

BEFORE THE PANEL CONVENER

Application: FTAA-2507-1089

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (FTAA)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application by Matakanui Gold Limited under section 42 of the FTAA for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

**MEMORANDUM OF HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND POUHERE TAONGA
IN RESPONSE TO MINUTE OF THE PANEL CONVENER**

16 January 2026

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
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HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Introduction

- 1 This memorandum is filed on behalf of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga (HNZPT) in response to the Minute of the Panel Convener dated 18 December 2025.
- 2 The Minute seeks input from participants to assist the Convener in making decisions regarding:
 - (a) The appointment of panel members; and
 - (b) The timing of the panel decision.
- 3 This memorandum addresses the matters identified in Schedule 1 and 2 of the Minute and will focus on the archaeological authority approval (section 42(4)(i)) being sought.

Complexity

- 4 HNZPT has reviewed the archaeological assessment provided in support of the authority application and considers that currently there is not sufficient information to assess and fully understand the archaeological values and the effects of the proposed development on same.
- 5 HNZPT is currently in discussions with the consultant archaeologist for this project to ensure these matters are addressed prior to the section 51 Report being prepared. This process has included requests for further information and meetings between experts to discuss matters of concern.
- 6 The location of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project is a significant archaeological landscape and in addition to the recorded archaeological sites, there is a high potential to encounter further archaeological material and sites during the project works.

- 7 Taking all of this into account, HNZPT considers the archaeological authority application is of medium complexity.
- 8 The project area also has significant post 1900 historic heritage features and is listed as a Category 1 Historic Place on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rārangī Kōrero. Due to the significance of the historic heritage features that may be adversely affected by the project, HNZPT considers that there will be a considerable impact on the historic heritage values.

Issues

- 9 As above, HNZPT is confident that through continued direct engagement any issues requiring more information or clarification can be resolved.

Panel Membership

- 10 Due to the significant historic heritage values of the landscape where this project is located, HNZPT considers it may be beneficial to have some expert input for the Panel in respect of historic heritage.
- 11 HNZPT does not consider in respect of its interests that there are any factors that warrant the appointment of more than four Panel members.

Procedural Requirements

- 12 HNZPT appreciates the direct engagement that has occurred so far and confirms its willingness to continue these discussions in order to advance the application and assist the panel.
- 13 HNZPT does not have any comment in relation to the estimated timetable in Schedule 1.

Other Matters

- 14 HNZPT will be attending the conference on 21 January 2026 and can answer any questions that may arise from this memorandum.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mel Russell

Counsel for Heritage New Zealand
Pouhere Taonga