

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Community and Stakeholder Engagement Update Report

October 2025 – July 2026



Executive Summary

Matakanui Gold Ltd (MGL) continues to maintain an open, accessible and responsive engagement programme for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP). This report provides an update of engagement activities undertaken between October 2025 and July 2026 following lodgment of the substantive application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA). It should be read alongside Part F.16, the Pre-Application Engagement Report, which documents engagement undertaken prior to October 2025.

Engagement at a Glance

Between October 2025 – July 2026 MGL has increased and diversified its engagement activities. While earlier engagement focused primarily on community drop-in sessions, engagement during between October 2025 – July 2026 evolved to include a Community Liaison Group, guided site visits, workforce surveys, technical presentations, expanded digital communications, participation in the FTAA process, as well as ongoing engagement with mana whenua, regulators, businesses, landowners and community groups.

Activity	Results
Community drop-in Sessions	20
Agricultural & Pastoral Show	3
Updated Community Presentation Sessions	5
Business, School & Community Presentations	22
Community Liaison Group Meetings	5
Workforce Survey Responses	647
Workforce EOI Registrations	502
Communities Engaged	8
Radio community updates	33
Social Media reach	Over 2.5 million views
Public work notices	12

During the October 2025 -July 2026 engagement the issues most frequently discussed remained broadly consistent with those identified in the pre-application engagement programme. Water, employment, housing and accommodation, tailings management, landscape values and mine closure planning continued to feature prominently in discussions.

Several aspects of the engagement programme have evolved directly in response to stakeholder feedback, including the expansion of engagement into additional communities, establishment of the Community Liaison Group, introduction of site visits, development of technical factsheets and presentations, publication of sponsorship criteria, and completion of a workforce survey to better understand accommodation and workforce issues.

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1 Project Overview & Context

The Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP) is one of the largest proposed development projects currently before the Central Otago community.

Community and stakeholder engagement has been an integral part of the project's development since exploration and investigation activities began in 2017. Extensive engagement undertaken prior to lodgment of the substantive application is documented within Part F.16 of the application.

This report focuses on engagement activities undertaken between October 2025 and July 2026 as the Project progresses through the Fast-track Approvals Act process and the level of community interest increased.

2 Strategy and Approach

2.1 Engagement Principles

MGL's engagement programme is guided by a commitment to openness, accessibility and continuous dialogue.

The programme is informed by the principles of the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) and seeks to:

- Build long-term relationships with stakeholders.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation.
- Share information openly and transparently.
- Respond constructively to feedback.
- Adapt engagement approaches as community needs change.

2.2 Our Engagement Approach



Figure 1: Engagement Approach.

Engagement activities have progressively evolved throughout the reporting period in response to stakeholder requests, increased technical interest and the progression of the FTAA process.

3 Engagement Since October 2025

3.1 We Listened. We Learnt. We Adapted.

One of the defining characteristics of the engagement programme during this reporting period has been its ability to adapt and respond to feedback.

Community members sought more detailed technical information, opportunities to better understand the Project site, and additional opportunities for dialogue and engagement in locations beyond Cromwell and Tarras. In response, MGL expanded its geographic reach, guided site visits, developed additional engagement channels and established the Community Liaison Group.

3.2 Timeline of Key Milestones

Table 1: Timeline of key milestones.

Date	Milestone
October 2025	Community Liaison Group established
December 2025	Quarterly CLG meetings commence
January 2026	Workforce survey completed
April-May 2026	Lake Hāwea community sessions added
June 2026	New presentation format
July 2026	Consent condition workshops undertaken

3.3 Engagement Across Central Otago

As interest in the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project increased, MGL expanded the reach and breadth of its engagement programme. Initially focused on communities closest to the Project, engagement grew across Central Otago in response to community requests, invitations from local organisations and MGL's commitment to making information accessible.

By July 2026, MGL had engaged with communities across eight locations, as outlined in Table 2, through community drop-in sessions, A&P Shows, presentations and site visits, engagement with schools, businesses and community groups, and participation in major community events. Together, these activities provided multiple opportunities for people to ask questions, access information and provide feedback.

Most presentations and site visits were undertaken in response to invitations from external organisations, rather than being initiated by MGL, demonstrating sustained community interest in direct engagement with the Project.



