



Subject: Bendigo-Ophir Mine – comments from adjacent landowner Megan Bryan

From Megan Bryan [REDACTED]**Date** Thu 9/04/2026 7:15 PM**To** Bendigo-Ophir Gold <bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Dear Panel Members

I am writing in response to your invitation to comment on the Bendigo-Ophir Mine project you are assessing. I am the co-owner of land at Rapid [REDACTED] wish the panel to know that I am strongly opposed to Santana's fast-track application. My concerns are as follows:

1. Environmental Impact of the Gold Mine

The proposed goldmine raises significant concerns about its potential environmental impact. Gold mining operations are known for their detrimental effects on local ecosystems, including deforestation, habitat destruction, and water pollution from toxic chemicals used in the extraction process. The toxic byproducts can infiltrate local water sources, posing a risk to both wildlife and the surrounding communities' drinking water. The long-term environmental impact could overshadow any short-term economic benefits, leading to irreversible changes in the biodiversity and health of the region.

2. Conflict of Having a Toxic Mine in a Populated and Earthquake-Prone Region

Central Otago has a history of seismic activity, raising concerns about the safety of mining operations in this area. The potential for earthquakes could lead to accidents, resulting in toxic spills that would endanger the health of residents and the surrounding environment. Furthermore, establishing a goldmine in a populated area increases the risk of exposure to hazardous materials for local communities. The conflict between economic interests and the health and safety of the population must be addressed with the utmost seriousness, as the consequences of an environmental catastrophe could be catastrophic.

3. We Don't Need Gold

In today's economic climate, the necessity of gold mining is increasingly questioned. With advancements in technology and society's shift towards sustainable practices, the demand for gold is not as critical as it once was. Instead of investing in gold extraction, resources could be better allocated towards sustainable industries that promote long-term economic stability and environmental stewardship. Our focus should be on promoting renewable energy sources, sustainable agriculture, and eco-friendly tourism, which provide jobs and economic benefits without the associated environmental costs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I urge the relevant authorities to reconsider the proposal for the Santana Goldmine near Bendigo. The environmental impact, the diminishing necessity for gold, and the risks associated with mining in a populated and earthquake-prone region present substantial arguments against the project. We have a responsibility to protect our environment and the health of our communities.

Thank you for considering my submission.

Sincerely,

Megan Bryan