



To: Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project Expert Panel

From: Santana Minerals

Date: 17 August 2026

Re: Response to Question 8 of RFI 11

Please find attached Matakanui Gold Limited's response to Request for Information (RFI 11) Question 8, which requested:

Noting that the compliance limits for water quality have been amended in the 22 June 2026 updated Conditions, please provide an explanation for the proposed new sulphate and nitrate-nitrogen levels.

In response to Question 8, MGL attaches the memorandum *Response to RFI 11 – Item 8: Sulfate and Nitrate Compliance Limits*, prepared by Julie Palich, Geocontam Risk Management Limited. The memorandum explains the inputs leading to the expert recommendations for the proposed sulfate and nitrate-nitrogen compliance limits, including consideration of freshwater ecological values, livestock water requirements, and drinking water protection objectives within the receiving environment.

The response outlines Ms Palich's rationale for adopting a sulfate compliance limit of 250 mg/L within the Shepherds Creek catchment to protect potential drinking water resources, and 500 mg/L within the Rise and Shine Creek catchment to protect freshwater and livestock values. It also explains the adoption of a nitrate-nitrogen compliance limit of 1.5 mg/L for surface water sites based on the ANZG (2025) 90% species protection guideline value, together with the application of the New Zealand drinking water standard for groundwater monitoring locations.

Together, these recommendations by Ms Palich provide a water quality framework that is protective of the ecological and water resource values within and surrounding the Project area, while recognising the existing environmental values and attributes of the receiving environments.