

Memorandum

To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel

From: Santana Minerals

Date: 14 September 2026

Re: Social Impact Assessment and Community Engagement Matters Raised by Invited Parties

Introduction

This memorandum responds to feedback received from invited parties concerning the Social Impact Assessment (SIA), the Just Add Lime Addendum and the updated community and stakeholder engagement information provided to the Panel in response to RFI 11.

Comments were received from:

- Holger Reinecke;
- Simon Gibbard and Nicola Mulvena;
- Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn and Professor Geoff Kearsley;
- Bruce and Sandra Calder;
- Suze Keith on behalf of Sustainable Tarras;
- Canyon Vineyard and Thomson Gorge Road residents; and
- Central Otago District Council.

While the comments differ in their focus and level of detail, a number of recurring themes emerge. These broadly relate to:

- the scope and conclusions of the SIA and Addendum;
- community and stakeholder engagement;
- community cohesion, trust and social licence;
- effects on neighbouring residents, amenity and wellbeing; and
- economic effects and community benefits.

The comments raise a number of related issues that recur across multiple submissions. To assist the Panel, MGL responds to those issues thematically rather than on a submitter-by-submitter basis.

Scope and Conclusions of the SIA and Addendum

Feedback raised concerns that the SIA, Addendum and updated engagement information do not adequately reflect the experiences of particular residents, businesses or community groups, or give sufficient weight to matters such as community cohesion, trust, amenity, wellbeing, uncertainty and effects on neighbouring residents.

MGL acknowledges those perspectives. The SIA and Addendum assess social effects at a community scale while recognising that impacts may be experienced differently by particular individuals, households and businesses.

Many of the matters now raised were identified and considered through the social assessment process. The submissions provide additional examples of lived experience and, in some instances, attribute different significance to effects already assessed. They therefore, assist the Panel's understanding of how those effects are experienced and perceived across the community.

In MGL's view, the submissions do not identify a material gap in the social assessment, but instead provide additional perspectives on matters already addressed within the SIA and Addendum.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

Some invited parties criticise the adequacy or effectiveness of consultation and the extent to which their concerns have been reflected in the assessment or MGL's response. MGL acknowledges that some stakeholders remain dissatisfied with the Project or particular outcomes. That is relevant context, but dissatisfaction, opposition, or a decision not to take up an opportunity to participate should not be equated with a failure to engage. The relevant consideration is whether reasonable opportunities were provided, matters raised were considered and answered, and stakeholder input influenced the Project, where practicable.

The engagement records attached demonstrate sustained engagement through multiple channels over an extended period, including public meetings and drop-in sessions, community updates, workshops, direct correspondence, invitations to meet, site visits, Community Liaison Group opportunities, works notifications and responses to individual concerns. In MGL's view, the adequacy of engagement should be assessed having regard to the broader pattern of interaction, rather than any single meeting, communication or engagement

Appendix A provides the clearest account for invited parties with who provided feedback on RFI 11. It records the timing and nature of contact, issues raised, MGL's replies and, where applicable, action taken. Examples include adjustments to works to maintain property access, dust suppression, fencing remediation, verge reinstatement, drainage

repairs and covering exposed infrastructure. The value of these records is therefore not simply the number of interactions. Rather, they provide contemporaneous evidence that concerns were raised, considered and, where a practical solution was available, acted upon.

Community Cohesion, Trust and Social Licence

Invited parties also raised concerns regarding community cohesion, trust, social licence and division. MGL does not minimise those matters. Differing views about the Project, varying levels of trust and the potential for community tension were recognised in the SIA and Addendum as potential social effects of a development of this scale.

The submissions confirm that views regarding the Project remain strongly held and, in some cases, polarised. They also provide additional perspectives on how those issues are experienced within the community. While submitters differ in their assessment of the significance of these effects, MGL notes that they were recognised and discussed within the SIA and Addendum.

Several submitters question the effectiveness of ongoing engagement and relationship-building mechanisms, including the Community Liaison Group. MGL notes that the Community Liaison Group was established in response to recommendations arising from the social assessment process and provides an ongoing mechanism for communication, scrutiny and dialogue. Its continued operation is secured through proposed consent condition C9.

Neighbouring Residents, Amenity and Wellbeing

MGL acknowledges that residents and businesses closest to Project activities may experience change more directly than the wider community, and that the distribution of effects is relevant to the Panel's assessment. Matters raised include amenity, lifestyle and rural character, stress, uncertainty, wellbeing and perceptions of environmental risk. These matters were recognised in the SIA and Addendum, including the potential for perceptions of change and uncertainty to affect wellbeing.