Figure 2: Light up Winter Cromwell; Primary school visit: Community drop in session; Guided site visit with local farmers

Table 2: Community drop-in session and updated community presentation session activities between October 2025 and July 2026

Location	Dates	Attendees	Sentiment
Alexandra	24/11/2025 2/02/2026 9/03/2026 04/05/2026 15/06/2026 13/07/2026	180	Generally positive sentiment. Discussions typically focused on employment opportunities, accommodation and a range of technical aspects.
Cromwell	20/10/2025 12/01/2026 16/02/2026 30/3/2026 18/05/2026 29/06/2026	164	Generally positive with a strong interest in the project and its potential impacts on the community. Discussions have traversed the full range of the application, large focus on employment opportunities, accommodation, worker transport as well as the technical aspects of the project.
Lake Hāwea	20/04/2026 25/05/2026	31	Drop-in sessions were commenced at community request. Sentiment is positive with some discussion regarding tailings storage and employment opportunities.
Luggate	9/12/2025 9/02/2026 16/03/2026 08/06/2026	46	Mixed engagement, some strong positive sentiment and some strong concerns. Concerns were focused on potential failure scenarios, environmental impacts, bonding and the effects on tourism and wine industries. Introduced community presentation style method.
Ōmakau	14/02/2026	~180	During the Ōmakau A&P Show, approx. 180 people visited the Santana Minerals tent to discuss a full range of topics.
Ophir	13/10/2025 19/01/2026 23/02/2026	40	Mixed engagement, with some strong support for the project including interest in employment opportunities. Concerns raised were regarding water, seismic risk, processing methodology, air quality and accommodation.
Tarras	10/11/2025 26/01/2026 2/03/2026 26/07/2026	54	Discussions generally focused on technical aspects of the project particularly on water and air quality, tailings storage, bond, compensation for affected parties, and accommodation. There were also enquiries about employment opportunities.
Wānaka	13/03/2026 14/03/2026	~650	During the two-day Wānaka A&P Show, approx. 650 people visited the Santana Minerals tent to discuss a full range of topics.

The map (Figure 3) demonstrates how engagement has expanded throughout Central Otago during the reporting period. Across the range of engagement activities, they were presented, attended and supported by MGL staff including management, geologists, engineers, environmental and support staff.

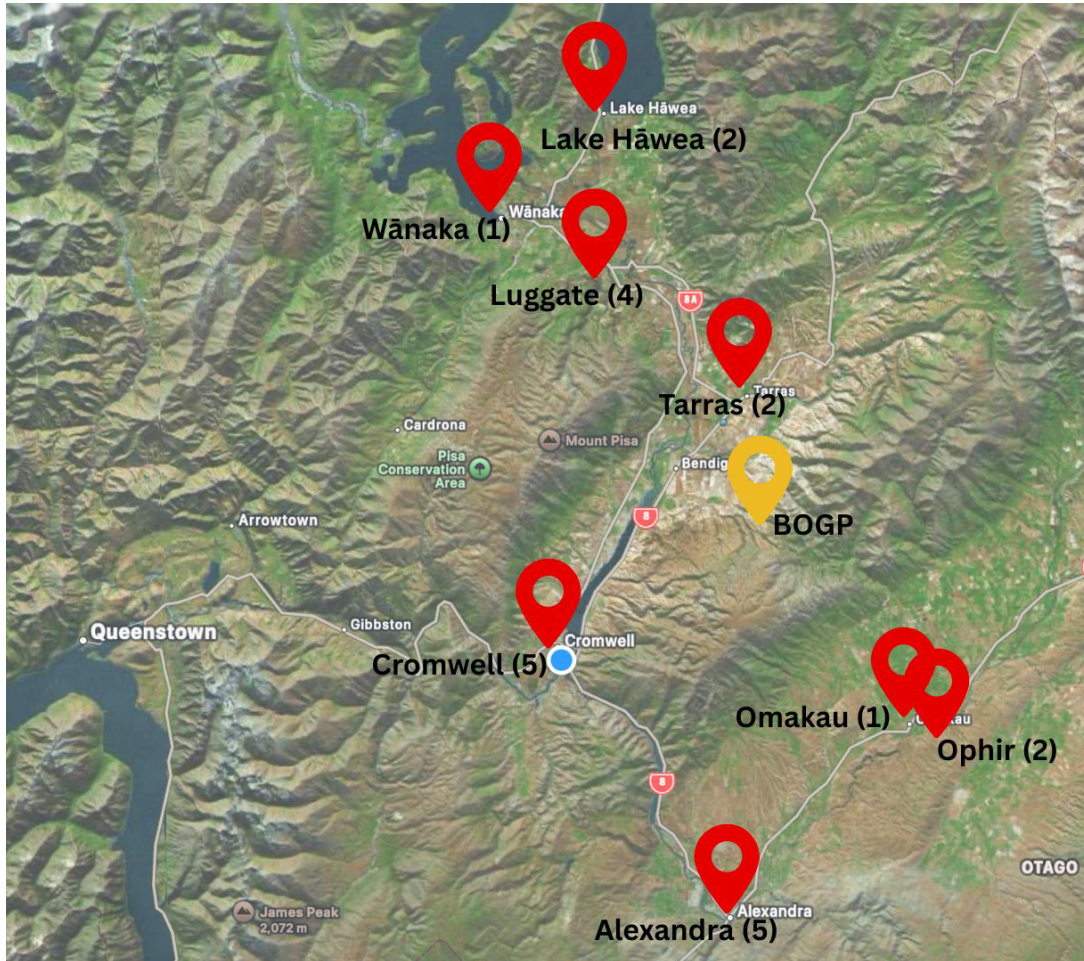


Figure 3: Location of engagement activities

3.4 Engagement Activities

3.4.1 Communication and Mitigation During Establishment of the Geology Compound and Road Upgrades

MGL has undertaken works associated with the establishment of a new geology compound and the associated infrastructure, including the provision of power, water and telecommunications services adjacent to Thomson Gorge Road, together with upgrade works on Thomson Gorge Road.

Throughout these works, twelve work notices were issued to Thomson Gorge Road and Ardgour Road residents and landowners advising road upgrades, borrow pit activities, water pipe and fibre installation, temporary traffic management and planned power outages. Direct communication

channels, including contact details for an independent project manager, were provided to enable issues to be raised and addressed promptly. Where works interrupted power supply, generators were offered to all affected properties to minimise disruption. MGL also undertook fence and property entry repairs/upgrades where required and offered firewood from tree felling to neighbouring residents. Firewood from tree felling was also provided to Tarras School.

All work notices were also published on the Santana Minerals website, ensuring information was available to both directly affected parties and the wider community.

3.4.2 Community Drop-In and Presentation Sessions

Twenty drop-in sessions and five presentation sessions as outlined in table 2 were held between October 2025 and July 2026.

These sessions continued to provide opportunities for residents to engage directly with MGL staff, ask questions and discuss matters of interest relating to the Project. Topics most frequently discussed included employment, accommodation, water, traffic, tailings management and closure planning. As community understanding of the Project increased, discussion often became more detailed and technical in nature.

In June 2026, MGL introduced a formal presentation format (Community Presentation Session) incorporating a 3D fly-through visualisation of the Project site and a question-and-answer session. The new format responded to requests for more structured information and provided a more detailed overview of the Project and its technical assessments. Feedback recorded through the Community Liaison Group indicated that participants found the presentation format useful and informative.



Figure 4: Drop-in Sessions



Figure 5: Community drop-in session at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ophir

3.4.3 Site Visits

Guided site visits and site presentations became an important part of the engagement programme, recognising that some aspects of the Project are best understood on the ground. They provided stakeholders with the opportunity to see the Project area firsthand, understand the scale and location of proposed infrastructure, and discuss technical matters directly with project specialists. By combining visual context with open discussion, site visits helped build understanding, improve transparency and support more informed conversations about the Project.



Figure 6: Guided site visits and site presentations

3.4.4 Community Events

MGL has maintained a visible presence at community events since the application was lodged in October 2025, recognising that not everyone engages through project-specific meetings or presentations. Activities between October 2025 – July 2026 have included attendance and participation in major regional events including the Wānaka A&P Show and Central Otago A&P Show, these events provided informal, accessible opportunities for people to ask questions,

obtain project information and engage directly with the project team in familiar community settings.



Figure 7: Santana Minerals tent at the Wanaka A & P Show, 2026

3.4.5 Digital Engagement

Digital engagement has become an increasingly important component of the programme.

