

Expert Panel appointed to consider Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project  
C/- Environmental Protection Authority  
By email: [bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz](mailto:bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz)  
Attention: Mujahid Musa

Department of Conservation  
P O Box 10420  
Wellington 6143  
[fast-track@doc.govt.nz](mailto:fast-track@doc.govt.nz)

Date 7 September 2026

[doc.govt.nz](http://doc.govt.nz)

File ref: FTAA- 2507-1089

Tēnā koe Mujahid

## **Re: Request for Further Information under the Fast track Approvals Act 2024**

In relation to the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, the Department of Conservation (DOC) is providing comments on the applicant's RFI 11 response and the applicant's draft conditions dated 28 August 2026, having regard to the following directions of the Panel:

- In Minute 46 dated 19 August 2026, the Panel granted leave to any party to file comments in response to the applicant's response to RFI 11 by Monday 7 September 2026
- In Minute 47 dated 25 August 2026 and following a request to suspend the application, the Panel expanded the comments parties were able to (voluntarily) provide to also address water related draft conditions dated 28 August 2026
- In Minute 48 dated 28 August 2026, the Panel clarified parties' voluntary comments may include all material provided by the applicant on its RFI 11 response and the applicant's evidence filed between 12 – 17 June, together with any response to the conditions, approvals and the Heritage and Archaeological Management Plan circulated by the applicant on 28 August 2026

Acknowledging the application is currently suspended, DOC makes the following comments on a voluntary basis to assist the Panel. Had the application been in progress DOC would provide this information in accordance with section 67(2)(a) of the Fast track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act).

### **Response**

DOC's comments address the following matters:

- RFI 11 – adequacy of funding for Matakinui Trust
- RFI 11 – new lizard management proposal
- the Applicant's updated conditions for proposed concessions and proposed common conditions for ORC and CODC resource consents, and proposed CODC Land Use consent conditions

These comments do not discuss the updated wildlife approval dated 28 August 2026, as the RFI 11 response proposes a fundamentally different approach to management of impacts on lizards, as further described in the information provided.

I attach the following information:

- report on BOGP – Matakinui Trust Funding Adequacy Review
- further expert advice of Mandy Tocher, dated 7 September 2026
- legal submissions for the Director-General of Conservation re Minutes 46-48 – in response to RFI 11 and re updated conditions dated 28 August 2026
- Comments on proposed concessions and on updated resource consent conditions dated 28 September 2026

We trust this response provided on a voluntary basis will assist the Panel. If there are further questions in relation to this response, please contact Pene Williams, Senior Solicitor or Marie Payne, Project Lead on this application. Their contact details are [REDACTED]

Nāku noa, nā



Linda Kirk  
**Fast Track Applications Manager**



Department of  
Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government