

IN THE MATTER of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act)

AND

IN THE MATTER of an Application made under the Fast-Track
Approvals Act 2024 by Matakanui Gold
Limited (Santana Minerals)

STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF EDWARD WELLER ELLISON (KAUMATUA) ON
BEHALF OF KĀTI HUIRAPA RŪNAKA KI PUKETERAKI, TE RŪNANGA O
MOERAKI, TE RŪNAKA O ŌTĀKOU, AND HOKONUI RŪNANGA (KĀ RŪNAKA)

7 SEPTEMBER 2026



HOLM | MAJUREY

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INTRODUCTION

1. I previously spoke to the Panel about the timeless connection our people have with our takiwā, our whenua, and the kaitiaki and rakatirataka role that falls to us to uphold.
2. From the evidence received, we are not satisfied that the potential long-term impacts on environmental and cultural values, and the associated intergenerational risks, are, or will be, adequately managed by the Applicant.
3. This project, its environmental and cultural effects, and the process through which further and new information has been continually produced to seek to “repair” inadequate documentation has made it very difficult to clearly understand the scope and effects of the proposed mining. In addition, the continued lack of provision for substantive involvement of Kā Rūnaka, means that we are unable to fully exercise our obligations required as kaitiaki, and consistent with rakatirataka.

Comments on proposed funding mechanisms

Biodiversity and Heritage Enhancement Fund

4. The Applicant has proposed the establishment of a Biodiversity and Heritage Enhancement Fund (**BHEF**) to allocate \$500,000 annually to heritage and ecology projects.
5. Kā Rūnaka has provided feedback to the Department of Conservation (**DOC**) on arrangements for the BHEF. The changes that we seek to this Fund are:
 - (a) different governance arrangements;
 - (b) reduced constraints on funding allocation between ecology and heritage; and
 - (c) a separate entity being set up to manage the funds.

Bond

6. Kā Rūnaka, consistent with the principles of rakatirataka and kaitiakitaka, must be a party to bond setting and bond reviews alongside Councils and DOC.

7. The bond setting process must take account of cultural matters such as cultural risks and a cultural rehabilitation standard (as opposed to a pastoral standard) as proposed in the mana whenua consent conditions. This will clearly impact on the adequacy of the proposed bond amounts.
8. Kā Rūnaka and Councils should jointly appoint independent experts at the cost of MGL to review risks taken account of in the bond setting process, as well as the calculations for rehabilitation that support the bond amount.

Matakanui Trust

9. Similar considerations should be given to the arrangements for the Matakanui Trust with the appointment of jointly appointed independent experts also having scope to assess the fitness of rehabilitation before handover of land and responsibility for consent conditions to the Matakanui Trust.
10. The funding provided to the Matakanui Trust should include costs associated with managing ongoing consent conditions or reconsenting.
11. The current proposed arrangements for Kā Rūnaka participation on the Trust do not reflect the principal of rakatirataka.
12. Noting the above, we think it is inappropriate to determine amounts for the funding mechanisms at this time. Our preference would be to focus on principles and process to arrive at the right amounts.

Landscape effects

13. The landscape evidence of Dr Alayna Rā notes the resultant “enduring destructive changes to natural character”¹ and Dr Rā concludes that “Those effects are not temporary or readily reversible; the evidence before me indicates that the modification will remain legible in landform and landscape pattern beyond the operational period, with rehabilitation outcomes untested, unverified, and materially uncertain.”² The scale and nature of the

¹ Evidence of Dr Alayna Rā at [26].

² At [33].

application is such that there can be no mitigation of adverse landscape effects.³

Conclusion on effects

14. I initially concluded that "If the mine is granted resource consent it will impact negatively on our rakatirataka".⁴
15. I have seen nothing in the subsequent processes, conferencing, additional and further information, or conditions, which amends that conclusion.

Edward Weller Ellison

7 September 2026

³ See also Dr Rās comments to the Hearing Panel pg 46 of transcript, lines 18-23: "I make reference in my evidence to the low absorption capacity of this landscape for the type of change that is anticipated and I think that makes it very restrictive to achieve a landscape of outstanding natural character with a mining open cut extractive industry approach that we are seeing here. **This landscape cannot absorb an open cut mine of this scale without the abruptness of the landforms that will be left for eternity thereafter.**"

⁴ Evidence of Edward Ellison (10 April 2026) at [115].