

Under the **FAST-TRACK APPROVALS ACT 2024**

In the matter of an application for approvals by Matakanui Gold Limited to establish, operate, rehabilitate and ultimately close an open pit and underground gold mining operation known as the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project

**MEMORANDUM OF COUNSEL FOR OTAGO REGIONAL COUNCIL SEEKING
LEAVE TO CROSS-EXAMINE – HEARING RELATING TO WATER ISSUES**

10 June 2026

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MAY IT PLEASE THE PANEL:

1. Counsel for Otago Regional Council (**ORC**) seeks leave from the Expert Panel under section 58(1)(e) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 to cross-examine witnesses at the concurrent hearing in relation to water issues on 15 June 2026.
2. In respect of groundwater, counsel respectfully seeks leave from the Panel to cross-examine Jens Rekker, Ryan Burgess, and Eric Torvelainen on the following topics:
 - (a) safety factor for dewatering;
 - (b) achievability and workability of pre-commissioning modelling;
 - (c) adequacy of the Water Management Plan;
 - (d) worst-case depletion scenarios; and
 - (e) duration of groundwater take.
3. As the Panel will appreciate, further expert conferencing relating to water issues has taken place on 8, 9, and 10 June 2026, and two joint witness statements from those sessions have been received today, 10 June 2026. Counsel has not yet had an opportunity to discuss those statements with the experts advising Otago Regional Council or take instructions on any issues arising. Following that process, counsel may seek leave to question other witnesses advising the applicant, including Dr Paul Weber, Dr Ian Boothroyd, and Julie Palich.

Dated this 10th day of June 2026



Dave Randal
Counsel for Otago Regional Council