

## Spring appointed Santana CEO

Colin Williscroft - Fri, 30 Jun 2023

Damian Spring has been appointed chief executive of Santana Minerals.

He has been the company's New Zealand general manager, responsible for advancing its Bendigo-Ophir gold project, since January.

The company says it is pleased to appoint Spring to the CEO role as it progresses exploration and infill drilling, resource definition and technical and environmental studies in preparation for the development of the project into a long life, environmentally sustainable mining operation.

### Qualifications, experience

Spring holds a Bachelor of engineering in mining from the University of Auckland. He is a chartered professional member of AusIMM and holds a New Zealand First Class Mine Manager certificate.

He has worked as a consultant or employee in the gold and base metals sectors in NZ, Australia, Argentina and Mexico.

In his most recent role prior to joining Santana, he held a senior management position at Bathurst Resources, where he gained experience integrating the key areas of the environment, community, iwi and regulatory compliance matters with mine development projects in NZ.

Spring says having been involved in the development of numerous resource projects globally, including at NZ's largest gold operation at Macraes, he recognises the significant opportunity presented by Bendigo-Ophir.

Near-term milestones include an updated minerals resource estimate and delivery of a scoping study, while mid-term it's likely that mining consent applications will be lodged late 2024, he says in a statement to ASX.

### Bendigo-Ophir project

The Bendigo-Ophir project is near Cromwell.

The 292 square kilometre project area comprises MEP 60311 – 252 sq km issued to 100 per cent owned subsidiary Matakanui Gold, and MPPA 60822 – a 40 sq km application made by Matakanui.

The company has drilled almost 18,000 metres as part of a programme of infill drilling to firm up its February mineral resource estimate for the area of 2.9 million ounces of gold.

That estimate of inferred and indicated resource covers four deposits in the Rise and Shine shear zone, with about 2.6 million ounces at Rise and Shine. The other deposits are Come in Time, Shreks and Shreks East.

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