



Further Submission to the Fast Track Panel:

Despite our previous submission to the Fast Track Panel with regard to the Bendigo-Ophir gold mining proposal by Santana Minerals (3.4.26), a subsequent news article (ODT 1.5.26), and the Panel's request for Santana to have a discussion with us at the hearing, we have **not** been contacted by them. As far as we know, there has been **no** contact with anyone else (8 properties) living on Thomson Gorge Road. Their Social Impact statement (Engagement update report) does not include us - those most affected by their mining proposal. Surely, this cannot be an oversight!

We would like to submit some additional comments subsequent to those we made to the Panel.

1. Economic losses.

a. Our property has been listed for sale since October 14, 2025. There has been little interest – only 2 enquiries according to our real estate agency (Property Brokers). As elderly people, this means that we must continue to hire workers to mow our paddocks, shoot rabbits, and do the gardening and maintenance work on the house and property. This is costly for us.

b. By this time last year, we had 76 guests who booked, and subsequently stayed in our bnb during the November 2025 through March 2026 tourist season. This year, there are no forward bookings, so far. There have been a lot of local and national press releases with regard to the Santana mine so many potential bookings could be affected. Although we cannot be certain that the proposed mine is the reason that we are losing potential accommodation income, our quiet, farm-style

accommodation will no longer be as advertised if the Santana mine is given approval. We expect that the noise, dust, and lighting from mine activities and 24/7 heavy vehicle road use will be a deterrent for any tourists to book with us, and would contribute to negative reviews. This is a substantial potential loss of income, and reduces the purchase price of the bnb business when selling our property.

c. In addition, we have an organic olive oil business (Ardgour Olives). The olives are hand-harvested over a period of six weeks. It is unclear as to how much dust from a steady stream of trucks on an unpaved road (Thomson Gorge Road) will affect our workers, especially during a dry season. Their health may be at risk, or given the conditions we may find it difficult to even get workers.

These current, and potential future business losses will affect a buy-out of our business when and 'if' we can even sell the property.

2. Implicit harassment. We acknowledge that our Tarras Community is divided with regard to support for the Santana mine. Although we have not received any direct threats or intimidation from Santana, we believe that it is in poor taste, and contributes to a 'we' and 'them' mentality for Santana to provide red caps with their logo for the local fire brigade to sell. On the surface, it appears like a charitable gesture to support the Community but in reality, it is a marketing ruse that further divides us.

3. Continuing road disruption. Yesterday, we received another letter from Santana advising us of further disruption to our road as they are moving their exploration team and facilities on Bendigo Loop Road to their new base at Ardgour Flats, 161 Thomson Gorge Road. We have been informed that during this period there will be an increase in traffic as equipment and facilities are moved, and that this movement "is expected to be

completed by 30th September”. No compensation has been offered for the noise, delays, and inconveniences as this movement takes place on our rural gravel road.

3. Personal impact. Future economic losses, including inability to sell our property (Point 1) implicit harassment (Point 2), and ongoing traffic disturbances (Point 3) have contributed to further increasing our personal stress levels and wellbeing. At present, any future planning is not possible.

Given the Committee’s requirement of a Social Impact statement from Santana, and the publicity surrounding our issues, it is clear that Santana has disregarded our concerns as not relevant to their enterprise. More recently, in a joint statement with our neighbours, we have tried to approach Santana, but they have only responded with an acknowledgement of our correspondence. The refusal to engage with those most affected by their mining operation says a lot about their priorities.

Professor Geoff Kearsley
Dr. Claire Fletcher-Flinn