

18 December 2024

## Fast-track Approvals Bill passed – applications open in February

Santana Minerals Ltd (Santana, ASX/NZX: SMI or the Company) welcomes the successful passage of the Fast-track Approvals Bill through its third and final reading in New Zealand's Parliament on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Following Royal Assent, the Bill will become law and provide a revised platform for the approval of significant development projects in New Zealand, including our own proposed Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project.

The successful passage of the Bill represents a significant milestone for the Company. It enables us to present the mass of multi-disciplined baseline studies through a new one-stop-shop platform, which on balance is constructed to a principle favouring economic output and benefits as its underlying focus. The Government in passing the Bill has advised that it will begin to receive applications for consent from February 7, 2025 and Santana intends to lodge its application as soon as practicably possible after this date.

Santana Minerals' CEO, Damian Spring, commented:

*The new NZ Government has delivered on its promises to cut through the layers of red and green tape that have increasingly crippled economic development, created substantive cost and delays and handicapped project financing. The Bill reflects a clear commitment from the Government to enabling significant projects that support regional development, job creation, and economic growth.*

*We believe our Bendigo-Ophir Gold Project can deliver a sustainable and responsible operation that will provide enduring benefits to all stakeholders as was the case when the gold rush of the 1860's spawned population growth, wealth, and sustained economic development for the Central Otago region.*

*Further, we firmly believe our proposed development application will clearly demonstrate material outcomes and benefits that will far outweigh any temporary adverse impacts from its development.*

End.

This announcement has been authorised for release by the Board.

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