

BEFORE THE EXPERT CONSENTING PANEL

FTAA-2507-1089

UNDER THE

FAST TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024 ("Act")

IN THE MATTER OF

an application for approvals by Matakanui Gold Limited to establish, operate, rehabilitate and ultimately close an open pit and underground gold mining operation known as the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

**SECOND MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL FOR THE CENTRAL OTAGO
WINEGROWERS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED:
CONFIRMATION OF WISH TO BE HEARD**

23 APRIL 2026

JGH BARRISTER

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Barrister**

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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:

1. This memorandum is filed on behalf of the Central Otago Winegrower's Association Incorporated (**COWA**).
2. The notice of hearing dated 20 April for a hearing on 29 April 2026 (and possibly extending to 30 April 2026) states (emphasis added):

Invited parties may appear and be heard at the hearing, **may be represented, and may call evidence** in relation to the substantive application or the matters for which the hearing is being held. **Invited parties must advise the EPA within 3 working days of the date of this notice whether they will attend the hearing.**

3. This memorandum confirms COWA's wish to be heard and that it will be represented by counsel, most likely remotely, but possibly in person.
4. This is bearing in mind paragraph 8 of minute 6 of the Panel:

All comments received will be read by the Panel before the hearings. What will therefore be of most assistance to the Panel in the context of the April hearings is a relatively high-level overview of the invitee's position that identifies the parts of the evidence which most particularly informs that position. **Where legal counsel has been engaged, they may be the logical spokesperson.**

5. It may also be that the GM and/ or Chairperson of COWA will also attend, possibly remotely, or in person, at least to be available to answer questions that they might be better placed to answer.
6. COWA does not intend to have its experts available at the hearing, given the proposed conferencing and hot-tubbing for experts proposed by the Panel. In that regard, COWA wishes to record that one of its experts, Rex Sunde, is not available on 27 May 2026.
7. If any clarification is needed, please let me know.

23 April 2026



James Gardner-Hopkins
Counsel for the Central Otago Winegrower's Association Incorporated