The individual submissions provide the Panel with additional evidence of lived experience and insight into how these effects are experienced by neighbouring residents and businesses. However, in MGL's view, they do not identify effects that were not already recognised in the social assessment, nor do they materially alter the assessment of neighbouring resident effects contained within the SIA and Addendum.

Appendix A also provides examples of how specific issues arising during enabling works were addressed in practice.

Economic Effects and Community Benefits

Comments concerning property values, tourism and accommodation activities, rural and other businesses, and the distribution of Project benefits and burdens are acknowledged. MGL accepts that economic effects will not be experienced uniformly and that regional or community-level benefits do not mean every household or business will perceive a benefit. These matters were considered through the social and economic assessments and the economic material before the Panel. The submissions add further perspectives on distribution and significance, but do not, in MGL's view, introduce information that materially changes the economic or social conclusions already before the Panel.

Conclusion

MGL acknowledges the concerns raised by invited parties and recognises that views regarding the Project differ across the community.

The comments provide the Panel with additional perspectives regarding the nature, significance and distribution of social effects associated with the Project. Those perspectives assist in understanding how different individuals, households, businesses and community groups experience and perceive the Project and its potential effects.

Many of the matters raised in the submissions were identified and discussed within the SIA and the Just Add Lime Addendum. While submitters often attribute greater weight to particular effects or reach different conclusions regarding their significance, MGL does not consider that the comments identify new social impact information.

Accordingly, MGL considers that the comments largely reinforce, rather than materially alter, the range of social effects already identified within the social assessment process.

MGL remains committed to open, transparent and constructive engagement. MGL will continue to make itself available to meet with residents and will continue active engagement throughout detailed design, construction and operation. Additionally, the continued operation of the Community Liaison Group is secured through proposed consent conditions.

MGL therefore respectfully submits that the original SIA, the Just Add Lime Addendum, the updated engagement information and the invited party comments collectively provide the Panel with a comprehensive basis upon which to assess the social effects of the Project.

APPENDIX A

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT RECORDS

Bruce and Sandra Calder

This record documents each point of contact between MGL and Bruce and Sandra Calder between 21 October 2024 and 3 September 2026. It shows when contact was initiated, what information was shared, the questions the Calder's raised, the responses provided, and how they were kept informed after stating their opposition to the project. Every date and figure corresponds to a dated communication on the project engagement file.

Engagement at a glance

Period	21 Oct 2024 to 3 Sep 2026 (22 months)	Recorded touchpoints	50 (37 outgoing, 10 incoming, 1 exchange, 1 meeting, 1 site visit)
Face to face	Meeting 31 Oct 2024; site visit 18 Feb 2025	Questions from the Calder's	Three rounds; all answered in writing
Invitations issued	Five, incl. Community Liaison Group	Works notifications	18 advance notices, Jul 2025 to Jul 2026
Project updates	Five, incl. FTA submission 13 Jun 2025	Practical assistance	Firewood offered, accepted, delivery under way; thanks received

The engagement history

Engagement started early, and before the application

First written request to meet 21 October 2024; initial meeting ten days later. First contact came eight months before the Fast-track submission of 13 June 2025. Roading, the issue of most direct relevance to Thomson Gorge Road residents, was on the table from the first meeting.

Information was offered, not requested

In December 2024 the Calder's received the site plan, mining process and noise contours, with a second meeting request and a site visit offer. They took up the visit, arranged within five days of their contact and completed 18 February 2025. Questions raised on site were answered in writing on 5 March 2025; receipt confirmed the same day.

Every question asked was answered

Site visit questions: answered 5 March 2025. Roading concerns: response and roading plan 23 May 2025. Community drop-in questions: received 16 November 2025, acknowledged 21 November, answered in full 2 December, thanks received 3 December.

Opposition did not end the engagement

The Calder's advised on 20 May 2025 that they did not welcome the mine and on 1 September 2025 declined to join the Community Liaison Group. The project's approach did not change: the roading plan followed three days after the May statement, and 18 works notices over the following year gave advance warning of road closures, Stop/Go, blasting, water main and fibre works, power outages and dust sealing, with contractor contacts for property access. The Calder's kept engaging in return: they sent questions after the November 2025 drop-in and thanked the project for the answers, accepted firewood from enabling-works tree removal in December 2025, and sent a thank-you in February 2026 on confirmation of delivery, with delivery timing still being coordinated in March 2026. Their opposition has been stated and respected; courteous two-way communication has continued regardless.

