
16/06/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees raised a broad range of questions covering arsenic management, regional benefits, consenting timelines and fast-track process, and project scale. Discussion also included TGR resilience, visual impacts, wildlife, housing and workforce, bonds and closure outcomes, water use, and future permitting, alongside interest in employment opportunities.	12	Cromwell	3
30/06/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees asked questions regarding the use of the Fast-track Approvals process versus RMA, power supply, and dam design, alongside discussion on ecology studies, DOC covenants, rehabilitation, and closure planning, including consideration of natural and regional significance.	3	Cromwell	2
7/07/2025	Community Drop-in Session	One attendee, a journalist, attended to gain an overview of the project for an upcoming interview.	1	Tarras	2
21/07/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Approximately six attendees engaged positively, with discussion focused on explaining the project, including the geology of the area and the nature of the deposit.	6	Alexandra	4

4/08/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Approximately eight attendees engaged, with a mix of positive sentiment and concerns, particularly regarding electricity, water, dust, and ecological impacts, alongside interest in employment opportunities.	8	Luggate	3
18/08/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Strong attendance, with discussion focused on mine location and clarification of exploration versus future consenting. Attendees asked about employment and supplier opportunities, traffic impacts (including TGR access), and water management, including recycling systems and seepage controls. Overall engagement included both interest in opportunities and local impact considerations.	15	Ophir	3
1/09/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees raised questions on water and health impacts (including dust), mitigation measures, TSF stability, and project location. Discussion also covered accommodation and housing pressures, schooling capacity, power usage, potential future discoveries, and investment in housing solutions.	13	Cromwell	2
15/09/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Seven attendees with discussion focused on general project information and updates, post-closure land use and visual impacts of the project.	7	Alexandra	5
27/09/2025	Alexandra Blossom Festival	Attendees engaged with a wide range of questions covering the fast-track process and timelines, project start dates for construction and mining, and recruitment timing. Discussion also included water quality management, tailings storage, arsenic and cyanide handling, dust and air quality, visual impacts, earthquake stability, bonds, closure and rehabilitation, mine life, project economics, and underground operations. Sentiment was mixed, with some attendees strongly supportive (including sharing personal mining experience) and others opposed. Additional questions were raised regarding royalties, community contributions and sponsorship, and dust management and limits.	80	Alexandra	10

29/09/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Two attendees engaged, raising questions on ecology, water, dust, noise, closure, and tailings. One attendee sought factual clarification following negative media, while another repeat attendee sought an update and remained unsupportive of the project.	2	Luggate	2
13/10/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Ten attendees engaged, with predominantly positive sentiment and strong interest in employment opportunities. One attendee raised concerns regarding water, and overall feedback included encouragement for the project to proceed.	10	Ophir	4
20/10/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Approximately 18 attendees engaged with very positive sentiment, discussing land purchases, accommodation, employment opportunities, and technical aspects including ELF and TSF, Ardgour Rise (new road), and geology.	18	Cromwell	3
10/11/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Strong attendance, with discussion covering tailings storage, water impacts, geology, and earthquake risk. Attendees also asked about community engagement, access routes, sponsorship opportunities, entry-level roles, potential compensation for affected parties, comparisons to other projects, and health and safety performance.	30	Tarras	11
24/11/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees asked a range of questions focused on accommodation planning, air quality, and general project updates, along with broader information about the project.	20	Alexandra	3
8/12/2025	Community Drop-in Session	Ten attendees engaged, with feedback highlighting the need for improved communication and promotion of drop-in sessions, and discussion on balancing economic benefits against environmental impacts.	10	Luggate	3
12/01/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Discussion covered accommodation for construction and operations, worker transport, visual impacts and rehabilitation, alongside recruitment enquiries.	22	Cromwell	5

19/01/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Strong attendance, with discussion covering seismic risk, processing methods (including cyanide and arsenic management), dust and air quality management, accommodation, and community benefits. Additional topics included TGR closure and alternative access, mine operation structure, and health and wellbeing.	23	Ophir	4
26/01/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees sought information directly, including nearby landowners with questions on the TSF, visual impacts, accommodation planning, air quality, the project bond and how it operates, access to DOC blocks, and recruitment opportunities.	13	Tarras	10
2/02/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Many attendees engaged positively with recruitment enquiries and questions on operational and closure visuals, power usage and pricing, and ecological impacts, including proposed uplift initiatives.	46	Alexandra	5
9/02/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Strong attendance with positive sentiment, including support from long-term locals. Discussion covered project timelines, commencement of mining, gold processing and management, geology, and general updates, with a request for a Lake Hawea community drop-in session.	14	Luggate	6
14/02/2026	Central Otago A & P Show	Attendees engaged with a wide range of questions covering the fast-track process and timelines, recruitment opportunities, and project start dates for construction and mining. Discussion also included water quality, ecology, TSF stability, bonds, arsenic and cyanide management, dust and air quality, visual impacts, earthquake stability, closure and rehabilitation, mine life, project economics, and underground operations.	180	Omakau	10
16/02/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Strong engagement with many recruitment enquiries and general support for the project. Discussion covered project overview, closure outcomes, supplier and underground opportunities, with one attendee raising critical questions regarding pay rates, community benefits, and current consenting.	62	Cromwell	10
23/02/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Mixed engagement, with some strong positive sentiment and support for the project, alongside concerns regarding arsenic and cyanide, which were discussed in detail. Repeat attendees expressed interest in employment opportunities and joining the project.	7	Ophir	6

2/03/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Feedback included one neutral, one opposed, and four positive responses. Discussions focused on water quality (including seepage), the TSF, and general project information.	6	Tarras	6
9/03/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Attendees were interested in recruitment and job opportunities, with some repeat attendees returning for further discussion. Comments included personal connections to family mining, interest in ecological aspects, and general interest in the project overall.	14	Alexandra	7
13-14/03/2026	Wanaka A&P Show	Attendees asked a wide range of questions covering the fast-track process and timelines, project start dates for construction and mining, and recruitment timing. Discussion also included water quality management, tailings storage, arsenic and cyanide handling, dust and air quality, visual impacts, earthquake stability, bonds, closure and rehabilitation, mine life, project economics, and underground operations.	650	Wanaka	12
16/03/2026	Community Drop-in Session	Mixed engagement, with some attendees expressing strong concerns about potential failure scenarios, environmental impacts, and effects on tourism and the wine industry. Discussion covered cyanide and arsenic management, mitigation measures, and the balance of environmental and economic outcomes, alongside some positive sentiment regarding potential opportunities.	8	Luggate	5
30/03/2026	Community Drop-in Session	All engagement was positive, with recruitment enquiries and questions covering visual impacts and closure, construction phase, cyanide and arsenic management, geology, TSF construction, and timing of underground operations.	12	Cromwell	8

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