

# DO WE REALLY NEED ANOTHER GIANT GOLD MINE IN OTAGO?



15. THE MINE'S SUPPORTERS POINT TO THE BIG BUCKS THE MINE MIGHT BRING IN AND SAY ALL THE RISKS WILL BE MITIGATED. BUT THE INDUSTRY HAS A HISTORY OF LEAVING TAX PAYERS TO CLEAN UP THEIR MESS.



16. WE CAN'T HAVE BOTH MORE TOURISM AND MORE MINING IN CENTRAL OTAGO! EITHER WE KEEP ON DEVELOPING THE AREA FOR ECO-TOURISM (VIA THE CYCLE TRAIL ETC) OR WE TURN A BIG PART OF IT INTO AN UGLY TOXIC WASTELAND.



17. THE PROPOSED MINE WILL BE HIGHLY VISIBLE TO PEOPLE FLYING IN AND OUT OF QUEENSTOWN AND MAY ALSO BE VISIBLE FROM THE ROAD BETWEEN CROMWELL AND WĀNAKA.



18. THE DEVELOPERS WILL BE ANSWERABLE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS, WHO WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH THE IRREVERSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOREVER.



NOT ONLY THE VISUAL IMPACTS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ICONIC LANDSCAPES, BUT ALSO THE PERMANENT STORAGE OF LARGE QUANTITIES OF TOXIC WASTE IN THE CATCHMENTS OF IMPORTANT LOCAL WATERWAYS



"WEAPONS GRADE LEVEL MINING" OR TOURISM? WE CAN'T HAVE BOTH.





1. YOU MIGHT REMEMBER ME? SHREK THE SHEEP? I BECAME FAMOUS IN 2004 WHEN I AVOIDED BEING SHORN FOR SIX YEARS BY HIDING IN CAVES IN THE TARRAS HILLS!



2. NOW MY OLD HOME IS UNDER THREAT FROM A MASSIVE NEW GOLD MINE. THE PLAN IS FOR FOUR GIANT PITS (ONE ABOUT 1KM LONG AND 800M WIDE) AND A TAILINGS DAM TO HOLD THE POLLUTED MINING WASTE.



3. LAST WEEK, THE GOVERNMENT GRANTED SANTANA MINERALS (A MAJORITY AUSTRALIAN OWNED COMPANY) A 30 YEAR PERMIT BUT THEY STILL NEED A FAST TRACK RESOURCE CONSENT BEFORE THEY CAN REALLY 'DIG, BABY, DIG!'.



4. MANY LOCALS ARE FIERCELY OPPOSED TO THE PROJECT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL, LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE ISSUES.



5. LAST MONTH, ACTOR SAM NEILL (WHO LIVES IN CENTRAL OTAGO) CALLED THE PROJECT 'TOXIC', SAYING IT WOULD CAUSE AN ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE IN A REGION THAT WAS THRIVING



6. IT'S ESTIMATED FOR EVERY TEASPOON OF GOLD ABOUT 40 TONNES OF ROCK WILL NEED TO BE REMOVED AND CRUSHED AND TREATED WITH DANGEROUS CHEMICALS SUCH AS MERCURY AND CYANIDE.



7. NEARLY ONE TONNE OF CO<sub>2</sub> EQUIVALENT WILL BE PRODUCED FOR EVERY OUNCE OF GOLD. GLOBALLY, GOLD-MINING CONTRIBUTES ABOUT 45-50 MILLION TONNES OF GREENHOUSE GASES ANNUALLY.



8. ONLY ABOUT 10% OF THIS GOLD IS USED FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES AND WHILE SOME IS ALSO USED TO MAKE JEWELLERY, THE VAST MAJORITY IS HOARDED BY BANKS ETC AS A HEDGE AGAINST INFLATION.



9. WE'RE OTAGO SKINKS AND ONE OF OUR STRONGHOLDS WAS AROUND MACRAES, BUT IN 1990 A GIANT GOLD MINE GOBBLED UP SOME OF OUR HOME THERE AND NOW A NEW PROPOSED MINE IN THE TARRAS HILLS WANTS TO SHRINK OUR HABITAT EVEN FURTHER.



10. ROCKS BLASTED AND GROUND TO SAND WILL RELEASE ARSENIC AS A FINE DUST, WHICH COULD BLOW ALL OVER THE LOCAL AREA. NOT GOOD!



11. CYANIDE USED TO EXTRACT THE GOLD MIGHT LEACH INTO AQUIFERS AND STREAMS AND THEN INTO LAKE PUNSTAN AND THE CLUTHA RIVER.



13. THE GIANT TAILINGS DAM (HOLDING ABOUT 10,000 OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOLS OF TOXIC SLURRY CONTAINING ARSENIC AND CYANIDE) MIGHT REMAIN FOREVER UNLESS AN EARTHQUAKE RELEASES THE WHOLE LOT DOWN THE VALLEY.