Engagement is current

Most recent contact 3 September 2026: notification of the exploration facility relocation to Ardgour Flats and Thomson Gorge Road maintenance. The Calder's remain on the project notification list.

Full engagement log

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
Meeting invitations and direct engagement			
21 Oct 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Request to meet.	Invitation issued.
31 Oct 2024	Meeting	Roading options.	Initial meeting completed.
3 Dec 2024	Outgoing	Request to meet again and provide an update.	Further meeting requested.
3 Dec 2024	Outgoing	Project update, site visit offer, site plan, mining process and noise contours.	Information provided by email; site visit offered.
20 May 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to meet and discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road.	Invitation issued.
20 May 2025	Incoming	Response to meeting invitation.	Calders advised they did not welcome the mine; no response to meeting invitation.
1 Sep 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to join the MGL Community Liaison Group.	Invitation issued.
1 Sep 2025	Incoming	Response to Community Liaison Group invitation.	Calders advised they were opposed to the mine and did not wish to participate.
Technical queries and site visit			
13 Nov 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Preferred roading options.	Information provided.
13 Feb 2025	Incoming	Coordination and communication for proposed resident site visit.	Site visit arrangements progressed.
13 Feb 2025	Incoming / outgoing	Site visit arrangements.	Time confirmed.
17 Feb 2025	Outgoing	Site visit plan and PPE requirements.	Information provided.
17 Feb 2025	Incoming	Site visit attendees.	Attendees confirmed.
18 Feb 2025	Site visit	Site visit with Mr Calder, Mrs Calder and Ms Mulvena.	Site visit completed.
5 Mar 2025	Outgoing	Questions raised during site visit.	Answers provided.
5 Mar 2025	Incoming	Receipt of answers to site visit questions.	Receipt confirmed.
23 May 2025	Outgoing	Roading concerns and roading plan.	Response and roading plan provided.
16 Nov 2025	Incoming	Concerns and questions following the 10 November Tarras Community Drop-in Session.	Questions received.
21 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Questions raised following community drop-in.	Receipt acknowledged; advised response was in progress.
2 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Concerns and questions raised following Tarras Community Drop-in Session.	Answers provided.
3 Dec 2025	Incoming	Response to answers provided.	Thanks received.
Project updates			
13 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Fast-track Approvals submission.	Project update provided.
10 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Upcoming work programme: pipes, road widening/realignment, earthworks, Ardgour buildings and water treatment systems.	Advance project update provided.
15 Aug 2025	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road safety improvements.	Update provided.
17 Apr 2026	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road upgrade, Stages 1 and 2.	Update provided.
3 Sep 2026	Outgoing	Exploration facility relocation from Bendigo Loop Road to Ardgour Flats and TGR road maintenance.	Notification provided.
Works notifications			

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
16 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activities, Ardgour Flats.	Update provided.
6 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Water main installation, Matilda Rise to TGR.	Work notice issued.
11 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
26 Nov 2025	Outgoing	TGR and Ardgour enabling works: tree removal, fencing, borrow pit, internal access road, TGR realignment and exploration base.	Work notice issued; firewood offered.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice update issued.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Tree felling and Stop/Go on TGR; potential 15-minute delays.	Contractor contact supplied for access; firewood offered.
1 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activity, Ardgour Flats.	Work notice update issued.
19 Dec 2025	Outgoing	January works: stump removal, fencing, internal access road, TGR realignment, exploration base and Chorus fibre upgrade.	Updated work notice issued.
9 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Nightly TGR road closure for fibre installation near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
16 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Planned power outages on 20 and 23 January.	Advance notification.
2 Feb 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
5 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Planned power outage on 13 March.	Advance notification.
10/11 Mar 2026	Outgoing, contractor call	Road dust seal.	Residents updated by contractor.
27 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Tree stump removal and Stop/Go; additional dust suppression seal.	Contractor contact provided.
7 May 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
21 May 2026	Outgoing	Matilda Rise reopening.	Residents notified road was open.
23 Jun 2026	Outgoing	Temporary TGR road closure and detour near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
20 Jul 2026	Outgoing	One-day temporary Stop/Go on TGR near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
Practical assistance			
2 Dec 2025	Incoming	Offer of firewood.	Offer accepted.
10 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Firewood delivery timeframes.	Confirmation provided.
10 Feb 2026	Outgoing	Firewood delivery.	Confirmation provided.
10 Feb 2026	Incoming	Firewood delivery communication.	Thank-you received.
16 Mar 2026	Incoming	Firewood delivery timing.	Follow-up received.
17 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Firewood delivery timing.	Update provided.

Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn and Professor Geoff Kearsley

This record documents each point of contact between MGL and Dr Claire Fletcher-Flinn and Professor Geoff Kearsley between 21 October 2024 and 3 September 2026. It shows when contact was initiated, the technical information shared and questions answered, the site visit completed, and how the residents were kept informed after advising that they preferred to express their views by email. Every date and figure corresponds to a dated communication on the project engagement file.

Engagement at a glance

Period	21 Oct 2024 to 3 Sep 2026 (22 months)	Recorded touchpoints	44 (33 outgoing, 8 incoming, 2 exchanges, 1 site visit)
Face to face	Site visit 14 Feb 2025; meeting times arranged Nov and Dec 2024	Questions from the residents	Two (noise modelling, Feb 2025; gate arrangement, Mar 2026); both responded to
Invitations issued	Six, incl. Community Liaison Group	Works notifications	17 advance notices, Jun 2025 to Jul 2026
Project updates	Five, incl. FTA submission 13 Jun 2025	Practical assistance	Firewood accepted; gate arrangement proposal sketched for approval

The engagement history

Engagement started early, and the residents responded

First written request to meet delivered 21 October 2024, eight months before the Fast-track submission of 13 June 2025, followed by roading options on 13 November 2024. The residents responded by phone on 8 November 2024 and a time to meet was arranged; a further request on 3 December 2024 drew their availability on 7 December and a confirmed meeting time on 10 December 2024.

Technical information was provided and questions answered

On 4 February 2025 the residents received the site plan, mining process and noise contours, with a site visit offer. They welcomed the visit on 7 February and raised a question on the noise calculation; a response on the sound modelling was provided four days later, on 11 February, together with Social Impact Assessment information. The site visit was completed on 14 February 2025, one week after acceptance.

The residents chose email as their channel

Invited on 20 May 2025 to meet on the widening of Thomson Gorge Road, the residents replied on 22 May thanking MGL and stating a preference to express their views by email. That preference has been respected. They were invited to join the Community Liaison Group on 1 September 2025 and have received five project updates, including advance notice of the Fast-track submission, and 17 works notices between June 2025 and July 2026, the first of which, on 3 June 2025, gave advance notice of surveyors on the road. The residents acknowledged the blasting notice on 2 December 2025.

Practical assistance was offered and taken up

The residents accepted firewood from enabling-works tree removal on 28 November 2025, with delivery timeframes confirmed on 10 December 2025, a further acceptance on 14 January 2026 and a delivery update on 20 January 2026. On 5 March 2026 they asked for a compliant gate arrangement; the Project Manager sketched a proposal for their approval, with installation to follow the week after approval.

Engagement is current

Most recent contact 3 September 2026: notification of the exploration facility relocation to Ardgour Flats and Thomson Gorge Road maintenance. Dr Fletcher-Flinn and Professor Kearsley remain on the project notification list.

