

BEFORE THE EXPERT PANEL

FTAA-2507-1089

**UNDER
IN THE MATTER**

Fast-track Approvals Act 2024
of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

STATEMENT OF BRIAN BOYLE ON BEHALF OF SUSTAINABLE TARRAS

Dated 20 August 2026

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TO THE EXPERT PANEL

1. My name is Brian Boyle. I provided a report on behalf of Sustainable Tarras Inc in relation to Matakanui Gold Limited's (MGL) lighting and dark skies assessments in April 2026. My qualifications and experience were set out in that statement.
2. The purpose of this statement is to respond to MGL's new information on vehicle lighting provided in response to RFI 8.
3. The Panel identified mobile lights as the biggest remaining lighting risk, assuming all fixed lights are 3000k or below, fully shielded and switched off when not in use. Mobile lights on vehicles can have neither of the first two fixed light attributes, and without operational details the impact of the third (i.e. switched off when not in use) cannot be assessed.
4. MGL's response merely provides the characteristics of individual mobiles luminaires and makes no attempt to provide operational details (how many, how often) to assess the actual impact.
5. Such an attempt could have been made, given what is already known about the operations in Macraes Mine - a mine with a similar levels of operation (based on annual production rates).
6. The assertion is made that terrain shielding will be effective. But terrain shielding is also present at Macraes Mine, and it still has a major light dome.
7. Terrain shielding is only effective to a limited extent - with approximately 10% of all light scattered into the sky. Without knowing what total light would be emitted by mobile lights, it is impossible to assess what 10% of a number not given equates to.
8. The only recourse is to revert to the existing example of Macrae's mine, the impact of its light dome being featured in my original evidence.

20 August 2026

Brian Boyle