
Fwd: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT

From Sandra Calder [REDACTED]
Date Fri 4/09/2026 15:30
To Bendigo-Ophir Gold <bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sandra Calder** [REDACTED]
Date: Sun, Aug 30, 2026 at 3:38 PM
Subject: INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT
To: <substantive@fasttrack.govt.nz> bendigoftaa@fasttrack.govt.nz : Response to MINUTE RF1
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We are Bruce and Sandra Calder [REDACTED]; residents in close proximity to the proposed mine. We contributed to an independent assessment of social impacts 18 months ago and have since emailed our high impact concerns to your panel. We would ask that you could read this as you are reaching the closing stages of your work please.

We are grateful through your factual enquiries involving experts in their relevant fields in the time since to have gained much stronger knowledge about the multiple issues involved.
Our complete opposition to this particular mining project has been frighteningly reinforced !

On our particular road [REDACTED] Santana's presence and physical works have already had a negative impact and if the mine is consented to proceed it appears the Thomson Gorge residents will be placed in the collateral damage category. On an individual level there can be no argument it will have a seriously negative impact on our lives. Dust, noise, lack of peace, health risks, the threat of our potable water being polluted, and potentially becoming part of an environmental disaster if there is a failure in the tailings dam through human error or Mother Nature.

Our paramount concern has always been the RISK to water integrity, in particular to The Clutha/Mata - Au. The siting of a huge TOXIC TAILINGS DAM in steep terrain leading directly down a natural geographical funnel to the Lindis river and onwards down to the Clutha/Mata-Au is abhorrent ! It shows no common sense and is a definite extreme risk that MUST be avoided.

The protection of this river now and into the future is our responsibility. It is our "gold" and the key supplier of life, employment, and economic well being in Central Otago.
It should never be at risk !

Santana has said the proposed mining project will have the highest standards in New Zealand. This is not at all reassuring as they are an Australian exploration company (not a validated mining company)

who state they are not following the far more experienced/ higher Australian standards. They have approached this project with arrogance ; as if the result is a fait accompli. Their not supplying , or withholding information, misplacing or losing assessments, having token information meetings with no-one able to answer questions on the spot, releasing ambiguous figures all leaves warnings signs.....There has been an insult to our intelligence by their CEO recently saying a mine will be of benefit to THE DUNSTAN MOUNTAINS.

18 months further on from listing our first concerns the World has experienced more natural disasters. Santana's leadership group deny global warming and the mining community they associate with have been told environmental obstacles in New Zealand are few.

PLEASE PROVE THEM WRONG ; Mother Nature is powerful but we can do our bit to lessen the risk through Kaitiakitanga. It is our responsibility.

Thank you
Bruce and Sandra Calder