
MINUTE 35 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
GIS Base Model
Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
[FTAA-2507-1089]
[12 June 2026]

[1] The Panel received the Applicant's response to its request for further information (RFI) 5 on 5 June 2026. The RFI related to the provision of information to assist the landscape architects to be able to respond to the Panel's Item K in their expert conferencing, in respect to that part of the Bendigo Conservation Covenant (BCC) area proposed to be revoked.

[2] The Panel received the Landscape Architect's JWS on 28 May 2026. Accordingly, the JWS was not informed by this information.

[3] At the 9 June 2026 concurrent hearing of the landscape architecture experts, Ms Gilbert expressed concern that the information provided by the Applicant did not provide the necessary information to enable a landscape assessment of the area of the BCC sought to be revoked, including that it should have been provided in a Geographic Information System (GIS) format. Mr Girvan for the Applicant confirmed to the Panel that he had not been involved in its preparation.

[4] The Panel considers that the information provided by the Applicant is not sufficient nor in a form suitable for the landscape architects to be able to provide us with advice on what the specific landscape related character and values of the Covenant area are and the effects of the proposal on those values.

[5] The Panel directs the Applicant to instruct Mr. Girvan to lead the

compilation of a suitable GIS base model that he considers to be appropriate to allow the assessment to occur. We anticipate that in doing so, Mr. Girvan will collaborate with all landscape architects who participated in expert conferencing to ensure the model is sufficient and appropriate for an evaluation.

[6] Following the production of the Model, the Applicant is directed to instruct Mr. Girvan to provide further expert evidence on the specific existing landscape character and values within the BCC area, and the effects the proposal will have on those values. Upon receipt of this additional evidence, the Panel will likely invite further evidence in response from each of the landscape experts.

[7] The Panel is not currently able to assess a reasonable time limit for compliance with these requirements. It invites a brief memorandum from the Applicant following which it will make supplementary directions

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Muir', with a stylized, cursive script.

Hon Matthew Muir KC

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel Chair