

Sandy Point

Simon Stebbings Submission

I oppose the application for resource consent :

RC250077 - Awa Koura Mining at Sandy Point, Queensbury, for alluvial mining

On the following grounds:

1. Exaggerated Economic Benefits
2. Lack of adequate consultation with local community
3. An activity not commensurate with protection of the local environment: Section 5 of the Resource management act 1991
4. Inadequate assessment of the noise and other industrial activity and its impact on the community
5. Lack of proposal for rehabilitation and community benefit following completion of mining activity

Exaggerated economic benefits

- Disproportionate to the scale of the proposal
- Employment of four individuals
- ‘Enhance the local economy schools and medical facilitates’ (the nearest of which are in Cromwell and Wanaka)
- Luggate is a thriving community, with an expanding tousist driven economy
- Project is not a sustainable development (under RMA), and in the council’s previous assessment (May 2025) is likely to negatively impact on landscape values and visitor experience



Section 5 Resource Management Act 1991



- Protection of the environment to ensure the economic, and cultural wellbeing of the community
- Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems
- Avoiding, remedy, or mitigate adverse effects of activities on the environment

Adverse Effects on Adjacent Department of Conservation (DOC) reserves Sandy Point and Autaia reserves

Applicant states that the site is farmland with little value to the landscape







Ecological damage and landscape degradation

- Sandy Point region undergone significant rewilding since the Crown Pastoral Land Tenure review (PO350) in 2002.
- Habitat for invertebrates, moths and weta and the endangered Otago Grand skink (*Oligosoma otagense)*
- Water pumped from the Clutha/Mata-Au will need to traverse the reserves causing potential damage/erosion to the delicate gravels at the river margin.

The Landscape has value to the community and to the tourist industry

- The applicants landscape assessment is superficial referring to the ‘Unnamed High Country between the Clutha and the Lindis’, which is the Grandview range and part of the DOC high country reserve
- The applicant does not adequately assess potential impacts on flora and fauna within the reserve, including: noise disturbance, lighting, habitat disruption, and dust and spray from the plant equipment.
- The applicants landscape assessment omits a detailed assessment of the ecology and conservation of this important reserve area





Noise Assessment

- Continuous noise during operating hours affecting local community and local fauna
- Acoustic impacts extend beyond the map supplied by applicant, which would be likely to include my property
- Application does not mention pump operation times which may need to run when mining is not underway

No post-mining rehabilitation plan for community benefit

- Proposal returns the land to existing state, with little commitment to ecological or community enhancement.
- Proposal does not provide a plan for rehabilitation
- Any plan should include ecological restoration, improved public access and recreational opportunities, consistent with District Plan objectives to benefit the disrupted community

Closing comment

I request that the application be declined for the reasons outlined



