



Memorandum

To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel

From: Santana Minerals

Date: 14 September 2026

Re: Response to submissions on RFI 11- Ardour Rise Road

MGL received feedback from Central Otago District Council (CODC) in regard to the Ardour Rise Alternative Alignment. This included:

- Memorandum of Counsel on behalf of CODC responding to RFI 11 dated 7 September 2026
- Attachment 4 – Bendigo Ophir Gold Project Ardour Rise Alternative Alignment – Road Design Safety Assessment Review Technical Note

In addition, CODC provided the panel with:

- Attachment 5 – Ardour Rise Road Safety Review – Alternate Alignment Safety Review prepared by Stantec New Zealand dated 30 July
- Attachment 6 -the plan set entitled BOGP Ardour Rise Rev 5 260729 provided to CODC on 31 July 2026

To ensure the Panel has all relevant information before it, this memorandum has been prepared to provide a record of the actions, with CODC, that MGL undertook to respond to the CODC Bendigo Ophir Gold Project – Minute 39 issues between 26 June 2026 and early September.

MGL continue to work with CODC towards an agreed alignment and progress is being made. However, MGL is unable to progress engineering detailed design, roading corridor formation or concession planning until there is an agreed final alignment. From MGL's perspective, CODC have received all the information to be able to make this decision.

MGL confirms, for the avoidance of all doubt, that Ardour Rise Road Alignment Version 5, as per the plan set entitled BOGP Ardour Rise Rev 5 260729 provided to CODC on 31 July 2026, is the alignment sought for approval. As such, all material amendments required are within:

- Application documents:
 - The plan set entitled BOGP Ardour Rise Rev 5 260729 provided to CODC on 31 July 2026, which CODC provided to the Panel on 7 September 2026.



- Ardgour Rise Road Safety Review – Alternate Alignment Safety Review prepared by Stantec New Zealand dated 30 July, which MGL provided to the Panel on 28 August 2026.
- Effects Assessment are included within the response to question 19 of MGL's RFI 11 response provided to the Panel on 17 August 2026 and included:
 - Ardgour Rise Alignment Heritage Report, prepared by New Zealand Heritage Properties Ltd, Naomi Woods
 - Ardgour Rise Memorandum – Landscape, prepared by Boffa Miskell, Rhys Girvan
 - Ardgour Rise Vegetation Report, prepared by RMA Ecology, Duncan Nicol
- Consent conditions, are submitted within this response package dated 14 September 2026
- Management Plans will be updated in due course and certified by CODC prior to commencement of works.

Timeline of Works

The following provides a timeline and description of activities that MGL undertook:

26 June 2026 - Minute 39 noting receipt of the Abley Report, confirming the design provided did not meet either Council's engineering standards or the ARRB unsealed road guide recommended by Abley, and it has not been demonstrated that the Ardgour Rise route can be engineered with suitable gradients.

03 July 2026 MGL meet with Abley to discuss the report, standards, and the current design. MGL forwarded additional information to Abley and CODC.

06 July 2026 Abley confirm they have downloaded the files and will share with Meyer Cruden.

14 July 2026 MGL received Meyer Cruden Report and had a meeting with CODC to confirm way forward. The meeting notes from this discussion are as follows:

1. MGL summarised the three key areas that will be covered off today.
 - i. Design review of Ardgour Rise Road,
 - ii. CODC update on Ardgour Road, and
 - iii. Addressing the "other outstanding issues" including SH8/Ardgour Road Intersection, staff bus transport condition, and access to Come in Battery.



2. Mark Chrisp confirmed CODC and MGL needed to get general agreement on Ardgour Rise Road to support the conditions development workshops which start on 27 July 2026.
3. Meyer Cruden summarised the design review outcomes, Abley confirmed the design standard to guide the design is ARRB Unsealed Roads, as agreed in the FTA expert witness statements. It was noted that current design exceeded the 12.5% gradients for 4.2km and that any deviation from ARRB unsealed roads would need to be supported with a transport engineers review addressing safety and maintenance requirements. MGL are appointing an engineer and will respond as quickly as possible with a report and amendments to the design for CODC consideration. The approach is to have an agreement in principle for the FTA conditions timeframe.
4. CODC (Group Manager Planning and Infrastructure) confirmed they will have a response with regards to Ardgour Rise Road before the end of next week, 24th of July.
5. It was confirmed that Abley will be the lead and be the principal contact for the design review, any correspondence should copy in CODC and Meyer Cruden.

15 July 2026 – Draft Ardgour Rise Road design completed and sent to Stantec New Zealand Ltd (MGL's appointed engineer) for Road Safety Review.

20 July 2026 – MGL engaged Geotechnical Engineer, Geotago.

22 July 2026 – Stantec New Zealand completed a site visit of Ardgour Rise Road.

31 July 2026

- MGL forwarded Stantec Ardgour Rise Road Safety Review Report to CODC and Abley.
- MGL provided Ardgour Rise Road Design Rev 5.0 to CODC and Abley.
- MGL received confirmation of receipt from Abley and an endeavour to respond by 7th of August 2026.

02 September 2026 – MGL received an email from CODC Group Manager Planning and Infrastructure advising Council was working through design reviews received from Abley and Meyer Cruden and the response will go back through the Panel. Additionally, it was advised that CODC need to fully resolve the alternative route through the Fast Track process before proceeding further with the road stopping works.

07 September 2026 – MGL received CODC Response to RFI 11 and Abley Road Design Safety Assessment Review Technical Note via the FTA. The report concluded that with detail design the road would be a suitable replacement for Thomson Gorge Road.

Consent Conditions

The proposed consent conditions relevant to Ardgour Rise Road are within D.01 CODC Land Use Consent and Conditions (Conditions 67-69) in the 14 September 2026 version. The conditions require the Consent Holder to:

- Construct an alternative vehicle route to Thomson Gorge Road to maintain public access to the Dunstan Mountains, generally in accordance with the alignment shown on Plan 1 – Project Overview Plan, prior to the closure of Thomsons Gorge Road.
- Prior to construction, submit final design drawings to CODC for engineering approval that the proposed design meets the road design standards and outcome set out in the report “Ardgour Rise Road Safety Review” dated 30 July 2026 prepared by Stantec New Zealand.
- Following construction, the Consent Holder shall commission an independent post construction safety audit, provide this to CODC for certification that the road was constructed in accordance with the approved design and any agreed actions from the post construction safety audit.
- Within six months of the completion of the construction of Ardgour Rise, survey the road alignment and apply for a subdivision consent from CODC to enable the creation of fee simple Record(s) of Title so that the road (within Ardgour Station and the Ardgour Conservation Area) can be vested in the CODC.
- Provided that the subdivision consent is granted by CODC, the Consent Holder must, within the following three months, vest Ardgour Rise in CODC.