
To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Panel
From: The Canyon Vineyard Ltd
Hayden Johnston (Owner/Director)
Email Address: [REDACTED]

Date: 29 April 2026

Tēnā koe,

Supplementary Information ahead of hearing on 30 April 2026

Please see some additional information to assist the panel. I will circulate hard copies tomorrow and I will be happy to answer questions during the two sessions.

1. Coexistence of Wine and Mining Globally

1.1 McLaughlin Mine - Napa Valley, California

Napa County does in fact have experience with open-pit gold mining using cyanide — the McLaughlin Mine, operated by Homestake Mining Company from 1985 to 2002, produced 3.4 million ounces of gold from an open pit a mile long and 750 feet deep, using sodium cyanide leaching. It deposited 38 million tonnes of tailings into an impoundment facility. More than two decades after closure, the pits are filling with acid water, the tailings facility is still not fully closed, and remediation is ongoing. The California State Mining and Geology Board has noted that no large open pit metallic mine in California has been returned to the conditions contemplated by the state's surface mining legislation. (source: various articles on the internet, widely reported on). Significantly this mine was approximately 40km from the nearest wine-producing subregion. It was not in or near the Napa Valley wine country.

1.2 Syar/Napa Quarry

An example of mining that currently exists in Napa but it's not comparable. A Large open pit mine is currently operating but mining basalt rock and doesn't use cyanide (as no gold extraction) and doesn't need a tailings dam

1.3 Bird in Hand / Terramin Gold Mine, Adelaide Hills

(example from Prof. James Higham's Tourism submission for ST, 6 April, paragraph 74): A proposed gold mine in a wine-tourism region that was rejected because short-term mining benefits did not outweigh risks to long-term local businesses, water sources, and the region's tourism brand.

1.4 Margaret River, WA

In 2011 the Western Australian EPA rejected the Vasse Coal Project — a proposed underground coal mine 15 kilometres from Margaret River township — finding that even with mitigation, the risks to the region's groundwater, agriculture, and wine and tourism economy were unacceptable. (https://www.gem.wiki/Vasse_Coal_Project — which cites the original EPA Board determination)

In 2012, the WA Mines Minister used public interest powers under the Mining Act 1978 to terminate four further coal applications and warn that any future coal proposals in the region would be refused on the same grounds. No coal mine has been approved in Margaret River since. (Global Energy Monitor, "Vasse Coal Project, "; Australian Mining, "WA bans coal mining in Margaret River region," 25 July 2012. <https://www.australianmining.com.au/wa-bans-coal-mining-in-margaret-river-region/>

Disputes:

- a) Hunter Valley Wine Industry Association and Coal Seam Gas
<https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lcdocs/submissions/42065/Submission%200259.pdf>
- b) Campaign to stop new coal mines in Hunter Valley
<https://winetitles.com.au/campaign-launched-to-stop-new-coal-mines-in-hunter-valley/>
- c) The Guardian Article regarding plans for mining expansions near Pokolbin.
<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/nov/20/inconceivable-hunter-coal-plan-may-spell-disaster-for-prime-wine-country#:~:text=They%20are%20fighting%20back%20against,Margaret%20River%20in%20Western%20Australia>
- d) Report from ACCR on the Yancoal / Glencore HVO Coal Mine Proposal
<https://www.accr.org.au/research/more-cost-less-benefit-for-nsw-the-flawed-rationale-for-the-hunter-valley-coal-mine-expansion#:~:text=Following%20concerns%20raised%20by%20the,emissions%20relative%20to%20the%20original>

2. What's unique about how we market Central Otago wine?

The Hunter Valley in New South Wales and Napa Valley in California both enjoy the benefit and support of being located adjacent to major cities to build a customer base. They are also very old wine regions. Central Otago, in contrast, is a new kid on the block and we rely heavily on our 100% Pure NZ reputation with our stunning landscapes to build our customer base and reputation globally.

3. Evidence the GHD SIS report was completed before the Substantive Application.

Please see an email trail attached confirming the GHD SIS report referred to yesterday was sent to the applicant in October 2025 but not sent to participants or included with the application.



From: [Redacted]

Subject: Fwd: SIA Bendigo Mine Interview with Tarras Vineyards

Date: 28 April 2026 at 6:19 PM

To: Polly Clague [Redacted], Vicki Blakeborough [Redacted]

Cc: Alex Jepsen [Redacted]

Hi ccc, Māori, Polly
 Are you able to send this report to me please?
 Ngā mihi
 Hayden

Body formatted messages

From: Alex Jepsen [Redacted]
Subject: RE: SIA Bendigo Mine Interview with Tarras Vineyards
Date: 28 April 2026 at 4:53 PM
To: [Redacted]

Kia ora Hayden,

I remember, thank you for your participation in our engagement as part of the study.

Our report was finalised and issued to Santana in October last year. I am unable to share it directly with you sorry, but you could reach out to Vicki Blakeborough or Polly Clague. Do you have their details?

Regards,
 Alex

Alex Jepsen A GHD Associate
 B Plan, MLS Environmental Law
 MNZPI
 Business Group Leader – NZ Pac Planning
 Technical Director – Planning

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From: [Redacted]
Sent: Tuesday, 28 April 2026 11:46 am
To: Michala Lander [Redacted]
Cc: Alex Jepsen [Redacted]
Subject: Re: SIA Bendigo Mine Interview with Tarras Vineyards

You don't often get email from [Redacted]. [Learn why this is important](mailto:[Redacted]@ghd.com)
 Kia ora Michala and Alex.

I participated in this study with you but I can't seem to locate the end result. Are you able to send this to me please, if not the whole report then my part in it please.

Ngā mihi
 Hayden

On 19/11/2024, at 2:23 PM, Michala Lander [Redacted] wrote:

Hi Hayden,

Thanks so much for being part of our SIA study for the Bendigo Mine. Alex will meet you at Tarras Vineyard to discuss the SIA and the potential impacts that the mining proposal could have for your operations.

Ngā mihi nui

Michala Lander | A GHD PRINCIPAL
 B App Sci (OT) Hon L, MPLAN, MPIA, WAP2 Cert
 Executive Advisor - Social Outcomes and Strategic Engagement

Please note my working days are – M, T, Th and F (not working Wednesday)

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[image002.png](#) [image003.png](#) [image004.png](#) [image005.png](#)

We work flexibly. If you have received an email from me outside of normal business hours, I'm sending it at a time that suits me. Unless it's urgent, I'm not expecting to read or reply until normal business hours.

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