

06 June 2024

Suze Keith

fyi-request-26666-f531fbbf@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Suze

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 08 May 2024, in which you asked for:

Please provide the agreed conservation covenant for Bendigo Station, Tarras, Central Otago. If it is not possible to give in full, please provide any clause or section referring to approval around prospecting or mining for minerals on or under the land. Please provide any approvals from the Department or Minister around prospecting or mining over that covenant

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Please provide the agreed conservation covenant for Bendigo Station, Tarras, Central Otago*

This document is described in Schedule One below.

2. *Please provide any approvals from the Department or Minister around prospecting or mining over that covenant*

The Department has provided 5 Letters of Authority to one applicant for exploration drilling purposes within the land area covered by the covenant which have been outlined in Schedule One. Please note that the Letters of Authority are provided in respect of land which is subject to the covenant but is not held by the Department. A further two concession applications for exploration drilling have been received by the Department from the same applicant for activities on conservation land within the covenanted area. These applications are currently awaiting consideration and have not been approved.

I have decided to release the relevant parts of the documents listed in Schedule One, subject to personal details being withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people. In making my decision, I have considered the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Official Information Act and determined there are no public interests that outweigh the grounds for withholding.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Stacey Wrenn
Director Regulatory Authorisations (acting)
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Schedule One – List of documents for release

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	18 August 2000	Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
2	18 October 2017	Letter of Authority: Approval for Mineral Exploration in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
3	6 March 2018	Letter of Authority: Approval for further Mineral Exploration in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
4	7 February 2019	Letter of Authority: Approval for further Mineral Exploration in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
5	25 October 2022	Letter of Authority: Approval for further Mineral Exploration in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
6	17 February 2023	Letter of Authority: Approval for further Mineral Exploration in the Bendigo Conservation Covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).
7	18 December 2023	Covenant variation instrument to vary land covenant	Withheld in part, sec 9(2)(a).