

7 October 2024

Significant step forward: Santana named on Fast Track Approvals Bill

Santana Minerals Ltd (Santana, ASX/NZX: SMI or the Company) is pleased to announce that its Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP) in Central Otago, New Zealand, has been officially designated as a 'Fast-track Project' under Schedule 2 of the coalition government's Fast Track Approvals Bill.

This designation follows a comprehensive review by an independent Advisory Group with approval from the Minister Responsible for Resource Management Reform, the Minister for Regional Development, and the Minister of Transport. The BOGP has now been recognised for meeting the Bill's objective of driving economic growth both regionally and nationally.

This recognition comes as Santana completes extensive environmental baseline studies in preparation for the mine's approvals under the existing Resource Management Act (RMA). The Company is pleased its detailed environmental work (which evaluates environmental impacts and supports net-benefits post mining) will now receive a more focused review process under the Fast Track reform which prioritises nationally significant projects.

The Fast Track Approvals Bill is expected to be reported back from the Select Committee on October 18, 2024, with Schedule 2 set to be incorporated later this year, and the Bill anticipated to be enacted by year-end.

Santana CEO Damian Spring commented:

"We are thrilled that our project has been recognised as one of national significance, with the potential to deliver substantial benefits both regionally and nationally. We've long known the Bendigo discovery is unique and impactful within our sector, and this acknowledgment by central government, along with the expedited permitting process, is a major milestone not only for us but also for those focused on economic growth and improved living conditions across the country. With gold prices soaring above NZ\$4,300/oz, we couldn't be more pleased."

Ends.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board.

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