

Hon Tama Potaka

Minister of Conservation
Minister for Māori Crown Relations
Minister for Māori Development
Minister for Whānau Ora
Associate Minister of Housing



10 April 2026

By email: substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

Invitation to comment on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Thank you for the invitation to comment on the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project under section 53 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024.

I support the application subject to the Expert Panel:

- considering whether the proposed activities will affect Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan) or Mata-au (Clutha River), thereby bringing the statutory acknowledgements into play; and
- considering the impact of the proposal on taonga species.

I also encourage the Expert Panel to:

- consider the Ngāi Tahu nohoanga entitlement in relation to potential effects on cultural values; and
- give reasonable consideration to the comments provided, if any, by relevant Māori groups.

Mauri ora,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Tama Potaka'.

Hon Tama Potaka

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori me Te Minita mō Te Arawhiti | Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Māori Crown Relations