

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, 16 November 2025 9:04 am

To: Damian Spring <[REDACTED]>; Vicki Blakeborough

<[REDACTED]>

Subject: Concerns from Tarras residents at Santana Drop-in 10 Nov 25

Caution: This Email is from an EXTERNAL source. Please exercise caution. DO NOT open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected email.

Dear Damian,

You may be aware that a number of Tarras residents asked many questions and expressed deep concerns to Santana staff at the Santana drop-in meeting at Tarras last Monday 10 Nov 25. Santana staff did not appear to be taking many notes during the meeting so we are sending you a list of the main questions and concerns raised (please note this not necessarily comprehensive listing of concerns).

We ask that you take these questions and concerns seriously and provide a prompt detailed written response to each point so that we can fully understand exactly how we will be affected. We will circulate your response to the Tarras residents who have provided this list.

We are looking forward to your response.

Kind regards



(on behalf of concerned Tarras residents)

Tarras Santana Drop-in 10 Nov 25

Approximately 25 local Tarras residents attended and raised the following concerns directly with Santana personnel at the meeting (including Paul Miles, Vicky Blakeborough plus others):

*** Strong concern regarding Santana's lack of engagement with Tarras residents especially with the most affected residents on Thomson Gorge and Ardgour roads**

- some residents on Thomson George road and nearby on Ardgour Rd have never been contacted by Santana

- residents considered the lack of engagement to be highly disrespectful

- some locally affected people are so upset with Santana that they cannot bear to face Santana

- when Santana personnel explained there was the community liaison group, one resident advised they were unaware, others had not been invited or had not joined because they feel that Santana would just railroad them in the group and dismiss their concerns

- Santana people at this meeting seemed oblivious or indifferent to the angst of those residents most severely affected.

- comments by Santana in response to concerns " Tarras is very distant from the operation and not an affected community nor is it the adjacent community - this is only Bendigo - "Tarras is 10km away, about as far away as Cromwell"

- failure to reference Tarras in any of their promotional material, question whether Tarras mentioned at all in the fast track submission was not answered

*** Lack of information provided**

-residents expressed that community drop-in sessions gave very little information with superficial posters lacking detail or incomplete information leading to misleading claims

- some of the residents had attended multiple drop-in sessions with very little new information

*** Concerns were either dismissed or not followed up and questions went unanswered.**

- Santana staff present at drop-in meetings were unable to provide specific details to many questions and the "engagement" was just lip -service

*** Concern about the Santana "mine camp" planned on Thomson Gorge road and lack of detail about what is proposed**

- concern Santana had submitted a resource consent application and requested that it be non-notified when it would clearly have impacts for local residents

- concern about anti-social behavior associated with the mining industry coming to the district, drug and alcohol abuse, boredom in downtime leading to more policing and care needed to look out for ourselves

- refusing to provide details to local families asking about the mine camp, even though the plans were at an advanced stage

- Santana was asked to provide details about the mine camp and that the application is notified

*** Concerns about loss of property value in Tarras as a consequence of the mine and properties already difficult to sell because of the proposed mine.**

- a considerable number of Tarras residents are looking to sell, far more Tarras properties on the market than usual

- currently at least 3 families on Thomson Gorge Road have their properties on the market with a high levels of interest, then people walking away when they learn about the mine

-concern that property values had already dropped

-affected residents asked about compensation from Santana for loss of property value

- some residents just want to leave, sell their properties because of the mine and feel they can't

*** Concerns about negative effects on local business**

- loss of contracts because of negative perceptions
- contract to supply olive oil lost because concern quality might be impacted by mine
- The Canyon lost a \$800k signed agreement that was cancelled during the final stages of due diligence due to proposed mine
- concern regarding potential effects on all businesses which rely on the pristine environment and reputation of Central Otago: tourism, wine, horticulture and food businesses
- effect on B&B business, no longer able to offer quiet countryside for visitors
- concern about likely increased cost to local businesses to hire, retain and accommodate workers. The Santana response was they are about to announce community funding initiatives and there were winners and losers and that some people might benefit from increased house prices.

