
MINUTE 36 OF THE EXPERT PANEL
Supplementary evidence received from Sustainable Tarras and Otago
Regional Council
Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project
[FTAA-2507-1089]
[22 June 2026]

[1] This Minute responds to Memoranda of Counsel received from Sustainable Tarras and Otago Regional Council (ORC).

Sustainable Tarras

[2] Following the Geotech concurrent hearing, Sustainable Tarras sought consent to file a brief statement and associated 2023 report from Professor Emerman which includes commentary on the McLaughlin mine in Nappa California. He says he misunderstood a question from the Panel Chair as relating to McLaughlin's mine near Charleston New Zealand of which he had no knowledge. He does have knowledge of the similarly named mine in California and wishes therefore to now respond to the Panel's inquiry.

[3] The Panel accepts that a misunderstanding has occurred and has granted leave accordingly.

[4] The report has now been received and can be read on the Fast-track website here:

<https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/bendigoophir-gold-project/conferences,-workshops-and-hearings>

Otago Regional Council

[5] The Panel acknowledges receipt of ORC's Memorandum of 16 June 2026 providing a response to a Panel question which its witness was unable to answer at the Landscape concurrent hearing on 9 June 2026 (extent of inclusion of Te Tangi a te Manu in Proposed Otago Regional Policy Statement).

[6] Noting its flexible powers and its capacity to obtain the same information by RFI, the Panel agrees to receipt of the information referenced in the Memorandum as supplementary evidence in the hearing.

[7] This Memorandum can be read on the Fast-track website here:

https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0021/29190/Memorandum-of-counsel-for-ORC-responding-to-a-question-from72209616.1.pdf

[8] Obviously, any party may seek leave to respond if considered necessary.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. A. Muir', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Hon Matthew Muir KC

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel Chair