
Social Impact Assessment

From N Mulvena [REDACTED]

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To Bendigo-Ophir Gold <bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz>; ContactFastTrack <contact@fasttrack.govt.nz>

Dear Panel Members

We are residents of [REDACTED]

This is a response to the recently released Social Impact Assessment by MGL which was initially withheld.

MGLs late stage disclosure of its SIA - only after direct pressure from the panel - demonstrates that they have no interest in building a "social license."
They have treated us and the community engagement as a box ticking exercise for the Fast Track process.

There is a systematic lack of engagement, transparency, and consultation by MGL to those directly affected.

For example, local drop-in sessions have been surface level and extremely lacking in crucial details when we asked questions regarding water, potential contamination of aquifers, light, noise, dust/air pollution, explosives, the cyanide processing plant, traffic, roading and the long-term integrity of the toxic tailings dam... preventing local residents from understanding the true magnitude of the risks to our daily lives.

Santana drive past our gate every day to and from the proposed mine site. They know who we are, where we live, they know how we feel. They know we are directly affected and they choose to ignore us. They obviously regard us as "collateral damage."

The principle of natural justice is, that affected communities must not be ignored, and yet this is exactly what has happened here.

Our lives and homes have been thrown into turmoil. On top of that, to have our voice ignored and our safety dismissed in a withheld report is reckless.

Thank you for your time.
Simon Gibbard and Nicola Mulvena