

20 March 2025

## Mining Permit Application lodged for BOGP

Santana Minerals Ltd (ASX/NZX: SMI, "Santana" or "the Company") is pleased to announce the lodgement of its Mining Permit Application with New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals (NZPAM), marking a key step in transitioning its proposed Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project (BOGP) from exploration to the mining permit stage, enabling development upon receipt of the necessary consents.

The Mining Permit Application under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 is a prerequisite for any mining operation in New Zealand and grants the legal right to extract and process mineral resources within the defined permit area.

The application builds upon extensive exploration success, geological modelling, and technical assessments, demonstrating the project's strong viability as a future gold producer.

### NZPAM Mining Permit and Fast-track Approvals Resource Consents

To facilitate project development and targeted gold production by the end of 2026, the Company still requires its Resource Consents. Final preparation of its submission, following an invitation to apply under Schedule 2 of the new Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 ("FTA"), is well advanced.

The FTA regime accelerates the consenting process for nationally significant projects by referring the assessment to a 'one-stop-shop' expert panel, which prioritises economic benefits as a key intent of the consenting process. As is prescribed under the FTA, Santana expects to secure its resource consents within six months of lodging its Fast-track Approvals submission, paving the way for Bendigo-Ophir to become a fully permitted mining operation.

CEO Damian Spring, said:

*"Whilst a required statutory step, this NZPAM Mining Permit application is a pivotal stride towards unlocking gold production, and the substantial economic benefits the project can deliver to NZ people and the economy. The submission reflects our team's dedication to advancing the project responsibly while ensuring compliance with all past and future regulatory standards. We look forward to engaging with NZPAM and other stakeholders as we move closer to achieving mining status."*

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