



Submission to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

By Gibbston Valley Wines Limited

10 April 2026

Background

Gibbston Valley Wines Limited is a Central Otago wine producer and tourism business, established in 1983. We operate vineyards, wine production, hospitality, accommodation, and visitor experiences in the Queenstown Lakes District.

GVW owns and operates established vineyard holdings in Bendigo, including School House, Red Shed, and China Terrace. These properties comprise approximately 37.1 hectares of land and 28.64 hectares of mature vineyard and form a core part of our production base and premium wine programme.

GVW is a directly affected landowner in relation to this proposal. Our Bendigo vineyards sit within the immediate landscape of the proposed project area and are directly exposed to its potential effects.

Objection

GVW **objects to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project** on the basis of the adverse effects outlined below.

Key Concerns

1. Water:

Our Bendigo vineyards rely on groundwater supplied through three bores:

- School House — G41/0262
- China Terrace — G41/0228
- Red Shed — G41/0203

Any effect on groundwater quantity, quality, bore performance, or long-term reliability is direct and material to our operations.

The Bendigo-Tarras groundwater system is variable, and sites such as School House sit in elevated terrace positions where water supply may be more sensitive to change.

For us, uncertainty in water supply is itself an adverse effect. We are concerned about both abstraction and potential long-term contamination risks associated with mining activity. The Panel has already identified groundwater contamination as a central issue for affected water users.

2. Proximity and Site Exposure:

School House sits within the immediate landscape of the proposed project area. It is an elevated, north-facing vineyard with open exposure and is GVW's highest-altitude Bendigo vineyard, forming part of our premium single-vineyard programme.



This means any industrial activity — including dust, noise, traffic, and visual change — would be experienced directly at the site.

These vineyards are not generic land. They are sensitive production environments that depend on stable conditions and long-term management. The introduction of large-scale industrial activity into this setting would directly alter the existing conditions these vineyards rely on.

3. Wine, Brand, and Destination Value:

The value of our Bendigo vineyards is not limited to grape production. It includes bottled wine value, single-vineyard positioning, brand equity, and provenance.

GVW also operates a broader destination business, including cellar door, hospitality, accommodation, and visitor experiences. These activities are built on the credibility of the wine and the integrity of the landscape it comes from.

Any change to that environment — or even uncertainty around it — has the potential to affect both wine value and the wider business.

GVW's vineyards and winery are fully BioGro certified organic, reflecting a long-term reliance on environmental stability and site integrity.

Request:

As a **directly affected landowner**, GVW requests that:

- This objection and the concerns outlined above are formally recorded and given proper weight; and
- GVW is given the opportunity to be **further engaged prior to any resource consents being granted**, particularly in relation to:
 - o groundwater quantity, quality, and long-term reliability;
 - o environmental management and mitigation; and
 - o the assessment of effects on premium viticulture and regional reputation.

Cristina Griffith

Executive Managing Director & Shareholder
Gibbston Valley Wines Limited