

Ref: DOC-7492804

16 November 2023

Bendigo Station
RD3
CROMWELL

Tēnā koe,

**LETTER OF AGREEMENT: BENDIGO CONSERVATION COVENANT -AMENDMENT
OF CONDITION 9(D)**

This letter is written to express the Minister of Conservation's agreement to the landholders of Bendigo Station (Bendigo) amending the Bendigo Conservation Covenant.¹

Under the Bendigo Conservation Covenant the Minister of Conservation (Minister) may: "*Change individual conditions of this covenant by mutual agreement with the landholders should there be any change in circumstances in the future*", condition 11(b) .

In February 2023 I agreed to consider a Bendigo initiated and narrowly focused change to the condition 9(d) to allow for Bendigo to authorise Matakanui Gold Limited to construct further temporary tracks within the covenant area, subject to a suitably time bound, future proofed restoration and enhancement plan being developed, complete with independent monitoring.

At present condition 9(d) states:

The Landholders will not use that part of the land for forestry and will not construct tracks on it.

Bendigo Station has asked that condition 9(d) be changed to (addition underlined):

The Landholders will not use that part of the land for forestry and will not construct tracks on it, except that temporary tracks may be constructed with the Minister's prior approval subject to a restoration and enhancement programme

The Minister has considered the proposed amendment and considers this change is appropriate. This agreement to change of the covenant is not indicative of any future decision by the Minister on tracking or any other statutory approval which may be required from the Minister or the Director-General in respect to future exploration or mining in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant.

I remind Bendigo Station that the objectives of the Bendigo Conservation Covenant are a very significant barrier to mining activity within the covenant area should this be sought at some time in the future. Any agreement by the Minister to a change to a condition of the covenant to allow for

¹ Conservation Covenant made pursuant to section 77 Reserves Act 1977 between J C Perriam and H L Perriam, Landholders and the Minister of Conservation dated 18 August 2000, DOC 5009824.9.

temporary exploration tracking in the 'Rise and Shine Creek' area should not be inferred as support for a potential subsequent mining operation.

Nāku noa, nā,



[Redacted Name]

Pou Matarautaki Operations Manager, Central Otago District
Commissioner (Reserves)

Department of Conservation *Te Papa Atawhai*

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