

Response ID ANON-URZ4-5F94-W

Submitted to Fast-track approval applications
Submitted on 2024-05-02 16:15:46

Submitter details

Is this application for section 2a or 2b?

2A

1 Submitter name

Individual or organisation name:
Matakanui Gold Limited (a wholly owned subsidiary of Santana Minerals Limited)

2 Contact person

Contact person name:
Damian Spring

3 What is your job title

Job title:
Chief Executive Officer

4 What is your contact email address?

Email:
s 9(2)(a)

5 What is your phone number?

Phone number:
s 9(2)(a)

6 What is your postal address?

Postal address:

PO Box 11 Hokitika 7842 New Zealand

7 Is your address for service different from your postal address?

No

Organisation:

Contact person:

Phone number:

Email address:

Job title:

Please enter your service address:

Section 1: Project location

Site address or location

Add the address or describe the location:

The proposed gold mine is located on, and around, Bendigo and Ardgour Stations in Central Otago, approximately 20 km north of Cromwell. Access to the site is located off Bendigo Loop Road, which directly accesses State Highway 8.

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Do you have a current copy of the relevant Record(s) of Title?

Yes

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Records of Title - Combined.pdf was uploaded

Who are the registered legal land owner(s)?

Please write your answer here:

Bendigo Station Limited and
Ardgour Family Trust (Ardgour Station)

Detail the nature of the applicant's legal interest (if any) in the land on which the project will occur

Please write your answer here:

Matakanui Gold holds Mineral Exploration Permit (EP) 60311 named Bendigo-Ophir issued under the Crown Minerals Act (CMA) and to which an extension of five years was granted in December 2023. The permit includes the land within which discoveries have been made that form the basis of this project.

Matakanui Gold Limited has separate land access agreements with Bendigo Station and Ardgour Station. These agreements, pursuant to the CMA and EP60311, give Matakanui Gold Limited the legal right to undertake investigations and exploratory activities on the stations, and also establish a mine if all the necessary approvals are granted. The agreements are registered on the relevant titles.

Section 2: Project details

What is the project name?

Please write your answer here:

Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (Project)

What is the project summary?

Please write your answer here:

The Project is to mine the world-class Rise and Shine (RAS) gold deposit and satellite deposits on both Bendigo and Ardgour Stations. Mining would occur by way of an open pit mine in the first instance, with a later stage for underground mining of the resource as operations advance. The project will also include a variety of ancillary mining related activities, including engineered landforms for sterile rock storage, tailings storage, processing facilities and access roads.

The project will provide significant economic benefits to the regional and national economies as outlined in the Company's Scoping Study on RAS only released to the ASX on 17 April 2024.

What are the project details?

Please write your answer here:

The purpose of the Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (Project) is to access and mine the world-class gold deposits that lie between Bendigo Station and Ardgour Station in Central Otago following exploration and technical studies within Mineral Exploration Permit MEP60311 and its predecessors over the past ten years. This includes the main discovery of the Rise and Shine deposit (RAS).

The project is significant to the Otago Region and New Zealand in terms of its ability to generate wealth and skilled jobs. In this regard, it is estimated that up to 150 jobs would be created during the construction phase and over 200 long-term jobs would be created in the mining operations.

Based on the RAS-only scoping study announced to the ASX on 17th April 2024, using mainly indicated resources and at a gold price of \$3,900/oz, the project will produce over 1.1 million ounces of gold for \$4.4 billion in export earnings over an initial 10-year mine life. After an initial capital investment of \$250 million, the project will spend on average \$130 million per year once operating, including wages and salaries in the order of \$20 million per year. Further, the project will generate over \$900 million in corporate taxes to consolidated revenue, income tax and government royalties over the same period. Further expansion of the mine life and benefits is expected as current efforts to increase confidence of inferred resources to indicated resources allow their inclusion in the prefeasibility study (PFS) currently underway.

The key activities involved in the project include:

- Open pit mining and underground mining as operations advance;
- Exploration drilling;
- The establishment of engineered landforms of sterile, waste rock and tailings storage facilities;

- The establishment of processing facilities and water treatment facilities;
- Access to electricity transmission infrastructure;
- Earthworks and vegetation clearance activities, including the establishment of access tracks; and
- Rehabilitation and closure activities, including environmental enhancement initiatives.

It should be stressed that the Project has undergone extensive drilling and evaluation and is in the advanced stages of project development. The Scoping Study referred to throughout this document has confirmed extremely strong economics, primarily based on the unique qualities of the discovery at RAS including gold grades, tonnages, and the large tabular geometry of the deposit.

Describe the staging of the project, including the nature and timing of the staging

Please write your answer here:

The RAS-only scoping study estimates that the Project will produce 110,000oz of gold per annum for an initial 10 years. Based upon this initial timeframe for mining, the key stages (and timing) are as follows:

- Prefeasibility Study (PFS) - Sep Quarter 2024
- Assessment of Environmental Effects (AEE) - Sep Quarter 2024
- Application under the Fast-track Approvals Bill - Dec Quarter 2024
- Definitive Feasibility Study - Mar Quarter 2025
- Grant of Consents under the FAB application – Jun Quarter 2025
- Establish environmental controls and commence construction of access into the Project site – Sep Quarter 2025
- Commence construction for plant site – Sep Quarter 2025
- Commence open pit mining – Sep Quarter 2025
- Commission processing plant – Sep Quarter 2026
- Commence gold production - Dec Quarter 2026

What are the details of the regime under which approval is being sought?

Please write your answer here:

The Project will require authorisations under the Resource Management Act 1991, Wildlife Act 1953, Reserves Act 1977, Crown Minerals Act 1991 and Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

With respect to the Resource Management Act 1991, the project will require the following resource consents pursuant to the identified sections of the Act:

- Land use consents under section 9 from the Central Otago District Council for the establishment of surface mining, underground mining, mining operations (including engineered landforms, tailings storage and processing facilities), exploration activities, earthworks, vegetation clearance, the establishment of access tracks / haul roads, and the storage and use of hazardous substances;
- Land use consent under section 9 from the Otago Regional Council for vegetation clearance and soil disturbance activities, including adjacent to natural inland wetlands;
- Land use consent under section 13 from the Otago Regional Council for the construction and use of culverts, dams, erosion control structures and other mining relates structures in waterbodies;
- Land use consent under section 9 for the establishment of bores;
- A water permit under section 14 for the taking of surface water / groundwater;
- A water permit under section 14 from the Otago Regional Council for the diversion of water around the mining site and within waterbodies;
- A water permit under section 14 from the Otago Regional Council for diverting groundwater during earthworks and mining activities;
- A water permit under section 14 from the Otago Regional Council for the damming of water and contaminants;
- A discharge permit under section 15 from the Otago Regional Council for the discharge of water and contaminants into land and / or water;
- A discharge permit under section 15 from the Otago Regional Council for the deposition of fill and waste material to land;
- A discharge permit under section 15 from the Otago Regional Council for the discharge of contaminants to air; and
- A discharge permit under section 15 from the Otago Regional Council for treated wastewater to land (domestic).

The establishment and operation of the Project will require wildlife permits pursuant to the Wildlife Act 1953 in relation to the occurrence of protected wildlife on the mine site.

A land access agreement with the Department of Conservation under section 77 of the Reserves Act is also required to allow mining within land on Bendigo Station that is subject to a conservation covenant administered by the Department (noting that the mine site land is privately owned and no works are proposed on land administered by the Department of Conservation).

Matakanui Gold Limited will also require a mining permit under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 from New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals. This permit would provide the company with the exclusive right to mine for gold within the site.

The project will also require an archaeological authority under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 in relation to the potential damage / modification of heritage sites within the mine site (which are mainly old mining relics).

Applications for approvals to purchase land within Ardour and Bendigo stations would be made under the Overseas Investment Act 2005 and an application to stop a local road would be made under the Local Government Act 1974.

If you seeking approval under the Resource Management Act, who are the relevant local authorities?

Please write your answer here:

What applications have you already made for approvals on the same or a similar project?

Please write your answer here:

Matakanui Gold Limited have been undertaking exploratory and investigation works on the site since 2016. This has included the establishment of a track network across the site and the establishment of drilling platforms (and drilling) at various locations. Resource consents for these works have been granted by the Central Otago District Council.

No resource consent applications for mining activities as part of the Project have been lodged with either the Central Otago District Council or the Otago Regional Council.

Is approval required for the project by someone other than the applicant?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Matakanui Gold Limited does not require any approvals from any third-party entities in order to commencing mining at Ardgour or Bendigo Stations.

If the approval(s) are granted, when do you anticipate construction activities will begin, and be completed?

Please write your answer here:

If approvals are granted, Matakanui Gold Limited anticipates the following project timeframes:

Detailed Mine Design / Procurement: 2025

Financial Investment Decision: 2025

Site works commence: 2025

First gold production: 2026

Completion / rehabilitation: 2065 (based solely on a grant of 40-year resource consent) Largely dependent on further successful exploration and technical studies.

Section 3: Consultation

Who are the persons affected by the project?

Please write your answer here:

The persons potentially affected by the project are:

- The owners of Bendigo Station and Ardgour Station
- The five Papatipu rūnaka of Ngāi Tahu being:
 - o Te Rūnanga o Waihao
 - o Te Rūnanga o Moeraki
 - o Kāti Huirapa Rūnaka ki Puketeraki
 - o Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou
 - o Hokonui Rūnanga
 - o represented by Aukaha, their consultancy
- Otago Regional Council;
- Clutha District Council;
- Heritage New Zealand;
- Department of Conservation;
- Residents of Bendigo Loop Road, Ardgour Road and western end of Thomson Gorge Road

Detail all consultation undertaken with the persons referred to above. Include a statement explaining how engagement has informed the project.

Please write your answer here:

Detailed consultation is ongoing with the landowners with whom there are access arrangements in place.

Matakanui Gold Limited has engaged in stakeholder engagement and consultation with mana whenua (Aukaha, Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou, Te Rūnanga o Moeraki), the Central Otago District Council, Otago Regional Council, Department of Conservation, Service Groups (Rotary, Central Otago Wine Growers Association, Business South) Recreation groups (Omarama four-wheel drive club) and several residents of Bendigo Loop Road over the last year.

Through this consultation, Matakanui Gold Limited has acknowledged stakeholders concerns. Where appropriate additional work has been included in the scopes of work for effects assessment and project design. Consultation is ongoing.

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Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the land or any part of the land on which the project will occur:

Please write your answer here:

No processes under the Public Works Act 1981 have been undertaken, or are proposed to be undertaken, to facilitate the establishment of the Project.

Section 4: Iwi authorities and Treaty settlements

What treaty settlements apply to the geographical location of the project?

Please write your answer here:

There is one relevant treaty settlement that apply to the geographical location of the project, being the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. This Act reflects the deed of settlement in which the Crown acknowledged that Ngāi Tahu suffered grave injustices which significantly impaired Ngāi Tahu's economic, social and cultural development and which recorded the matters required to give effect to a settlement of all of Ngāi Tahu's historical claims. As discussed above, consultation with the five relevant Papatipu rūnaka of Ngāi Tahu is being carried out.

The closest statutory acknowledgements to the site are Mata-au (Clutha River) and Te Wairere (Lake Dunstan). These do not apply to the project site. The statutory acknowledgements document that the mauri of Mata-au represents the essence that binds the physical and spiritual elements of all things together, generating and upholding all life. All elements of the natural environment possess a life force, and all forms of life are related. Mauri is a critical element of the spiritual relationship of Ngāi Tahu Whānui with the river.

Are there any Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 principles or provisions that are relevant to the project?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Are there any identified parcels of Māori land within the project area, marae, and identified wāhi tapu?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Is the project proposed on any land returned under a Treaty settlement or any identified Māori land described in the ineligibility criteria?

No

Has the applicant has secured the relevant landowners' consent?

Yes

Is the project proposed in any customary marine title area, protected customary rights area, or aquaculture settlement area declared under s 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004 or identified within an individual iwi settlement?

No

If yes, what are they?:

Has there been an assessment of any effects of the activity on the exercise of a protected customary right?

No

If yes, please explain:

Upload your assessment if necessary:

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Section 5: Adverse effects

What are the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment?

Please describe:

Matakanui Gold Limited has commissioned a number of technical assessments for the Project by a number of leading environmental consultancies. These assessments will be completed in 2024 and include consideration of:

- Landscape, natural character and visual amenity effects;
- Freshwater and terrestrial ecology effects;
- Surface water and water quality effects;
- Groundwater quality;

- Noise effects;
- Transportation effects;
- Dust / air quality effects;
- Heritage effects;
- Recreational effects;
- Dam safety effects; and
- Socio-economic effects.

Each of these matters is discussed below.

Landscape, natural character and visual amenity effects:

The site is located in the Dunstan Mountains are identified in their entirety in the Central Otago District Plan as outstanding natural landscapes (ONL). The Dunstan Mountains are just one of several elevated Otago mountain ranges that are classified as ONL, The Dunstan Mountains ONL values, qualities and characteristics that contribute to this landscape being classified as outstanding have been assessed by expert landscape architects Frank Boffa and Boffa Miskell. The Company considers that the mine can be established without material impact on these values, qualities and characteristics. This is, in part, due to the discrete location of the proposed mine within the Dunstan Mountains and its limited viewing audience.

The waterbodies around the site have low natural character due to existing and historic land use practices in the catchment, and due to the arid climate (which creates dry riverbeds and reduces connectivity to the main catchment). There will be a need to reclaim or divert some streams / creeks within the site in order to accommodate the mine and associated infrastructure, however mitigation measures will be implemented to rehabilitate diverted streams where practicable.

With respect to visual amenity effects, the viewing audience is relatively small and any views are generally fleeting. Comprehensive mitigation is also proposed to minimise visual effects where appropriate.

Rehabilitation and mine sequencing will also assist in reducing landscape, natural character and visual amenity effects over time.

Terrestrial ecology effects:

Extensive monitoring of the baseline terrestrial ecology conditions have been undertaken over the past year led by Alliance Ecology and RMA Ecology Ltd. This has included monitoring for bats, avifauna, land cover mapping, lizards and invertebrates. Overall, the ecological team consider that the site is degraded due to existing and historic land use practices – including as a result of pest species in the catchment.

Whilst there will be some adverse effects on terrestrial ecology due to the locational constraints of a project of this nature (e.g. loss of habitat for lizard species, loss of plant communities), a comprehensive programme will be implemented to ensure that positive environmental outcomes are achieved overall. This could include lizard relocation, pest control or plant relocation where appropriate. Studies to identify areas for offsetting outside the mine area are in progress.

Any potential adverse effects on bats and avifauna are not considered to be material.

Rehabilitation and mine sequencing will also assist in minimising terrestrial ecology effects over time.

Aquatic ecology and water quality effects:

The project ecologists Water Ways Consulting have noted that there is limited aquatic ecology values within the project site due to the dry climate and its distance from the mainstem waterbodies. In this regard, there are no populations of native and introduced fish species in the catchment and also limited habitat potential. Any loss of stream length associated with the establishment of mining infrastructure will be of low value.

In light of the above, the primary focus will be on ensuring that any water or sediment discharges to waterways during mining are treated / controlled, and are subject to measurable standards, so as to ensure that water quality does not deteriorate at downstream locations. Diversion drains will also be implemented on site to ensure that clean water is kept separate from run off from mining activities.

Groundwater quality effects:

Engineered landforms and tailings storage facilities can impact on groundwater quality if they are not appropriately managed. This aspect is being undertaken by Engineering Geology Ltd and Mine Waste Management.

The appropriate location and design of rock facilities and processing areas, in accordance with best mining practice, will be implemented on site to ensure that effects on groundwater quality are minimised. In this regard, such infrastructure is not proposed to be established on the terraces where the potential for interaction with groundwater is greater. This will be managed by proposed conditions of consent.

Recreation effects:

Whilst some recreationalists in the wider environment may be able to see elements of the mining operations, the project itself will not disrupt key recreational activities in the area. The proposed closure of part of the Thomson Gorge Road will be offset by establishing an alternate route around the mine.

Heritage effects:

The heritage values within the project site will be recorded and mapped, and opportunities identified to protect or enhance key heritage features in the environment. Some mining heritage sites will be destroyed, a byproduct of mining in a known prospective and historic mining area.

An Archaeological Authority is part of the suite of approvals being sort in this application. This will be drafted by Heritage Properties New Zealand.

Noise effects:

Mining operations involve a range of noise sources, including from processing machinery and a fleet of large mining vehicles.

The acoustic effects will be managed by implementing noise standards that are cognisant of the District Plan noise standards and the surrounding environment, and the use of a noise management plan to regulate variations in noise generating activity over time. This will be developed by Marshall Day Acoustics.

Traffic effects:

Traffic movements will be restricted to key routes to ensure safety and movements will also be coordinated if necessary to minimise disruption to other road users. Upgrades to key routes will be undertaken to meet relevant roading standards and the study is being completed by Stantec.

Air quality effects

Dust and any contaminant discharges from processing operations will be managed to the relevant air quality standards, and a dust management plan will be developed by Pattle Delamore Partners and utilised to ensure that mining activities do not create nuisance effects for neighbours.

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Section 6: National policy statements and national environmental standards

What is the general assessment of the project in relation to any relevant national policy statement (including the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement) and national environmental standard?

Please write your answer here:

The national policy statements and national environmental standards of relevance to the Project include:

- National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management ("NPSFM");
- Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations ("NESF");
- National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity ("NPSIB")

In addition, the National Policy Statement on Highly Productive Land does not apply to the Project as the land use classification for the project site as identified by the New Zealand Land Resource Inventory consists of a combination of LUC Classes 6 and 7. The project site therefore does not meet the criteria for highly productive land and therefore, the NPSHPL is not considered to be of relevance.

A general assessment of each of the relevant national policy statements and national environmental standards that are relevant to the Project is summarised below.

National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management:

The fundamental concept of the NPSFM is Te Mana o te Wai, a concept that refers to the importance of water and recognises that protecting the health of freshwater will protect the health and wellbeing of the wider environment which represents an adoption of a water-centric approach to freshwater management.

The sole objective of the NPSFM follows this concept and seeks to ensure that natural and physical resources are managed in a way that:

- Firstly, prioritises the health and wellbeing of water bodies and freshwater ecosystems;
- Then, the health and needs of people; and
- Then, the ability of people and communities to provide for their social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

Of relevance to the Project is the potential for mining activities to impact on freshwater resources (including wetlands) via the potential discharge of contaminants and sediment to surface water bodies and impacts on natural inland wetlands and streams from the configuration of the mining infrastructure as necessary.

With respect to the management of water quality, a range of standard controls will be implemented on site to ensure that downstream water quality is maintained. These include the use of cut off diversion drains, sediment ponds, water treatment and the adoption of best practice design measures for engineered landforms and tailings storage.

Whilst the mine is being designed to avoid adverse effects on wetland and stream values as far as practicable, the policy expectations of the NPSFM acknowledge that some activities have a functional need to locate in particular locations (i.e. where the gold resource is in this instance) and direct the application of an effects management hierarchy and mitigation / compensation. This approach is being followed for the Project. These mitigation / compensation measures will form part of the consent conditions and management plans proffered as part of the resource consent applications.

Overall, it is considered that with careful design and management of mining operations the overall policy directives of the NPSFM can be achieved – particularly those that set specific instructions for how adverse effects on wetlands and streams should be managed and prioritised.

Resource Management (National Environmental Standards for Freshwater) Regulations:

The NESF regulates activities that pose risks to the health of freshwater and freshwater ecosystems. Of particular relevance to the Project are the rules in the NESF relating to activities that may affect natural wetlands and streams. Resource consent will be required for activities associated with earthworks and vegetation clearance, within, or within 100 m of natural wetlands and the establishment of culverts.

The Project is applying the effects management hierarchy under the NPSFM to the mining activities requiring consent under the NESF to ensure that

potential adverse effects on wetlands and streams within the project site are avoided as far as practicable.

National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity:

The objective of the NPSIB is to maintain indigenous biodiversity across New Zealand so that there is at least no overall loss in indigenous biodiversity. The NPSIB includes a number of policies that are designed to achieve this objective, which focus on:

- Tangata whenua exercising kaitiakitanga;
- Utilising a precautionary approach;
- Significant natural areas are protected by avoiding or managing adverse effects;
- Indigenous biodiversity outside of SNA is provided for; and
- The restoration of indigenous biodiversity.

Expert ecological advice has been sought in relation to the Project. Extensive monitoring of the baseline terrestrial ecology conditions have been undertaken over the past year by these experts. Overall, the ecological team consider that the site is largely degraded due to existing and historic land use practices – including as a result of pest species in the catchment. Notwithstanding this, there is still indigenous biodiversity on the site that will be managed via the expectations of the NPSIB.

Matakanui Gold Limited is consulting with mana whenua with respect to the entirety of the Project. This includes how kaitiakitanga can be provided for in terms of indigenous biodiversity on site.

With respect to mineral extraction activities, the NPSIB applies an effects management hierarchy and requires an applicant to confirm that it has complied with Principles 1 to 6 of Appendix 3 and 4 (Biodiversity Offsetting and Compensation). This effects management hierarchy is being applied to Project, although it is noted that many of the potential adverse effects cannot be avoided due to the functional need for the mine and its infrastructure to go where the gold resource is located. That said, an extensive mitigation package is being proposed to ensure that adverse effects on indigenous biodiversity are minimised.

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Section 7: Eligibility

Will access to the fast-track process enable the project to be processed in a more timely and cost-efficient way than under normal processes?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Consenting a new gold mine under the Resource Management Act 1991 often takes multiple years. It is costly, lengthy, and challenging. Applications for mines are generally publicly notified processes attracting submissions from a range of parties in opposition, including nearby residents, mana whenua, the Department of Conservation, and various environmental groups. A hearing is inevitable, with extensive evidence and legal submission requirements placed on the applicant. A de novo appeal to the Environment Court is commonplace and can, if it proceeds to hearing, add additional years to the consenting timeframe.

The fast-track process will significantly reduce the consenting timeframe and costs for the Project, including by making the following key changes to the RMA consenting process:

- The timeframes provided under the fast-track process are materially more efficient than those the Project would otherwise be subject to;
- No limited or full notification. Under the RMA, the Project would almost certainly be fully notified, adding significant cost and delay;
- No hearing is required. Under the RMA, the Project would have resulted in a hearing, along with the associated cost and delay; and
- No de novo appeal to the Environment Court, with appeals being available to the High Court on points of law only.

An additional important aspect that the fast-track process enables is the securing of approvals under several different pieces of legislation. As noted in section 2 of this document, approvals for the Project are required under the RMA (for land use consents and regional council consents), the Wildlife Act, the Reserves Act, and the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014. Obtaining those approvals under the traditional approvals process without the benefit of a 'one-stop shop' approval process would add considerably uncertainty, delay, and additional complexity. The Project will, therefore, benefit considerably through the fast-track process, especially as approval processes under the Wildlife Act and concessions under the Conservation Act do not have defined timeframes.

Given the Project will require approvals across multiple Acts, each with their own bespoke approval processes and relevant considerations, under normal processes there will be both a duplication of application processes and, importantly, on-going uncertainty. For example, if obtaining Wildlife Act permits takes longer than other permissions, then notwithstanding consents may have been successfully obtained for the Project under the RMA (with all the costs and delay that process involves) the project may well be frustrated at that point. That is neither efficient nor in the interests of delivering national or regionally significant projects.

What is the impact referring this project will have on the efficient operation of the fast-track process?

Please write your answer here:

As outlined above, this one-stop shop will enable one set of conditions to address the effects under several Acts within a statutory time frame without the unknown options of further delays once granted.

Has the project been identified as a priority project in a:

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

Not Answered

Please explain your answer here:

The Project could facilitate the delivery of nationally or regionally significant infrastructure through possible improvements to the regional electricity network achieved through increasing resilience to the local electricity distribution network.

Will the project:

Please explain your answer here:

No

Will the project deliver significant economic benefits?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

Based on the current spot gold price the initial RAS-only Project would generate \$4.4 billion of revenue and over \$900 million in government corporate tax, income tax and royalties over the initial 10 years. Further development of the Project through the current prefeasibility study is expected to increase both the amount of gold mined and the mine life and therefore the economic output.

Up to 150 jobs would be created during the construction phase and over 200 long-term jobs would be created in the mining operation. It would be expected that the vast majority of these will be filled by local workers, consultants, contractors, and service providers with those expected to be residential within an hour's commute from local communities. Further still, the project will provide a generational opportunity for training and careers in the mining industry that is complementary to other industries within the Otago Region and beyond.

Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture?

No

Please explain your answer here:

The Project is not aquaculture.

Other industries will be enhanced or established to support the mining operation including mechanical and electrical trades; construction, farming, earthmoving and civil contractors; quarrying; concrete; heavy engineering; ; suppliers of fuel, parts, consumables, etc; transport; housing; schooling; travel and accommodation; hospitality; medical; social services; nurseries professional services.

Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The Project is for the mining of gold-bearing schist ore, the processing of the ore and the production of gold bullion in the form of ingots.

Other explorers for gold are encouraged with this new discovery and exploration activity in the region has increased. With an operating gold processing plant, any new discovery within 50-100km has the potential for a lower cost of start up if the metallurgy is suitable and the plant capacity available.

Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project support adaptation, resilience, and recovery from natural hazards?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Will the project address significant environmental issues?

No

Please explain your answer here:

Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies?

Yes

Please explain your answer here:

The need for new mineral extraction activities, and where it should be located, is not addressed in any regional or district wide spatial strategies in the Otago Region. Decisions regarding the location and form of these activities are effectively left to industry participants to consider for themselves, recognising that locating new mines requires consideration of a complex set of factors (the most notably being the discovery of, and access to, the mineral resource). The resource consenting process also provides a framework for considering the appropriateness of a site.

The project site consists of land zoned for rural purposes in the Central Otago District Plan. The Central Otago District Plan recognise that mining activities have played a significant part in the evolution of the District and that such activities may need to be located in the rural environment.

The project site is also an outstanding natural landscape under the Central Otago District Plan (of which the Dunstan Mountains are one of many). Whilst the District Plan does not define the qualities and characteristics which make the landscape outstanding (which is the convention for modern plans), Boffa Miskell landscape architects have undertaken a landscape study. The Company considers that the mine can be developed without inappropriately comprising those values which make the wider landscape outstanding.

In light of the above, and on the basis that the potential adverse effects of the project on the surrounding environment are being appropriately managed, it is considered that the project will not be contrary to the objectives and policies of the Central Otago District Plan.

With respect to the Otago Regional Policy Statements, they provide direction on the management of infrastructure that is of 'regional or national importance'. The Regional Policy Statements directs that decision makers considering mineral extraction activities consider the locational needs of such activities when they need to locate within sensitive environments, as well as functional needs.

The Otago Regional Policy Statements also require an effects management hierarchy be applied to infrastructure activities within sensitive environments, with a focus on avoiding adverse effects as far as practicable. In addition, provision is made for offsetting and compensation of adverse effects in appropriate circumstances.

As noted in the section of the potential effects of the Project, Matakanui Gold Limited is preparing its application to include the full effects management hierarchy in relation to ecological effects including mitigation, offsetting and compensation where necessary in order to satisfy the likes of the Otago Regional Policy Statement.

Anything else?

Please write your answer here:

It should be stressed that the Rise and Shine discovery has been drilled thoroughly to report 1.3Moz in the indicated resource classification. The subsequent evaluation under strict ASX listing rules for a Scoping Study has revealed a highly profitable, long-life operation which will be ready for immediate development upon receiving the necessary approvals indicated by the Fast Track Approvals Bill. The Scoping Study announced through the ASX showed an initial mine at Rise and Shine (RAS) alone is a world-class discovery that will be within the lowest quartile for cost of gold production amongst its peers. The upgrading of the other inferred resources at RAS and the nearby satellite gold resources at Come-in-Time, Shreks and Shreks to indicated classification, and their potential inclusion in the mine plan, will only serve to improve on this world-class gold project.

Does the project includes an activity which would make it ineligible?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 8: Climate change and natural hazards

Will the project be affected by climate change and natural hazards?

No

If yes, please explain:

Section 9: Track record

Please add a summary of all compliance and/or enforcement actions taken against the applicant by any entity with enforcement powers under the Acts referred to in the Bill, and the outcome of those actions.

Please write your answer here:

Matakanui Gold Limited (including Santana Minerals Limited) have not been subject to any compliance or enforcement action by any entities

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Declaration

Do you acknowledge your submission will be published on environment.govt.nz if required

Yes

By typing your name in the field below you are electronically signing this application form and certifying the information given in this application is true and correct.

Please write your name here:

Damian Spring

Important notes