
MINUTE 42 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Submissions filed by Canyon Vineyard Ltd

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

[FTAA-2507-1089]

[27 July 2026]

[1] This responds to various memoranda filed by Canyon Vineyard Ltd (CVL) on the cusp of and following suspension of the application.

[2] On the date of suspension, CVL filed an extensive submission, broadly in response to the evidence heard during the multiple concurrent hearings undertaken in June 2026.

[3] This memorandum was provided to the Panel Chair who in turn shared the contents with experienced Hearings Commissioner and Panel Member Ms Sweetman.

[4] The Panel appreciates that CVL has concerns regarding the application that it seeks the Panel to address in its decision-making. However, the Panel also considers it important to emphasise that the Fast-track Approvals Act provides a highly structured approach to the receipt of evidence and submissions. The Act restricts that for the very good reason that if limitless opportunity was given to parties or invitees to comment at any point in the process they considered relevant, the ability of the Panel to deliver a decision within the time frame mandated could be compromised, particularly given that further and wider responses may be required.

[5] To that end, the Panel has been consistent in requiring leave for any further

submission/evidence outside statutory parameters and has been sparing in granting it, other than where supplementary evidence has been filed by the Applicant to address issues raised by the Panel during its processes.

[6] The Panel has not yet therefore admitted the submission filed on 26 June into the formal record. However, both the Panel Chair and Ms Sweetman have read it and CVL can assume that the Panel is already alive to all the issues which are raised. Indeed, many have been the subject of extensive expert evidence which the Panel is now weighing and considering.

[7] On Sunday 26 July CVL filed a further submission, the primary recipients of which appear to have been MGL and other parties participating in workshopping potential conditions. Those parties are of course welcome to consider CVL's submission. Again, the Panel will not at this stage be entering it into the formal record.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Muir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Matthew Muir KC

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel Chair