9. CONCLUSION

MGL is seeking all necessary approvals from the EPA under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to enable the construction, operation, maintenance, and, ultimately, the closure of the BOGP.

9.1 MEETING THE PURPOSE OF THE ACT

The purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act is:

> *to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits*.

The suite of robust technical assessments demonstrate that the BOGP is undoubtedly a project that will deliver significant regional and national benefits. As outlined throughout this report the project will:

- Generate a significant contribution to the GDP of Central Otago and New Zealand, with the project projected to generate a cumulative total of approximately $5.8 billion dollars of GDP over the course of the mine life based on current prevailing gold prices and cost estimates when the Updated Pre-Feasibility Study was published in June 2025;
- Generate a total of $1.8 billion of revenue for the New Zealand Government via royalties, corporate taxes, PAYE and ACC payments;
- Generate substantial foreign investment through approximately $530 million dollars of capital investment;
- Support a wide range of highly paid jobs, with the BOGP expected to add an average of 357 new jobs - peaking at 529 jobs and potentially add approximately 500 additional indirect and induced jobs created amongst suppliers and those providing goods and services to meet the needs of mine workers; and
- Produce 1.25 million ounces of gold over a mine life approximately 14 years.

The proposed BOGP will enable a range of employment, economic, and other benefits that mining brings. The project is of such a scale that its economic benefits will extend beyond the Otago Region to New Zealand as a whole – demonstrably achieving the purpose of the Act. These benefits have been quantified by Benje Patterson (2025), as summarised in Section 6.2 of this report and provided in **Part B** of these application documents.

In addition to the substantial economic benefits generated by the project, as part of the proposed approach to managing the actual and potential effects of the BOGP, ecological improvements will be generated within the Central Otago District as a result of the extensive

offsetting and compensation measures proposed across over 2,200 hectares of land surrounding the project. This will result in net gain outcomes for a range of indigenous terrestrial and wetland biodiversity values within 35 years from the granting of approvals, including net gain outcomes for many high value ecosystems and Threatened and At-Risk species. The ecological benefits of the BOGP have been assessed and quantified by a range of ecological experts, as provided in the technical assessments provided in **Part B** of these application documents. It is acknowledged that the BOGP will have adverse effects on some terrestrial ecological values and, in that regard, measures have been proposed to mitigate, compensate or offset those effects.

Furthermore, MGL's proposed BOGP Biodiversity and Heritage Enhancement Fund will also contribute to improvement ecological outcomes for cushionfield habitat and / or other Threatened or At-Risk species within the Dunstan Ecological District and enhance heritage values outside of the BOGP Consent Area within Central Otago. This fund will provide $500,000 + GST per year for every year of gold production (up to a maximum of 10 years) to the local office for the Department of Conservation.

9.2 MANAGING THE EFFECTS OF THE PROJECT

While the benefits of mining are significant, and the BOGP clearly meets the purpose of the Act, the environmental effects of the project need to be managed appropriately. The BOGP is a large and multi-faceted project, and its actual and potential effects have been subject to detailed scrutiny from a range of leading technical experts. Through that process, and in consultation with affected and interested stakeholders, the project has been refined to minimise adverse effects on the physical environment, and to maximise positive effects.

The cultural effects of the activities have been (and will continue to be) addressed with tangata whenua through hui, meetings and the CVS / CIA process described in Section 5 of this report, noting that this engagement is ongoing, and is projected to continue through the life of the project.