Full engagement log

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
Meeting invitations and direct engagement			
21 Oct 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Request to meet.	Invitation issued.
8 Nov 2024	Outgoing	Request to meet.	Invitation issued.
8 Nov 2024	Incoming, phone call	Response to meeting request.	Time arranged to meet.
3 Dec 2024	Outgoing	Request to meet.	Further meeting requested.
7 Dec 2024	Incoming	Availability to meet.	Availability provided.
10 Dec 2024	Incoming / outgoing	Meeting arrangements.	Meeting time confirmed.
13 Dec 2024	Meeting	Initial meeting roading options	Initial meeting completed
20 May 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to meet and discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road.	Invitation issued.
22 May 2025	Incoming	Response to 20 May invitation.	Residents thanked MGL for the invitation and stated a preference to express their views by email.
1 Sep 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to join the MGL Community Liaison Group.	Invitation issued.
Technical queries and site visit			
13 Nov 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Preferred roading options.	Information provided.
4 Feb 2025	Outgoing	Site plan, mining process and noise contours.	Information provided; site visit offered.
7 Feb 2025	Incoming	Site visit and question regarding noise calculation.	Site visit welcomed; technical question raised.
11 Feb 2025	Outgoing	Sound modelling questions.	Response provided; site visit discussed.
11 Feb 2025	Incoming / outgoing	Site visit arrangements and Social Impact Assessment information.	Site visit time confirmed; SIA information provided.
13 Feb 2025	Outgoing	Site visit planning and PPE requirements.	Information provided.
14 Feb 2025	Site visit	Project site visit.	Site visit completed.
Project updates			
13 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Fast-track Approvals submission.	Project update provided.
10 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Upcoming work programme: pipes, road widening/realignment, earthworks, Ardgour buildings and water treatment systems.	Advance project update provided.
15 Aug 2025	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road safety improvements.	Update provided.
17 Apr 2026	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road upgrade, Stages 1 and 2.	Update provided.
3 Sep 2026	Outgoing	Exploration facility relocation from Bendigo Loop Road to Ardgour Flats and TGR road maintenance.	Notification provided.
Works notifications			
3 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Surveyors working on Thomson Gorge Road.	Advance notification.
16 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activities at Ardgour Flats.	Update provided.
6 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Water main installation, Matilda Rise to TGR.	Work notice issued.
11 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
26 Nov 2025	Outgoing	TGR and Ardgour enabling works: tree removal, fencing, borrow pit, internal access road, TGR realignment and exploration base.	Work notice issued; firewood offered.

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice update issued.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Tree felling and Stop/Go on TGR; potential 15-minute delays.	Contractor contact supplied for access; firewood offered.
1 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activity, Ardgour Flats.	Work notice update issued. Duplicate source entry consolidated.
2 Dec 2025	Incoming	Borrow pit and blasting work notice.	Acknowledgement received.
19 Dec 2025	Outgoing	January works: stump removal, fencing, internal access road, TGR realignment, exploration base and Chorus fibre upgrade.	Updated work notice issued.
9 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Nightly TGR road closure for fibre installation near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
2 Feb 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
10/11 Mar 2026	Outgoing, contractor call	Road dust seal.	Residents updated by contractor.
27 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Tree stump removal and Stop/Go; majority of works off-road; additional dust suppression seal.	Contractor contact provided.
7 May 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
21 May 2026	Outgoing	Matilda Rise reopening.	Residents notified road was open.
23 Jun 2026	Outgoing	Temporary TGR road closure and detour near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
20 Jul 2026	Outgoing	One-day temporary Stop/Go on TGR near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
Practical assistance and response to concerns			
28 Nov 2025	Incoming	Offer of firewood.	Offer accepted.
10 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Firewood delivery timeframes.	Confirmation provided to residents.
14 Jan 2026	Incoming	Firewood offer.	Offer accepted.
20 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Firewood delivery.	Update provided.
5 Mar 2026	Incoming / Project Manager	Request for compliant checked in gate arrangement.	Project Manager sketched proposal for resident approval and would be installed following week following approval.

Simon Gibbard and Nicola Mulvena

This record documents each point of contact between MGL and Simon Gibbard and Nicola Mulvena between 21 October 2024 and 3 September 2026. It shows when contact was initiated, the meeting and site visit completed, the roading information provided on request, and the practical mitigation undertaken in response to concerns about access, dust, fencing, verge reinstatement and exposed water lines during enabling works. Every date and figure corresponds to a dated communication on the project engagement file.

Engagement at a glance

Period	21 Oct 2024 to 3 Sep 2026 (22 months)	Recorded touchpoints	40 (29 outgoing, 9 incoming, 1 meeting, 1 site visit)
Face to face	Meeting 31 Oct 2024; site visit 18 Feb 2025	Queries and concerns raised	Eight (two information requests, six works concerns); all responded to
Invitations issued	Three, incl. Community Liaison Group	Works notifications	17 advance notices, Jun 2025 to Jul 2026
Project updates	Five, incl. FTA submission 13 Jun 2025	Practical assistance	Fence remediated, verge hydroseeded, dust suppression applied, water lines covered

The engagement history

Engagement started early, and before the application

First written request to meet delivered 21 October 2024, eight months before the Fast-track submission of 13 June 2025; initial meeting with Ms Mulvena on roading options held ten days later, on 31 October 2024, with preferred roading options provided on 13 November 2024.

