
MINUTE 34 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Ecology Hearing
Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
[FTAA-2507-1089]
[11 June 2026]

[1] This Minute relates to ecology concurrent hearing scheduled for 12 June 2026.

[2] The Panel has concerns about both the ability to accommodate the number of experts involved and to address all relevant topics within the time available.

[3] It intends to respond to these challenges with a combination of revised sitting hours and a program which deals sequentially with the various subdisciplines involved.

[4] Accordingly, the hearing will commence at **9.00 am** as opposed to the usual 9.30 am and sitting hours will extend to (no later than) **6.00pm** if required. Headline topics will be dealt with in the following order and with the following time slots:

- (a) Invertebrates 9-10 am
- (b) Lizards 10-11.30 am
- (c) Avifauna 11.45am -1.00pm
- (d) Ecology terrestrial 1.30 to 3.00pm
- (e) Effects 3.00 to no later than 6.00pm

[5] The Panel envisages the possibility of dealing with the invertebrate and

avifauna sub disciplines in a briefer period than that allocated.

[6] The Panel reiterates that only experts who participated in the relevant conference are to be empaneled. Other experts not directly engaged in the particular topic under consideration may of course be seated in the gallery area throughout any part of the hearing.

[7] Given what the Panel considers to have been the success of the format employed over the last two sitting days, each of the 5 generic topics will commence with whiteboard identification of the key issues which need to be addressed. The Panel will then work through each issue starting with a brief statement from the several experts, followed by questions from the Panel and cross examination as permitted, recognizing the opportunity for dynamic exchanges throughout the process.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Muir', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hon Matthew Muir KC

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel Chair