Communication channels included:

- Prospectors Post newsletter;
- Santana Minerals website;
- Radio Central – Santana community updates;
- Facebook and LinkedIn; and
- Community hotline and email.

Social media content has generated more than 2.5 million views during the reporting period and has resulted in more than 250 direct message enquiries from community members.

6. Workforce Survey

One of the most common questions raised during engagement related to housing availability and workforce accommodation.

In response, MGL undertook a workforce survey in January 2026 involving individuals who had previously registered an expression of interest in working on the Project.

The survey generated 647 responses and provided valuable information regarding likely workforce characteristics, accommodation requirements and transport preferences.

Table 3: Survey Results from January 2026.

Finding	Results
Survey Responses	647
Accommodation Within One Hour of the Project Site	67%
Would Use Company Transport	94%
Workforce EOI Registrations	1,561

The survey findings have informed workforce planning and accommodation strategies and provide greater confidence regarding the availability of workers within the wider region.

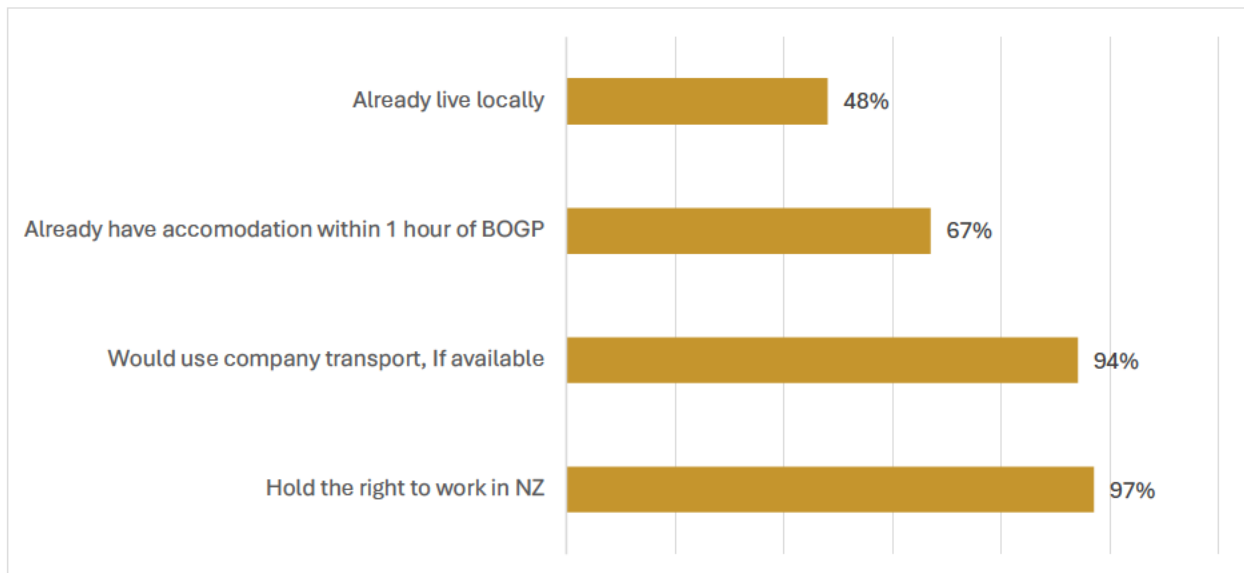


Figure 8: Workforce survey results.

4 Community Liaison Group

The Community Liaison Group (CLG) was established in October 2025 to create a structured forum for ongoing dialogue between MGL and the community.

Since establishment, five meetings have been held, including a special meeting following lodgment of the substantive application.

Membership has expanded since October 2025 to include individuals with mining operational experience and regional economic development expertise. An invitation also remains open to Sustainable Tarras to have a representative on the CLG.

The CLG has played an important role in:

- Providing feedback on engagement activities.
- Reviewing project communications.
- Suggesting improvements to information sharing.
- Increasing transparency.
- Identifying community concerns.

Examples of outcomes arising from CLG discussions include the introduction of site visits, publication of sponsorship criteria and ongoing refinement of communication activities.