***Physical damage damage to the landscape and the outdoor living museum that is Bendigo**

*** Infrastructure of district not up to more pressure**

- health and social services already not coping well with current growth

*** No national body or local body voice standing up to protect our community (left to a small group of dedicated locals) whereas the mining company is being backed loudly at central government levels**

*** Access to heritage areas and walking tracks**

-how will access to heritage areas and walking tracks be affected? How will noise and views of the mine and it's infrastructure impact these amenities

*** Potential negative effects on Ardgour and Bendigo aquifers/ bores**

- reduced water quality/contamination

- request for baseline water results and ongoing water monitoring to be made available to public as monitoring conducted

- effects on water flow/availability

- residents on Thomson George and Ardgour roads have bore-water for drinking and irrigation for businesses, as do properties on Loop Road

-concern residents may need to be supplied from alternative sources in the future if bores contaminated

- Santana was asked how much water will be taken for the mine from the loop road bore and the bore by the Lindis River

*** Noise, light and dust**

- concern that dust will travel much further with the high winds than Santana is saying

- that with current low levels of noise, noise from the mine would be very noticeable and annoying, noise carries in the valley. Issues with noise 24/7

- light annoyance and loss of dark skies

*** Loss of tranquility and rural aspect (the very reasons many people have chosen to live in Tarras)**

***Traffic congestion and safety especially on Ardgour and Thomson George roads**

- concern about high numbers on Thomson George Rd, Santana staff just refuted this concern

- concern that the intersection at SH8 Lindis River bridge and Ardgour Road was accepted as adequate by NZTA/Waka Kotahi

- the danger of large vehicles carrying poisons including cyanide on Central Otago roads and how frequently this would happen. The reply from Santana was not sure and the safety aspect would be Waka Kotahi and FENZ worry

- storage of toxic chemicals and explosives at the storage depot on Thomson Gorge road. No information available and one rep from Santana said we are an exploration company not a mining company. In case of an incident there would be a first response team on site but then the next step would be the Tarras "volunteer fire brigade" . An accident on the State Highway one lane bridge at Lindis Crossing could spill toxic chemicals directly into the Lindis/ Clutha rivers and the Tarras fire brigade would be of little help.

- during meeting Santana stated speed limit on Thomson Gorge road will be 80k/hr . Residents concerned about the speed limit on Thomson Gorge road with the heavy vehicles and increased traffic.

- questions and concern about whether Thomson Gorge road will be sealed by Santana and when

*** Concern about mine safety**

- potential tailings dam failure and seepage
- concerns and questions to Santana insurance and indemnity especially in case of a catastrophic event. Worst case scenario 'We lock up the farm and live on the compensation'
- concern that Santana will not commit to international mining standards such as ICMM, yet claim to be wanting to be a world class mining operation
- lack of assurance that Santana will have the legal obligation to clean up toxic waste pollution during the mining and into the future or the bond will be large enough to cover such a situation

*** Questions about what benefits would the mine bring to Tarras.** Santanas response was "Don't you want more people to come to Tarras?" No other benefit to the community offered

*** Santana diminishing local residents concerns and making misleading claims in the media**

- claims by Damian Spring of a poll showing 90% in favour. Poll completely unsubstantiated
- claims that 99% of people want to hear about jobs and business opportunities (TV3 interview Damian Spring Sep 2025). Similar claim of 99% in favour of the mine made by Shane Norton Radio Central regarding his audience

Multiple public meetings (Santana meeting in Cromwell hosted by Business South, information meetings, Wanaka and Cromwell run by Sustainable Tarras, Queenstown Business Chamber of Commerce meeting), all showed a high level of public concern with large attendances and questions of concern raised by audiences. Various Tarras residents attended these meetings.

Kind regards

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

(on behalf of concerned Tarras residents)