Site visit completed and information provided on request

Ms Mulvena attended the project site visit on 18 February 2025 alongside Mr and Mrs Calder, and questions raised on site were answered in writing on 5 March 2025. Following the 20 May 2025 invitation to discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road, the residents requested the proposed road plans on 27 May 2025 and received them the same day.

Every concern during enabling works was acted on

Driveway access, 27 January 2026: trenching at the driveway stopped and crew redeployed until an approach was agreed, with ongoing access updates offered. Road dust, 5 March: water carts until a dust suppression coat was applied 12 March. Gate and fence, 12 March: fencing contractor completed remedial work by 13 March and the resident was satisfied. Verge and dust, 12 and 16 March: verge hydroseeded and road watered until semi-permanent suppression on 30 and 31 March. Hydroseed growth, 27 March: seed blend information provided. Exposed water lines, 6 August: remedial cover completed 5 August.

Information flow was maintained throughout

The residents were invited to join the Community Liaison Group on 1 September 2025; no response is recorded. They received five project updates, including advance notice of the Fast-track submission on 13 June 2025, and 17 works notices between June 2025 and July 2026 covering surveying, road closures, Stop/Go, blasting, water main and fibre works and dust sealing, with contractor contacts for property access. The residents acknowledged the blasting notice on 2 December 2025.

Engagement is current

Most recent contact 3 September 2026: notification of the exploration facility relocation to Ardgour Flats and Thomson Gorge Road maintenance. Mr Gibbard and Ms Mulvena remain on the project notification list.

Full engagement log

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
Meeting invitations and direct engagement			
21 Oct 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Request to meet.	Invitation issued.
31 Oct 2024	Meeting	Roading options.	Initial meeting with Ms Mulvena completed.
20 May 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to meet and discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road.	Invitation issued.
1 Sep 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to join the MGL Community Liaison Group.	No response recorded.
Technical queries and site visit			
13 Nov 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Preferred roading options.	Information provided.
18 Feb 2025	Site visit	Project site visit attended by Ms Mulvena with Mr and Mrs Calder.	Site visit completed.
5 Mar 2025	Outgoing	Questions raised during site visit.	Answers provided.
27 May 2025	Incoming	Request for proposed Thomson Gorge Road plans.	Request received.
27 May 2025	Outgoing	Proposed Thomson Gorge Road plans.	Plans provided.
Project updates			
13 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Fast-track Approvals submission.	Project update provided.
10 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Upcoming work programme: pipes, road widening/realignment, earthworks, Ardgour buildings and water treatment systems.	Advance project update provided.
15 Aug 2025	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road safety improvements.	Update provided.
17 Apr 2026	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road upgrade, Stages 1 and 2.	Update provided.
3 Sep 2026	Outgoing	Exploration facility relocation from Bendigo Loop Road to Ardgour Flats and TGR road maintenance.	Notification provided.
Works notifications			
3 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Surveyors working on Thomson Gorge Road.	Advance notification.
16 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activities, Ardgour Flats.	Update provided.
6 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Water main installation, Matilda Rise to TGR.	Work notice issued.
11 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
26 Nov 2025	Outgoing	TGR and Ardgour enabling works: tree removal, fencing, borrow pit, internal access road, TGR realignment and exploration base.	Work notice issued; firewood offered.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice update issued.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Tree felling and Stop/Go on TGR; potential 15-minute delays.	Contractor contact supplied for access; firewood offered.
1 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activity, Ardgour Flats.	Work notice update issued. Duplicate source entry consolidated.
2 Dec 2025	Incoming	Borrow pit and blasting work notice.	Acknowledgement received.
19 Dec 2025	Outgoing	January works: stump removal, fencing, internal access road, TGR realignment, exploration base and Chorus fibre upgrade.	Updated work notice issued.
9 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Nightly TGR road closure for fibre installation near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
2 Feb 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
10/11 Mar 2026	Outgoing, contractor call	Road dust seal.	Residents updated by contractor.