The CLG continues to provide a forum for members to challenge project assumptions, raise community concerns and provide feedback directly to project leadership. Feedback recorded in CLG minutes demonstrates a range of perspectives and has influenced several aspects of the engagement programme, including site visits, information provision and ongoing transparency initiatives.



Figure 9: MGL hosted the Community Liaison Group for a site visit

5 Mana Whenua Engagement

Engagement with mana whenua began in 2017 and has continued since this time. Following lodgement of the application in October 2025 engagement has continued that seeks to build upon relationships established during the earlier stages of project development as documented in Part F.16.

Following lodgment of the substantive application in October 2025, engagement focused on supporting Kā Rūnaka participation in the Fast-track Approvals Act process and facilitating review of project information and technical assessments.

A key outcome during this period was the preparation of a Cultural Impact Assessment (CIA) by Aukaha on behalf of Kā Rūnaka. The CIA was prepared to:

- provide mana whenua with an overview of the Project and environmental context;
- review key technical information and proposed mitigation measures;
- identify mana whenua values and associations with the Project area;
- assess cultural effects; and
- identify recommendations relevant to cultural outcomes.

The CIA utilised a kaupapa Māori framework focused on the interconnected concepts of mana, mauri, tapu/noa and whakapapa. Through this framework the assessment considers relationships between wai, whenua, cultural identity, wellbeing and intergenerational stewardship.

Throughout the reporting period Kā Rūnaka representatives participated in a range of FTAA processes including:

- review of application material;
- section 53 submissions;
- expert conferencing;
- hearing processes including a tikanga led hearing at Ōtākou Marae; and
- consent condition workshops.

MGL continues to engage with mana whenua and recognises the importance of maintaining open dialogue as the Project progresses.

6 Community Investment

Part F.16 documented MGL's early community investment programme, including sponsorships, scholarships and support for local organisations. Since lodgment of the substantive application, MGL has continued to invest in community initiatives across Central Otago.

Since October 2025, community investment activities have included continued support for education, sporting organisations, community events and heritage initiatives. During this period MGL has continued its scholarship programme, supported major local events including the World

Gold Panning Championships, Cromwell Fireworks and Street Party and Light Up Winter Cromwell, and maintained its sponsorship programme through a published application and assessment framework.

In addition, an agreement with Central Otago District Council requires a payment of \$1.25 million per annum for the life of the agreement that must be spent for the benefit of the community.

7 What We Heard

While the nature and detail of questions varied between communities, the broad themes remained remarkably consistent throughout the engagement sessions held between October 2025 – July 2026. Issues relating to water, employment, accommodation, tailings management and mine closure continued to dominate discussions and were frequently raised across multiple communities and engagement channels. As engagement continued, the themes discussed remained broadly consistent with those identified within the Pre-Application Engagement Report.

