



29 May 2025

Penny Nelson
Director-General
Department of Conservation
c/o Fast-track Applications

By email: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz

Dear Penny,

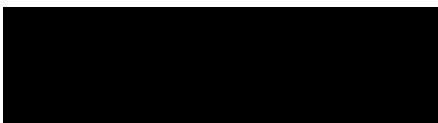
RE: SANTANA MINERALS LIMITED – BENDIGO-OPHIR GOLD PROJECT – SUBSTANTIVE APPLICATION UNDER SCHEDULE 2 OF THE FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024

1. We write to confirm that Matakanui Gold Limited (“**MGL**”) – as a New Zealand registered company and wholly owned subsidiary of Santana Minerals Limited – will be applying for all approvals necessary under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (“**FTAA**”) for the construction, operation, maintenance and eventual closure of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project. The Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project is listed in Schedule 2 of the FTAA, and it is intended that an application for the project will be lodged with the Environmental Protection Authority by the end of June 2025.
2. The application will seek approval for mining and mining related activities on Bendigo and Ardgour Stations in the Dunstan Mountains of Central Otago, including (but not restricted to):
 - The construction, operation and maintenance of open pit mines at four identified gold deposits named Rise and Shine, Come in Time, Srex and Srex East;
 - The construction, operation and maintenance of an underground mine (the Rise and Shine Underground Mine);
 - Associated ancillary facilities and infrastructure within the lower Shepherds Valley, including the establishment of a processing plant, tailings storage facilities, engineered landforms, rock and topsoil stockpiles and water storage and treatment facilities;
 - A general and administration area located on the adjoining Ardgour Terrace for non-operational infrastructure; and
 - Remediation and closure activities.
3. Of relevance to the Department of Conservation, the approvals being applied for will include approvals that outside of the FTAA process would typically be required under:



- The Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 for diversion activities and the construction of culverts that may impede fish passage (although no fish are present within the project site);
 - The Wildlife Act 1953 for surveying, handling, salvage and relocation activities; and
 - The Conservation Act 1987 for the relocation of an existing road, road intersection upgrades, crack willow removal activities and the relocation of an existing walking track on public conservation land.
4. Throughout the preparation of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, MGL has engaged a wide selection of domestic and international technical experts to assist with the design of the project and the undertaking of assessments of actual and potential environmental effects associated with the project. As a result of the inputs provided by these technical experts the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project will utilise leading-practise mining methodologies, environmental monitoring methods, and operational controls, management, and reporting measures. Furthermore, MGL will continue to actively engage with relevant administering authorities, government agencies, environmental groups, stakeholders, and members of the community as the project progresses. These commitments will be included in the proposed consent conditions provided as part of the FTAA application.
5. In terms of prior consultation with your department, in your capacity as one of the relevant administering agencies of any fast-track approvals process (section 11 (1)(e) of the FTAA), there has already been engagement on the project to date through the DOC Fast Track pre-lodgement portal responding to a request for information and the local DOC team to provide general overview information. However, if you or the department have any questions or matters you would like to discuss associated with the application for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project under the FTAA, please let us know.
6. We have included, with this letter, our suggestion for a pre-lodgement briefing, if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Damian Spring
Chief Executive Officer
Santana Minerals Limited



28 May 2025

James Palmer
Secretary for the Environment and Chief Executive
Ministry for the Environment
And to: Fast-track Team

By email: [REDACTED] and contact@fasttrack.govt.nz

Dear James

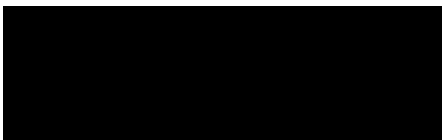
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 - A general and administration area located on the adjoining Ardgour Terrace for non-operational infrastructure; and
 - Remediation and closure activities.



3. Of relevance to the Ministry for the Environment (“**MfE**”), the approvals being applied for will include approvals that outside of the FTAA process would typically be required under the Resource Management Act 1991 (“**RMA**”).
4. Throughout the preparation of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, MGL has engaged a wide selection of domestic and international technical experts to assist with the design of the project and the undertaking of assessments of actual and potential environmental effects associated with the project. As a result of the inputs provided by these technical experts the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project will utilise leading-practise mining methodologies, environmental monitoring methods, and operational controls, management, and reporting measures. Furthermore, MGL will continue to actively engage with relevant administering authorities, government agencies, environmental groups, stakeholders, and members of the community as the project progresses. These commitments will be included in the proposed consent conditions provided as part of the FTAA application.
5. In terms of prior consultation under the RMA, there has already been substantial engagement on the project to date through the Central Otago District Council and Otago Regional Council. The relevant summary of the project, detailing such matters, was also provided with our application to MfE for listing in Schedule 2 of the FTAA. However, if in your capacity as one of the relevant administering agencies pursuant to section 11 (1)(e) of the FTAA, you or the Ministry have any questions or matters you would like to discuss associated with the application for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project under the FTAA, please let us know.
6. We have included, with this letter, our suggestion for a pre-lodgement briefing, if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Damian Spring
Chief Executive Officer
SANTANA MINERALS LIMITED





28 May 2025

Leauanae Laulu Mac Leauanae
Secretary for Culture and Heritage and Chief Executive
Ministry for Culture and Heritage
By email: [REDACTED]

And to:

Andrew Coleman
Manahautū/Chief Executive
Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga
By email: [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

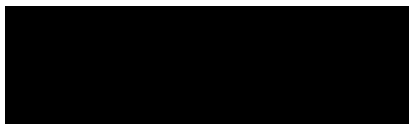
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 - Remediation and closure activities.



3. Of relevance to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, the approvals being applied for will include approvals that outside of the FTAA process would typically be required under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 (the “**Act**”) for works that have the potential to modify or remove archaeological remains and/or features.
4. Throughout the preparation of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, MGL has engaged a wide selection of domestic and international technical experts to assist with the design of the project and the undertaking of assessments of actual and potential environmental effects associated with the project. As a result of the inputs provided by these technical experts the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project will utilise leading-practise mining methodologies, environmental monitoring methods, and operational controls, management, and reporting measures. Furthermore, MGL will continue to actively engage with relevant administering authorities, government agencies, environmental groups, stakeholders, and members of the community as the project progresses. These commitments will be included in the proposed consent conditions provided as part of the FTAA application.
5. In terms of prior consultation, there has already been engagement on the project to date through the Otago / Southland Office of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga. This included a site visit undertaken with MGL on 13 March 2025. However, if in your capacity as administering agencies pursuant to section 11 (1)(e) of the FTAA, you or your agencies have any questions or matters you would like to discuss associated with the application for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project under the FTAA, please let us know.
6. We have included, with this letter, our suggestion for a pre-lodgement briefing, if that would be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,



Damian Spring
Chief Executive Officer
SANTANA MINERALS LIMITED

CC: Sarah Gallagher, Kaiwhakahaera a-Takiwa / Area Manager Otago / Southland, Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga