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
27 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Tree stump removal and Stop/Go; majority of works off-road; additional dust suppression seal.	Contractor contact provided.
7 May 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
21 May 2026	Outgoing	Matilda Rise reopening.	Residents notified road was open.
23 Jun 2026	Outgoing	Temporary TGR road closure and detour near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
20 Jul 2026	Outgoing	One-day temporary Stop/Go on TGR near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
Practical assistance and response to concerns			
27 Jan 2026	Incoming / project manager response	After contact with the project manager, the site crew was instructed to temporarily stop works at the resident driveway and continue works elsewhere until a practical solution could be agreed that maintained access to the property while allowing the trenching works to progress.	Project manager asked the resident to make contact the following day when back on site to discuss and agree an appropriate approach, and offered ongoing updates regarding any future activities that may affect access to the property.
5 Mar 2026	Incoming / project manager	Complaint regarding dust on road post commencement of works.	Water carts until dust suppression coat applied 12 March 2026.
12 Mar 2026	Incoming	Concern regarding condition of installed gate and fence.	Concern received.
12 Mar 2026	Incoming	Concern regarding dust on verge and Thomson Gorge Road.	Concern received. Dust suppression applied 12 March 2026.
13 Mar 2026	Outgoing / project manager response	Gate and fence condition.	Fencing contractor completed remedial work; resident was satisfied with the work.
16 Mar 2026	Incoming / contractor response	Concern regarding road verge outside resident property and road dust.	Southern Hydro Lawn hydroseeded the verge. Water carts watered the road until semi-permanent dust suppression was applied on 30/31 March.
27 Mar 2026	Incoming / contractor response	Concern that hydroseed was not growing fast enough.	MGL responded with information on the seed blend.
6 Aug 2026	Incoming / contractor response	Concern that water lines were left exposed.	Contractor advised remedial work had been completed on 5 August, with additional material placed over the water lines.

Holger Reinecke

This record documents each point of contact between MGL and Holger Reinecke, property owner at 6 Thomson Gorge Road, between 21 October 2024 and 3 September 2026. It shows the repeated invitations to meet, the project and works information provided, the queries and concerns Mr Reinecke raised and the responses given, including remedial works following a July 2026 complaint. Every date and figure corresponds to a dated communication on the project engagement file.

Engagement at a glance

Period	21 Oct 2024 to 3 Sep 2026 (22 months)	Recorded touchpoints	42 (36 outgoing, 6 incoming)
Meetings held	None; six meeting invitations not taken up	Queries and concerns raised	Four (Jan, Feb, Mar and Jul 2026); all responded to
Invitations issued	Seven, incl. Community Liaison Group	Works notifications	18 advance notices, Jul 2025 to Jul 2026
Project updates	Five, incl. FTA submission 13 Jun 2025	Practical assistance	Firewood accepted; driveway gravel offered; ditch repairs remediated

The engagement history

Engagement was attempted early and repeatedly

First written request to meet delivered 21 October 2024, eight months before the Fast-track submission of 13 June 2025, with roading options for Ardgour Road and Thomson Gorge Road put forward on 13 November 2024. Further invitations followed on 14, 20 and 25 March 2025 and on 3 June 2025, the last specifically to discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road. Mr Reinecke acknowledged contact on 23 March 2025 but did not take up any invitation to meet, and no response is recorded to the 25 March or 3 June approaches.

Information continued regardless

With no meeting secured, Mr Reinecke was kept on the same notification footing as every other Thomson Gorge Road resident. He was invited to join the Community Liaison Group on 1 September 2025, received five project updates including advance notice of the Fast-track submission on 13 June 2025, and 18 works notices between July 2025 and July 2026 covering road closures, Stop/Go, blasting, water main and fibre works, power outages and dust sealing, each with a contractor contact for property access where relevant.

Every query and concern was responded to

Request for the CEO's contact details, 13 January 2026: email address provided. Query on completion of trench and driveway works, 25 February 2026: contractor contacted him within two days and offered to spread gravel from the gate to the road seal. Request for an update on sealing off Ardgour Road, 16 March 2026: contractor instructed to make contact. Complaint that ditches had sunk between 6 and 10 Thomson Gorge Road, 16 July 2026: acknowledged the same day, timing of remedial works advised the next day, and repairs completed and followed up on 24 July 2026.

Practical assistance was offered and accepted

Mr Reinecke accepted the offer of firewood from enabling-works tree removal on 1 December 2025; delivery timeframes were confirmed on 10 December 2025 and a further delivery update provided on 17 March 2026. The relationship on the record is one in which direct engagement was sought six times and not taken up, while information flow, responsiveness to concerns and practical assistance were maintained throughout.

Engagement is current

Most recent contact 3 September 2026: notification of the exploration facility relocation to Ardgour Flats and Thomson Gorge Road maintenance. Mr Reinecke remains on the project notification list and the invitation to meet remains open.

