

RE: FW: Matakanui Gold Limited fast track approval CRM:0346000198



Thank you for e-mailing me here are my objections to the proposed fast tracking of the mine at Bendigo.

With potential long term effects lasting in the hundreds of years I think it needs to have everything considered extremely carefully.

- **Tailings Dam Hazards:** The proposed dam would store 18 million cubic meters of toxic mining waste behind a waste-rock wall taller than Clyde Dam, with a historical global failure rate of over 1%—far higher than conventional dams—potentially devastating tourism and agriculture worth \$1.9 billion if it fails.

- **Economic Imbalance:** *6.75 billion in gold value mostly benefits the Australian company.*

- **Environmental and Heritage Loss:** The open-cast operation would destroy biodiversity-protected and heritage land, with concerns over rushed consents limiting scrutiny.

- **Community Action:** Groups aim to inform residents and counter pro-mine narratives claiming unanimous support, emphasizing intergenerational impacts from irreversible decisions.

Research and news items provide plenty of evidence of this. In some instances, tens of thousands of birds have been killed. Yet Santana don't cover this phenomenon in their fast-track application. The Bendigo Wildlife Reserve is just 10.5km away - direct line - from the tailings dam, and his home to a significant population of birds. The Bendigo Conservation Area and Ardgour Conservation area are both close by. In fact the Ardgour Conservation Area borders the tailings dam.
