



Fwd: Bendigo Ophir Gold Project - Ref: FTAA-2507-1089

From [REDACTED]
Date Fri 10/04/2026 4:16 AM
To FastTrack Substantive <substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz>

To the Panel

We refer to your letter of 11 March 2026 and the invitation to comment.

We are the directors of Matakanui Station Limited, Andrew & Tracy Paterson, and are authorised to make comment.

Our address is: [REDACTED]

Our phone numbers are: Andrew - [REDACTED] Tracy - [REDACTED]

The sending email address is the correct one to reach us: [REDACTED]

For completeness we record that Tracy is an elected member and Deputy Mayor of Central Otago District Council. At no time has she participated in CODC decisions and has a recorded conflict of interest. Andrew is a member of the Thomsons Catchment Group ("TCG") and the Chair of the Manuherikia Catchment Group (which the TCG is a sub-committee of).

We have a current access agreement with Matakanui Gold Limited/Santana for ***exploration only*** and it only relates to a specific part of our property. ***The agreement expires in October 2028.***

We make the following comments, some of which have been directly discussed with the CEO and other staff (in no particular order of importance):

1. Thomsons Creek and the water that starts in Matakanui Station (Crown Lease land):
 - a. There are galaxiids in the mid reaches which has been part of a protection programme with DoC, ORC, farmers and TCG. We would like to make sure that they are protected from mining activities which affect water quality.
 - b. There are a large number of farms that rely on water supply for stock water, irrigation and drinking water so quantity and quality cannot be compromised.
 - c. The government supported a community initiative to create the Orkney Wetland project which is the end of the Thomsons Creek catchment at approximately 1km above the confluence with the Manuherikia. This has been a major project that influences water quality. Mining cannot undermine this.
2. Increased use of Thomsons Gorge Road:
 - a. This will have an effect on the farmers who have this road go through their properties.
 - b. Stock have the potential to be disrupted especially during lambing and calving.
 - c. The road is in the condition of a 4wd track (with very steep cliffs and no cellphone coverage for much of it) on the Omakau side and is often unpassable in the winter.

- d. The increased usage will degrade the track further which will incur cost for ratepayers. There are approximately 22 gates with some of them being boundary gates.
 - e. The whole road needs to be upgraded if the project goes ahead in order to protect road user safety.
3. Matakanui Sanctuary - we are in support of this initiative but have a strong objection to the name including "Matakanui". This initiative is on the Bendigo side of the hill and should be named accordingly. Matakanui is a name that is associated with the Manuherikia Valley and not the Upper Clutha or Cromwell districts.
 4. Tailing Dam Design and construction - this has been directly discussed with Mr Spring and he has assured us that the structure will be *"well above any New Zealand standard and will withstand any significant earthquake"*. We ask that all infrastructure is built to a standard that will, at the very least, meet all local and regional authority requirements - preferably higher.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards

Andrew & Tracy Paterson
Matakanui Station Limited