Full engagement log

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
Meeting invitations			
21 Oct 2024	Outgoing, letter drop	Request to meet.	Invitation issued.
13 Nov 2024	Outgoing	Roading options for Ardgour Road and Thomson Gorge Road; request for meet and greet.	Invitation issued.
14 Mar 2025	Outgoing	Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project; request for meet and greet.	Invitation issued.
20 Mar 2025	Outgoing	Opportunity to meet as property owner at 6 Thomson Gorge Road.	Invitation issued.
23 Mar 2025	Incoming	Response to contact.	Mr Reinecke acknowledged the email but did not respond to the invitation to meet.
25 Mar 2025	Outgoing	Further request to arrange a meeting.	No response recorded.
3 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to discuss widening of Thomson Gorge Road.	No response recorded.
1 Sep 2025	Outgoing	Invitation to join the MGL Community Liaison Group.	Invitation issued.
Project updates			
13 Jun 2025	Outgoing	Fast-track Approvals submission.	Project update provided.
10 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Upcoming work programme: pipes, road widening/realignment, earthworks, Ardgour buildings and water treatment systems.	Advance project update provided.
15 Aug 2025	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road safety improvements.	Update provided.
17 Apr 2026	Outgoing	Thomson Gorge Road upgrade, Stages 1 and 2.	Update provided.
3 Sep 2026	Outgoing	Exploration facility relocation from Bendigo Loop Road to Ardgour Flats and TGR road maintenance.	Notification provided.
Works notifications			
16 Jul 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activities, Ardgour Flats.	Update provided.
6 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Water main installation, Matilda Rise to TGR.	Work notice issued.
11 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
26 Nov 2025	Outgoing	TGR and Ardgour enabling works: tree removal, fencing, borrow pit, internal access road, TGR realignment and exploration base.	Work notice issued; firewood offered.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Work notice update issued.
28 Nov 2025	Outgoing	Tree felling and Stop/Go on TGR; potential 15-minute delays.	Contractor contact supplied for access; firewood offered.
1 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Borrow pit and blasting activity, Ardgour Flats.	Work notice update issued; duplicate source entry consolidated.
19 Dec 2025	Outgoing	January works: stump removal, fencing, internal access road, TGR realignment, exploration base and Chorus fibre upgrade.	Updated work notice issued.
9 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Nightly TGR road closure for fibre installation near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
16 Jan 2026	Outgoing	Planned power outages on 20 and 23 January.	Advance notification.
2 Feb 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
5 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Planned power outage on 13 March.	Advance notification; Aurora also notified residents.

Date	Contact type	Purpose / key matters	Response / follow-up
10/11 Mar 2026	Outgoing, contractor call	Road dust seal.	Residents updated by contractor.
27 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Tree stump removal and Stop/Go; majority of works off-road; additional dust suppression.	Contractor contact provided.
7 May 2026	Outgoing	Temporary road closure, Matilda Rise.	Access contact provided.
21 May 2026	Outgoing	Matilda Rise reopening.	Residents notified road was open.
23 Jun 2026	Outgoing	Temporary TGR road closure and detour near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
20 Jul 2026	Outgoing	One-day temporary Stop/Go on Thomson Gorge Road near Matilda Rise.	Work notice issued.
Practical assistance and response to concerns			
1 Dec 2025	Incoming	Offer of firewood.	Offer accepted.
10 Dec 2025	Outgoing	Firewood delivery timeframes.	Confirmation provided.
13 Jan 2026	Incoming	Request for CEO's contact details.	Email address provided.
25 Feb 2026	Incoming	Query regarding completion of trench and driveway works.	Query received.
27 Feb 2026	Outgoing / contractor follow-up	Trench and driveway works.	Contractor contacted resident and offered to spread gravel from the gate to the road seal.
16 Mar 2026	Incoming	Firewood delivery and request for update on sealing 10 m off Ardgour Road.	Contractor instructed to contact resident.
17 Mar 2026	Outgoing	Firewood delivery.	Update provided.
16 Jul 2026	Incoming	Complaint that ditches had sunk between 6 and 10 Thomson Gorge Road.	Complaint received.
16 Jul 2026	Outgoing	Sunken ditches between 6 and 10 Thomson Gorge Road.	Complaint acknowledged; update promised as soon as possible.
17 Jul 2026	Outgoing	Sunken ditches between 6 and 10 Thomson Gorge Road.	Update provided on timing of remedial works.
24 Jul 2026	Outgoing	Remediated ditch repairs.	Follow-up undertaken; no response recorded.