

Submission Form 16 to the Otago Regional Council on consent applications

This is a Submission on (a) limited notified/publicly notified resource consent application/s pursuant to the Resource Management Act 1991.

Submitter Details:

(please print clearly)

Full Name/s: Culling Family Trust

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We wish to **OPPOSE** the application of:

Applicant's Name: Hawkeswood Mining Ltd

And/or Organisation:

Application Number: RM 23.819

Location: 1346-1536 Teviot Road, Millers Flat, Roxburgh

Purpose: To establish and operate an alluvial gold mine for a duration of 10 years

The specific parts of the application/s that my submission relates to are: *(Give details)*

Bore Water vulnerability for local residents and the Millers Flat Water Company

The impact of dust emissions on neighbouring residents, holiday makers, building assets.

The addition of a new road safety hazard on touring cyclists, school children and walking residents

The loss of a tranquil rural / residential environment with the addition of large industrial activity

My/Our submission is *(include: whether you support or oppose the application or specific parts of it, whether you are neutral regarding the application or specific parts of it and the reasons for your views)*.

Our submission opposes the application and proposed activity. Our attached summary provides details of our objections.

We seek the following decision from the consent authority (*give precise details, including the general nature of any conditions sought*)

Should the consent be granted, we would require the consenting authority to establish third party monitoring of the impact on water quality, dust emissions, road safety and rural lifestyle ambience be put in place as part of the consent.

Also, we would require the consenting authority to put in place some system of responsibility/ accountability of Hawkeswood Mining Ltd during and post operation in relation to bore water availability and quality and any other unforeseen environmental impact.

We:

Not wish to be heard in support of our/my submission

If others make a similar submission, we will consider presenting a joint case with them at a hearing.

Yes

I, **am not** (choose one) a trade competitor* of the applicant (for the purposes of Section 308B of the Resource Management Act 1991).

**If trade competitor chosen, please complete the next statement, otherwise leave blank.*


I, **am** (choose one) directly affected by an effect as a result of the proposed activity in the application that:

- a) adversely affects the environment; and
- b) does not relate to trade competition or the effects of trade competition.

I, **do not** (choose one) wish to be involved in any pre-hearing meeting that may be held for this application.

I **do not** request* that the local authority delegates its functions, powers, and duties to hear and decide the application to 1 or more hearings commissioners who are not members of the local authority.

I **have** served a copy of my submission on the applicant.



Signature/s of submitter/s
(or person authorised to sign on behalf of submitter/s)

15/2/2024

(Date)

In support of the Culling Trust -1594 Teviot Road, Millers Flat- Submission. (Opposing the Application from Hawkeswood Mining Ltd to Establish and Operate an alluvial Gold Mining operation in a rural resource area at Millers Flat.)

Context: Our family trust owns a property at 1594 Teviot Road, Millers Flat. As the crow flies, our house is a mere 600 metres from the area where it is proposed the gold mining operation will take place.

1. The Impact on Potable Water.

A number of landowners in the valley rely on bore water for their own use or the use of their operations. We ourselves have a deep bore which is our sole source of water for our family's use and is the reason we bought our house in the Teviot Valley in 2006, an area where in the past households have had to rely on unreliable rainfall during certain months of the year. This bore water is of exceptional quality and is a reliable source of water for our family. We also joined the Millers Flat Water Co. when it was established, because homes in Millers Flat who relied on rainwater did not have water security and some people were becoming ill. However, our house has not been connected up to the Water Company supply.

We have been informed by Hawkeswood that the proposed operation could affect our deep bore and they have offered to pay for us to connect to the Water Company and pay for any water we might use. However, this offer has not been followed up on and we have had no further contact from them. For us, being joined to the Water Company supply is a short-term solution and ultimately we would wish to be able to go back to using our functioning bore. We still have a concern that there is no guarantee that our bore would not be permanently damaged by the mining operation's interference with the water table. So, we are very concerned about the long-term future of our bore (and others in the valley as well) and we are also concerned about the ability of the Water Company to continue to take water from their bore to supply our community, even though their take is further from the mine than we are. Once Hawkeswood has extracted the gold they are looking for and has left the valley, who will be responsible for any irreparable damage that they have done? Would the territorial authorities be liable as the bodies that have issued the consents? Our position is that anything that has the potential to negatively affect or destroy people's access to safe drinking water should be disallowed absolutely.

2. The impact on the Environment

Mauri

We are very concerned about the impact of this operation on the **mauri of the river**. Although mining has been a part of the history of the Mata-au/Clutha since early colonization in Otago, this happened at a time of settler ignorance as to the spiritual and cultural significance of this waterway. However, now in the 21st Century we are more aware of our reliance on the natural world for the spiritual as well as the physical wellbeing of our people and our natural world. We know that this mining operation will expect to take water from AND discharge their wastewater into the Mata-au, which will affect the Mauri of the river.

Dust

The photo in the Otago Daily Times (14/8/23) shows the extent of the work that has already happened before consent has been given and brings into question the integrity of the operator who obviously believes that consent is a foregone conclusion. The photo also shows the proximity of it to the Teviot Road and the residences that are nearby, the river and the cycle trail. We are regularly affected by strong Westerly winds coming down the valley which have created problems not only of

dust but have lifted outdoor furniture onto rooves and into trees. The increase in dust that will eventuate from the mining activity will be a significant problem for the residents, our health, our houses, outbuildings, vehicles, gardens. The local School, the Community pool, the hospitality businesses such as The Quince and other B&B operations will obviously be severely impacted by the increase of dust because of this day-to-day operation of the mine.

According to the report done by PDP, they have not conducted a site visit but have done “a desk top assessment” of the information provided. We submit that this is totally inadequate. The severity of winds that sweep down the valley from time to time as well as the probable increase in the number of events because of changing weather patterns associated with Climate Change means that assessments using past information is not as relevant as PDP may assume.

Noise

The 5 day /12 hour a day operation will also be an unwanted intrusion into the peaceful and restful life of our village and our valley. This place is tranquil and removed from the bustle of much of Central Otago, being off SH 8. The people who have chosen this place value this above all else and the idea that a noisy and dirty operation such as an open air mine poses a serious intrusion into the quality of life here. There will be continuous noise for 12 hours a day from 7am for 5 days a week from the mining itself and noise for 1.5 days for other activities associated with the mining operation.

It will impact on the quality of the experience of people coming to enjoy the beauty and tranquility of the Cycle Trail, which is proving to be the future of sustainable business in Millers Flat and this part of the Teviot Valley. This part of the trail, from Roxburgh Dam to Beaumont is arguably the most beautiful section of all as it mostly runs along the riverside, without the noise of road traffic or business and farming operations. What’s more, the additional traffic associated with the mining operation will pose an unacceptable risk to cyclists and to other vehicle users. Gold Mining is not the sustainable future for us, nor does it benefit anyone apart from Hawkeswood’s owners and shareholders. Other residents we have spoken to are feeling powerless in the face of a mining operation and are resigned to having no real power to stop this happening in our valley.

In conclusion

We have noted the list of Written Approvals submitted by Hawkeswood and would challenge the Council to check whether the 22 blocks/ rapid addresses actually represent dwellings affected or are just paddocks where no people’s quality of life will be impacted. We know that the record of gold mining companies worldwide is not good when it comes to them being made responsible for adverse impacts on communities and the land. Hawkeswood came into the valley and began their operations of soil movement and mining preparation before any consents were even given. They have since tried to mollify the locals by making donations of various kinds to events and local groups. However the way they have gone about their communication has shown their lack of real concern for local issues and the wishes and concerns of the people of the Teviot Valley in particular of Millers Flat who will be the most adversely affected if this goes ahead.

In addition we request that the council studies the 600 submissions we have been told have been made in favour of this venture going ahead, as this seems disproportionate to the number of people who live in this part of the Valley who might be considered interested or affected parties. Do these people even live anywhere in Central Otago?