



Memorandum

To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel

From: Santana Minerals

Date: 17 August 2026

Re: Introduction to RFI 11 Water Responses (Questions 1 -9)

Introduction

Matakanui Gold Limited (MGL) and its advisors have compiled responses to the Expert Panel's Request for Information (RFI 11) Questions 1 to 9, which relate to water quality, aquatic ecology, hydrogeology, groundwater modelling, contaminant transport, wetland hydrology and ecotoxicology. The documents relevant to each question are listed in Table 1 and are accompanied by individual memoranda to assist the Panel's review.

The response package represents a substantial programme of additional investigations, technical review and modelling undertaken by MGL and its specialist advisors following receipt of RFI 11. Collectively, these assessments provide further baseline information, updated hydrogeological and groundwater contaminant modelling, additional aquatic ecology investigations, wetland hydrology analyses, aquifer testing, contaminant load assessment and ecotoxicological evaluation.

The investigations and assessments submitted in response to Questions 1 to 9 are intended to address the matters raised by the Panel and provide additional information regarding the existing receiving environment, the predicted effects of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project, and the measures proposed to manage those effects.

In addition, MGL commissioned EMM Consulting Pty Ltd to prepare *Water Resources Impact Assessment Summary* to assist the Panel in reviewing and understanding the extensive body of water-related technical evidence submitted during the Fast-track Approvals process. This report consolidates and synthesises the extensive body of water-related technical work prepared throughout the Fast-track Approvals process, including the additional information generated in response to RFI 11.

The EMM report provides an integrated overview of the water environment, identifies the key water-related risks associated with the Project, summarises the predicted effects on surface water and groundwater resources, and outlines the monitoring, management and mitigation measures proposed during construction, operations, closure and post-closure.



EMM concludes that, while some uncertainty remains regarding future site-specific hydrogeological and water quality responses and methods, the baseline investigations, predictive assessments, modelling and management frameworks developed for the Project provide an appropriate basis to understand and manage the key water-related risks throughout the Project life cycle.

The Water Resources Impact Assessment Summary provides a consolidated overview of the extensive water evidence before it and demonstrates how the various specialist assessments collectively support the proposed water management framework for the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

The documents comprising MGL's response to Questions 1 to 9 are listed in Table 1 below.

Table 1: List of documents prepared in response to RFI 11 Questions 1- 9

RFI Question	Document	Author
Questions 1 – 9	This Memorandum introducing the responses to Question 1 - 9	Matakanui Gold Limited
Question 1		
	Memorandum introducing the responses to Question 1	Matakanui Gold Limited
1(a)	<i>Downstream Catchment Baseline Water Quality</i>	Julie Palich, Geocontam Risk Management Ltd
1(b)	<i>Lindis River and Bendigo Creek Freshwater Ecology Survey</i>	Boffa Miskell
Question 2 (including points in Question 4)		
	Memorandum introducing the responses to Question 2	Matakanui Gold Limited
2 (a)	<i>BOGP Groundwater Site Investigation Memorandum</i>	Ryan Burgess, Hydro Geochem Group
2 (b) (c) 4 (a) (b)	<i>Updated Groundwater Modelling for Bendigo Ophir Gold Deposit</i>	Matt Dumont, Kōmanawa Solutions Ltd
Question 3 (including points in Question 4)		
	Memorandum introducing the responses to Question 3	Matakanui Gold Limited
3(a) (b) (c) 4(a) (b)	Operational Phase Site Wide Water and Load Balance Model	Ryan Burgess and Paul Weber, Mine Waste Management Ltd
Question 4		
4(a) (b)	Response to question 4 have been included in the responses to question 2 and 3.	
Question 5		
	Memorandum introducing the response to Question 5	Matakanui Gold Limited



RFI Question	Document	Author
5	<i>Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project - Assessment of Environmental Effects</i>	Julie Palich, Geocontam Risk Management Ltd
Question 6		
	Memorandum introducing the response to Question 6	Matakanui Gold Limited
6	<i>Report on Compliant Aquifer Test at BOGP Water Supply Bore Field</i>	Jens Rekker, Kōmanawa Solutions Ltd
Question 7		
	Memorandum introducing the response to Question 7	Matakanui Gold Limited
7	<i>BOGP Wetland Hydrology Analysis</i>	Jim Griffiths, Hydro Geochem Group
	<i>RAS Wetland Field Investigation</i>	Jim Griffiths, Hydro Geochem Group
	<i>Memorandum Response to Question 7 of RFI 11, Part B</i>	Matakanui Gold Limited
Question 8		
	Memorandum introducing the response to Question 8	Matakanui Gold Limited
8	<i>Memorandum Response to RFI 11 – Fast Track Approvals Application FTA-2507-1089-Item 8 Sulfate and Nitrate Compliance Limits</i>	Julie Palich, Geocontam Risk Management Ltd
Question 9		
	Memorandum introducing the response to Question 9	Matakanui Gold Limited
9	<i>Response to RFI 11 – Fast Track Approvals Application FTA-2507-1089-Item 9 Ecotoxicology</i>	Julie Palich, Geocontam Risk Management Ltd
Water Resources Impact Assessment Summary		
	Memorandum introducing the summary assessment	Matakanui Gold Limited
	<i>Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Water Resources Impact Assessment Summary</i>	EMM Consulting Pty Ltd

Conclusion

Collectively, the documents listed in Table 1 provide MGL's response to RFI 11 Questions 1 to 9 and address matters relating to water quality, aquatic ecology, hydrogeology, groundwater contaminant transport, wetland hydrology, water treatment and ecotoxicological effects.

The accompanying Water Resources Impact Assessment Summary prepared by EMM Consulting Pty Ltd provides an integrated overview of the extensive water-related

investigations, assessments and modelling undertaken for the Project, including the additional work completed in response to RFI 11. MGL considers that the information provided addresses the matters raised by the Panel and demonstrates that the Project's water-related effects can be appropriately understood, monitored and managed through the proposed management, mitigation and monitoring framework throughout the life of the Project.