An assessment of all potential effects on the environment resulting from the proposed BOGP activities is provided in Section 6 of this report, as well as in the various technical assessments commissioned by MGL (provided in **Part B** to these application documents). The key measures proposed by MGL to manage identified effects include:

> The establishment of a water management system designed to capture and maximise reuse of mine impacted water within site operations with minor discharges predicted to occur following treatment;

- The implementation of and adherence to a Water Management Plan which requires monitoring of creek flows and quality, volumes and quality of mine impacted water captured, water usage rates, and rainfall;
- The implementation and adherence to an extensive suite of ecological management plans prepared as part of this substantive application, including management plans for managing effects on avifauna, lizards and terrestrial invertebrates and management and control of plant pests and mammalian pests;
- Extensive measures to offset and compensate for residual effects on terrestrial and wetland ecological values, including an ecological restoration and habitat enhancement programme that includes:
  - The 889-hectare Mine Regeneration Zone adjacent to the DDF;
  - The 1,263-hectare Ardgour Restoration Area adjacent to the DDF; and
  - Approximately 67 hectares of predator-exclusion fenced areas through the establishment of the Ardgour and Bendigo Sanctuaries;
- The implementation of and adherence to the Cushionfields ARP to guide the translocation of cushionfields and propagation of spring annuals and delay the mining of the full CIT Open Pit until a net increase in these plants relative to loss can be demonstrated;
- Implementation of best-practice erosion and sediment control measures during site establishment works;
- Collection of mine-impacted water that is subject to appropriate management during operations and treatment post closure;
- Diversion of clean water around the footprint of disturbed areas, including the realignment of sections of Shepherds Creek and Rise and Shine Creek to form rehabilitated stream diversions, where loss of these natural watercourses will occur as a result of placement of mine infrastructure;
- Management of waste rock within the ELFs to limit sulphide mineral oxidation;
- Design and eventual rehabilitation of visible project elements to avoid, remedy or mitigate any adverse landscape and visual effects;
- Design of the TSF to withstand seismic activity, including a 1 in 10,000-year earthquake and subsequent aftershocks;
- Limits on potential contaminants of concern within Shepherds Creek and Rise and Shine Creek and associated tributaries;

- Limits on the generation of noise, vibration and light spill;
- Upgrades to the existing road network to accommodate increase vehicle movements associated with the BOGP, including the upgrade of SH8 / Ardgour Road intersection and a section of Thomson Gorge Road;
- The implementation and adherence to a Soil Management Plan for managing arsenic bearing soils within the Project Site;
- Minimisation of dust, particulate and gaseous emissions to protect amenity of surrounding landowners;
- The protection of certain identified heritage / archaeological sites and archival recording of sites proposed to be impacted in accordance with the Archaeological Management Plan;
- Construction of Ardgour Rise as a replacement of Thomson Gorge Road to retain public access around the Project Site;
- The establishment of alternative walking access to the Come-in-Time Battery site; and
- A rehabilitation and closure plan secured by rehabilitation and capitalisation bonds.

9.3 ALIGNMENT WITH THE STATUTORY FRAMEWORK

As noted above, the BOGP is undoubtedly a project that will deliver significant regional and national benefits and is therefore in accordance with the purpose of the Act. The BOGP aligns well with the overall management intentions and policy imperatives specified in the relevant national, regional and district planning documents, as set out in detail in Section 8 of this report.

A significant amount of work and effort has gone into responsibly addressing the actual and potential adverse effects of the BOGP including through the preparation of a range of detailed management plans, a proposed Biodiversity and Heritage Enhancement Fund, and other matters (all of which are the subject of proposed consent conditions). As a result of these measures, the environmental effects of the BOGP will be appropriately manged so they will not be disproportionate to the benefits of the BOGP.

9.4 CONSULTATION

MGL has consulted extensively with Kā Rūnaka, interested / potentially affected parties, the wider community, and the relevant regulatory authorities with respect to the BOGP. This consultation has informed the various environmental assessments and will continue through the fast-track decision-making process and during the subsequent operation of the BOGP.

9.5 CONCLUDING STATEMENT

MGL is pleased to present and seek approval for an innovative project that will deliver very significant regional and national benefits, while effectively and robustly managing environmental effects.

MGL looks forward to working through the post lodgement phase of the Fast-track Application process with a view securing approval for the BOGP and it being subject to a set of workable and appropriate consent conditions.