



AGENDA

Late Reports

Ordinary Council Meeting

Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Date: Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Time: 10:30 am

**Location: Ngā Hau e Whā, William Fraser Building,
1 Dunorling Street, Alexandra**

(A link to the live stream will be available on the Central Otago District Council's website.)

Peter Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

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7 REPORTS

26.1.21 COMMISSIONER FOR FAST TRACK HEARING

Doc ID: 2713400

Report Author:	Peter Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
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1. Purpose of Report

To consider nominating a further potential candidate for being a commissioner to sit on the fast-track panel.

Recommendations

That the Council

- A. Receives the report and accepts the level of significance.
- B. Decides on whether to make an alternative nomination.

2. Background

As part of the Fast-Track process, the Central Otago District Council was able to nominate a commissioner that could sit on a panel to hear the submissions. Council had previously chosen Neil Gillespie as its nominee.

3. Discussion

Judge Bothwick, who is the panel convenor, has provided guidance on who she is looking for in regard to panel members for the upcoming hearing. She has provided the following:

"It is important to note that the Act is dissimilar to the previous fast track legislation in that it provides for approvals for matters that are not just under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA)."

"When determining the final composition of the expert panel, it is essential to ensure that members collectively possess a complementary range of knowledge, skills, and expertise. This includes qualifications relevant to the approvals sought in the application, as well as demonstrated expertise in environmental matters."

"Equally important are members' strong writing skills, proven decision-making experience, ability to work collaboratively, and willingness to personally commit significant time and effort to the project. Careful selection of panel appointees is critical. A well-composed panel-comprised of individuals with complementary skills and perspectives ensures that the process is timely, efficient, consistent, and cost-effective."

Neil Gillespie is the current nominee as a commissioner in the current fast track process for Santana Minerals. Due to these specifications and the particular technical nature of the application it is possible that Judge Bothwick may not accept Mr Gillespie's candidacy. It is therefore prudent to discuss other possibilities to provide options for consideration.

4. Financial Considerations

There are no financial considerations as a result of this decision.

5. Feedback from Community Boards

Feedback is not applicable in this case.

6. Options

Consider the nomination of an additional commissioner.

Advantages:

- There is another option to be considered when commissioners are appointed.

Disadvantages:

- None identified.

7. Compliance

Local Government Act 2002 Purpose Provisions	This decision enables democratic local decision making and action by, and on behalf of communities by investigating whether there could be another nomination for a fast-track commissioner.
Decision consistent with other Council plans and policies? Such as the District Plan, Economic Development Strategy etc.	Yes it is.
Considerations as to sustainability, the environment and climate change impacts	There are no considerations in regard to this decision.
Risks Analysis	There are no risks to making this decision, as Judge Borthwick will make the final choice about which commissioners sit on the panel.
Significance, Consultation and Engagement (internal and external)	This does not meet the threshold for consultation under the Significance and Engagement Policy.

8. Next Steps

A further name will be put forward.

9. Attachments

Nil