

## Matakanui Gold Ltd Groundwater Application Comments

8<sup>th</sup> April, 2026

**Comments from:** *Bendigo Terrace Farming Limited Partnership*

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- Bendigo Terrace Farming Limited Partnership (Bendigo Terrace) own and manage an irrigated dairy support farm on Ardgour Road.
- Irrigation, and the ongoing supply of irrigation water, is essential to the farm operation. All available irrigation water is utilised on the farm. There is no redundancy (surplus water) in the irrigation system.
- Half of the irrigation water supply for the property is sourced from two groundwater bores located near the proposed Matakanui Gold Ltd bore field. Water is pumped from the bores to the Bendigo Terrace farm.
- The Bendigo Terrace bore numbers are G41/0403 (mapped as G41/0402/01), and CB13/0221. Bore CB13/0221 replaced bore G41/0373, and is sited in the same location. The rates of abstraction are 90 l/s and 120 l/s respectively.
- Of interest to Bendigo Terrace is how the proposed abstraction by Matakanui Gold may affect Bendigo Terrace's abstractions given the proximity to the bores, and that the bores tap the same aquifer. Bendigo Terrace recognise that all bores can both contribute to drawdowns in other bores, and be impacted by drawdowns from other abstractions.
- The Groundwater Bore Take Effects Assessment report prepared includes an assessment of the drawdown effects on surrounding groundwater users. (Section 5.3.1). Bendigo Terrace consider the methodology for the assessment, and the assessed drawdowns are sound.
- While Table 14 of the report lists the bores within 1.2 kilometres of the Matakanui bores, and how the Matakanui abstraction may affect those bores, only two bores are assessed in detail in so far as the available drawdown (freeboard), self-induced drawdown, expected water level variation, and the additional assessed drawdown effect from the Matakanui abstraction. Such an assessment should be made for all the bores potentially affected.

- Bendigo Terrace recognise that the Bendigo aquifer has high permeability and recharge, which enables high abstraction rates (for example Bendigo Terraces own bores). Bendigo Terrace also recognise the limits noted in the report around existing users.