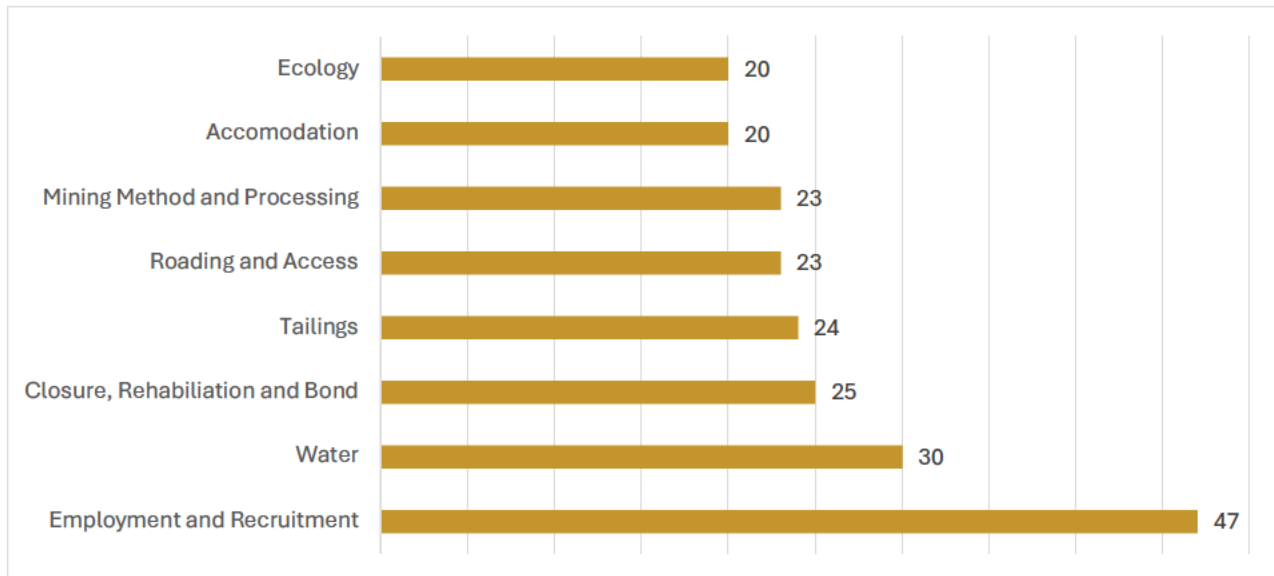


Figure 10: Topics most frequently raised at community engagement activities

7.1 Water

Water remained one of the most frequently discussed topics. Stakeholders sought information regarding groundwater, surface water, monitoring, treatment systems and closure arrangements.

7.2 Employment and Economic Opportunity

Employment opportunities and business participation continued to generate significant interest. Stakeholders sought information on roles, recruitment timing and opportunities for local suppliers.

7.3 Housing and Accommodation

Questions regarding accommodation availability and worker housing remained a regular feature of engagement discussions.

7.4 Tailings Storage Facility

The TSF remained an important topic, particularly regarding seismic resilience, water management and long-term stewardship.

7.5 Landscape and Closure

Many discussions focused on long-term outcomes, rehabilitation and how the site will be managed following mine closure.

8 What Changed Because of Community Feedback

Community feedback has directly influenced how MGL communicates and engages with stakeholders.

Table 4: What changed because of community feedback

Community Feedback	MGL Response
Expand engagement into more communities	Expanded engagement across eight communities
Provide better access to information	Developed a 3D flythrough, five factsheets, a project overview brochure, updated engagement methods (Presentation Style Sessions and Explainer videos (Cyanide))
Create an ongoing forum for discussion	Voluntarily established the Community Liaison Group
Provide opportunities to see the site	Introduced more guided site visits
Better understand accommodation needs	Completed workforce survey
Improve transparency	Published sponsorship criteria via website



Figure 11: Factsheet brochures

These actions demonstrate how feedback has been incorporated into the ongoing development of the engagement programme.

Aspects of the feedback from the community cover some of the same matters that have been the subject of requests for further information and/or questions at the hearings by the FTAA Expert Panel. Some of the key elements in this regard are:

- A significant proportion (67%) of the potential future employees of the BOGP are already local or live within one hour of the BOGP site. This means that the demand for additional housing will not be as high as would otherwise be the case if a greater proportion of employees came from further afield. It is also noted that there is a significant level of additional housing proposed in Central Otago which is being advanced by way of other FTAA applications.
- 94% of potential future employees of the BOGP indicate by way of the workforce survey that they would use company transport to get to and from work. This has firmed up the commitment by MGL to provide worker transportation (which will reduce the volume of traffic generation and any associated amenity effects on residents within proximity to the BOGP site).
- Concerns about tailings stability and water quality are being addressed by way of further technical work (including 3D modelling) to confirm the nature of proposed management techniques and contingency measures (which will be the subject of consent conditions).
- The proposed BOGP Biodiversity and Heritage Enhancement Fund funding has doubled to \$10 million.
- The proposed water monitoring programme has been brought forward and expanded downstream to Bendigo Creek and Lindis River to provide further certainty and community assurance of downstream water quality. It was originally proposed to be installed following commencement of consents.
- The robustness of the bond conditions has been improved in response to community feedback.
- The Matakinui Trust has been proposed (with funding of up to \$50 million) to address concerns about the long-term management of the BOGP site following mine closure.

9 Future Commitment

MGL recognises that engagement does not end with the FTAA process.

Engagement will continue throughout future stages of the Project through:

- Community Liaison Group meetings;
- Community presentations;
- Newsletters and digital communications;
- Dedicated contact channels;

- Site visits and stakeholder meetings;
- Ongoing engagement with mana whenua;
- Community investment initiatives.

The engagement undertaken since October 2025 has established a strong platform for ongoing dialogue and relationship-building as the Project progresses.