

28 November 2024

Duncan Kenderdine

fyi-request-29002-cf267c73@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Duncan

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 31 October 2024, in which you asked:

Please provide copies of any reports, memos or letters received by you from anyone associated with the Proposed Bendigo Gold Mine in Tarras, or prepared by you for internal or external use.

I do not require any of the applications made for the exploratory activities.

The sort of information will be regarding Conservation, Ecology, or other impacts.

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

As you will be aware, Matakanui Gold Limited's Bendigo proposal has been included by the Government in the 'listed' projects intended to be covered by the Fast-track Approvals Bill. The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for that legislation, and the Environmental Protection Authority is proposed to manage the application process. The Department does not have any statutory role in the process at this stage.

Matakanui Gold presented the proposal for a gold mine to the Otago Conservation Board in a public session on 4 October 2024. After the minutes of this meeting are confirmed in mid-December, they will soon become publicly available at:

<https://ftp.doc.govt.nz/public/folder/ru7czwknresmzgqccwrgzga/otago/2024-minutes/>

The Department has engaged with Bendigo Station and Matakanui Gold in relation to exploratory and minimum impact activities within the Bendigo Conservation Covenant and Public Conservation Land. The Department is aware that the proposal for a gold mine would be within the Bendigo Conservation Covenant. However, at this point we do not hold any further information regarding the impacts of this proposal.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Fleming', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Fleming MNZM
Regional Operations Director, Southern South Island
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai