

Referral application form to use for the fast-track process

Under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

About this referral application

This referral application form has been [approved](#) by the Secretary for the Environment in accordance with the [fast-track approvals process](#) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). All referral applications under the Act must be submitted using this form.

We recommend you discuss your referral application and the information requirements with us before you lodge the referral application. Please contact the Fast-track support team on 0800 327 875 or email info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Please provide a general level of detail in your application; sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.

You must use this form to apply for referral applications and complete all relevant fields, even where you provide supporting attachments that are more detailed. Include attachment or appendix numbers in the relevant fields and list the attachments in section 5 of this form.

If the required information and relevant supporting material is not provided, the application will be returned to you as incomplete.

If your application is determined to be complete, and the Ministry for the Environment (MfE) considers that your project may be capable of satisfying the assessment criteria and does not appear to involve an ineligible activity, and you have paid all related fees, charges and/or levies, then we will provide it to the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister).

Unless the Minister decides to decline the application before doing so, the Minister will invite comments on the application from relevant local authorities, Ministers, [administering agencies](#), identified Māori groups, owners of Māori land in the project area and any other person the Minister decides is appropriate. The Minister may also request further information from you, the relevant local authorities, or relevant administering agencies before making a decision on the referral application.

If the Minister accepts your referral application, then you may lodge a substantive application with the EPA and the substantive application may be considered by a decision-making panel.

Application fees and Cost recovery

Under the [Fast-track Approvals \(Cost Recovery\) Regulations 2025](#) (the Regulations), applicants lodging a referral application are required to pay a fee (deposit) of \$12,000 (plus GST), and a levy of \$6,700 (plus GST) to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). The fees are set in [Schedule 1 of the Regulations](#). These fees must be paid before lodgement of your referral application. If the required amount is not paid the application will be returned as incomplete.

Please note the final costs payable at the referral stage may exceed the referral application fee (deposit) paid. More information about cost recovery under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 is available from [Fast-track approvals cost recovery process](#).

Submitting your application

You will need to submit this form through our digital Fast-track portal. You will need to receive a link to register/access the portal.

If you need any help with the form, you can call or email us:

- 0800 327 875 (0800 FASTRK) (from within New Zealand)
- email: info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Ways you can send your completed form to us

By digital portal – you will need to receive a link to register/access: [Fast-track website](#)

By email – info@fasttrack.govt.nz

Your personal information

The Ministry for the Environment (MfE) is collecting your personal information for the purpose of administering your referral application under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024. We will only use the information for the purposes of contacting you in relation to this application.

MfE may provide your application, or details from your application to other agencies or local authorities for the purpose of administering your referral application. If your application is accepted as complete and progresses through the referral process, the Minister may consult with other agencies and groups on your application. This will require the Minister to share the details of your application with the EPA, the Panel Convener, and those groups.

We will store your personal information securely. You have the right to access the personal information we hold about you and to ask for it to be corrected if it is wrong. If you would

like to access your personal information, or have it corrected, please contact us at referrals@fasttrack.govt.nz

Official information

All information you provide with this application is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 and may be released in accordance with that Act.

Publishing your application

We intend to publish your referral application on the Fast-track Approvals website.

Any personal contact details in application documents will not be made publicly available. Please provide a copy of the application with all personal contact details redacted.

MfE may also redact certain information from publication in accordance with the Official Information Act 1992. If you think your application contains information which should be withheld, please clearly identify it and provide an explanation as to why it should be withheld.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Section 1: Applicant details

A person or persons may apply to use the fast-track process for a project. Where there is more than one person, the referral application must be lodged jointly by all of the persons who are proposed to be authorised persons for the project.

If the referral application is accepted and referred by the Minister, the person or persons who lodged the referral application will be specified as the person who is, or the persons who are, authorised to lodge a substantive application for the project.

1.1 Applicant(s) – repeat for all applicants

1.1.1 Organisation name: REEFTON RESOURCES PTY LIMITED

1.1.2 NZBN (optional): 9429046648068

1.1.3 Contact name: Simon Delander

1.1.4 Phone: s 9(2)(a)

1.1.5 Email address: s 9(2)(a)

1.1.6 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):

Additional Applicants: Reefton Resources Pty Limited

1.2 Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)

1.2.1 Organisation name: MITCHELL DAYSH LIMITED

1.2.2 Contact name: Claire Hunter

1.2.3 Phone: s 9(2)(a)

1.2.4 Email address: s 9(2)(a)

1.2.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact):

1.3 Finance – Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)

1.3.1 Organisation name: REEFTON RESOURCES PTY LIMITED

1.3.2 Contact name: Leanne Houghton

1.3.3 Phone: s 9(2)(a)

1.3.4 Email address: s 9(2)(a)

1.3.5 Postal address (if preferred method of contact): 1 Hattie Street Reefton
7830 Reefton New Zealand 7830

If you are making this application on behalf of the applicant, please attach evidence that you are authorised to make this application.

1.3.6 Please direct all correspondence relating to this application (including correspondence from MfE) to:

If selecting Applicant and there is more than 1 person who lodged the referral application, please identify 1 person to receive all correspondence on behalf of all applicants.

1.4.1 Compliance and enforcement history – repeat for all applicants

1.4.1 Have there been any compliance or enforcement actions taken against the applicant (or if the referral application is lodged by more than one person, any of those persons) under a specified Act definition for either ‘compliance’ or ‘enforcement’?

Yes

1.4.2 If you answered yes above, please provide a summary of the relevant legislation and provisions, and any compliance or enforcement actions, and

the outcome of those actions taken under the [specified Act](#) against the applicant or applicants, if the referral is being lodged jointly.

On 31 May 2019, the applicant underwent a change of control within the meaning of the Crown Minerals Act 199, for which the Minister's consent was not sought or obtained. This constituted a breach of the CMA because the applicant was, and is, the permit operator for a Tier 1 exploration permit (EP 60491). On 26 February 2020, the applicant received a warning letter from New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals in relation to the breach. The warning letter confirmed the Minister does not intend to revoke the applicant's exploration permit or prosecute the applicant for the breach. To the best of the applicant's knowledge, it has not otherwise contravened any environmental regulations. Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

Section 2: Referral application summary

2.1 Project name

This is the name by which the project will be known publicly. For example - avoid using street addresses, place names, company names.

Auld Creek Project

2.2 Project description and location

2.2.1 Provide a description of the project and the activities it involves

The project description helps us with inviting comments from relevant parties on the application, and publishing information about the application.

The Auld Creek Project is a proposed mining development with the objective to bring New Zealand's largest known antimony resource into production. The Auld Creek deposit is located beneath Victoria Forest Park, approximately 3 km south of Reefton in the West Coast Region. The applicant is seeking authorisations for the integrated development of the deposit, together with associated infrastructure and mining activities. The mining operation is proposed in two phases. Phase one includes the development of a portal and adit (straight line mine drive) on Crown land administered by the Department of Conservation to access and mine the top of the deposit, where the majority of the high-grade mineral is located. Phase two includes access to and mining of the remaining deposit via an underground twin decline tunnel accessed from Ngāi Tahu Forestry land. The development includes a

processing plant, related surface infrastructure and ancillary infrastructure to process gold and process antimony into a mineral concentrate for further processing off site. For further details to the project description and proposed activities, please refer to Section 2.2.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.2.2 Provide a description or map of the whole project area that identifies its boundaries in sufficient detail to enable consideration of the referral application.

For example, site address(es), certificate of title(s), shape files

For details on the project site description please refer to Section 2.2.2 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application. Attachment 09 - Records of Title and Attachment 10 - Mining Permit Area Maps.

It should be noted that mining and associated activities are not proposed across all the land parcels which are included within the Mining Permit Area (refer to Attachment 10 of this application). The proposed activities are only relevant to the land parcels listed above, however in the instance that as the development of the Project progresses there comes a need to utilise other land parcels within the Mining Permit Area, this referral application seeks to include the Mining Permit Area in its entirety as a potential area for proposed works.

2.3 Ineligible activity

Your referral application must demonstrate that the project does not involve any ineligible activities as defined in [Section 5](#) of the Act. Please consider each ineligible activity below and where relevant, provide the requested details.

*When providing your response below, where possible, **provide details of any parties involved, the extent of their holding and the activity relevant to their area.***

Where a project involves an activity that may be the subject of a determination under sections [23](#) or [24](#), and you are intending to seek a Ministerial determination for that activity under either section, you must still complete this section in full. Determinations under, and information required in respect of, sections 23 and 24 are covered further under 2.5

Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24.

If your application relates to certain mining activities below the surface of the land and meets the other relevant criteria under [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act then an agreement under [section 5\(1\)\(a\), \(b\), \(j\) or \(k\)](#) may not be required. This should be identified under the relevant questions below, and you must provide the additional information required in respect of [section 5\(2\)](#) under 2.3 Ineligible activity.

2.3.1 Does the project include an activity that would occur on identified [Māori land](#) as defined in section 4 of the Act?

No

a. If yes, please address the following:

- i. identify the land involved and the owner(s) of the land.
- ii. Confirm that the activity on the land has been agreed with the owners of the land and provide evidence of the written agreement; or
 - A. advise whether it is proposed to seek a determination under [section 23](#) and provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below; or
 - B. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.2 Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a customary marine title area?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. Identify the relevant customary marine title area, who the customary marine title group is;
- ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the customary marine title group and provide a copy of the same; **or**
 - A. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.3 Does the project involve an activity that would occur in a protected customary rights area?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. Identify the protected customary rights area, the group who holds these rights and the nature of the protected customary right(s)
- ii. Explain your proposed activity and identify whether you consider that it would have a less than minor adverse effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and briefly explain why; **or**

- iii. Advise whether you consider that your proposed activity would have a more than minor effect on the exercise of the protected customary right(s), and if so, confirm that the activity has been agreed to in writing by the protected customary rights group and provide a copy of that agreement.

2.3.4 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on: Māori customary land; OR land set apart as a Māori reservation as defined in section 4 of Te Ture Whenua Māori Act 1993.

No, it is noted the Ngāi Tahu Forestry land does not meet the definition of Māori customary Land under the Te Ture Whenua Maori Act 1993;

2.3.5 Does the project involve an aquaculture activity or an activity that is incompatible with aquaculture activities that would occur within an aquaculture settlement area (under section 12 of the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004); or an area reserved under another Treaty settlement for the aquaculture activities of a particular group?

No

2.3.6 Provide details of the aquaculture activity or the activity that is incompatible with aquaculture and the location

2.3.7 Provide details of the relevant aquaculture settlement area or Treaty settlement legislation reserving space for aquaculture and include details of the impacted parties or particular group.

2.3.8 Provide details on whether or not the applicant is authorised to apply for a coastal permit within the aquaculture settlement area, or area reserved under another Treaty settlement for aquaculture activities, including a copy of any such authorisation.

2.3.9 Does the project include an activity that would require an access arrangement under [section 61](#) or [61B](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991?

Yes

a. Provide the following information:

i. what is the activity that would require the access arrangement; and

ii. does the project include an activity that would occur on Crown owned land or internal waters and land of the common marine and coastal area described in Schedule 4 of that Act and provide details of the same.

Rua Gold currently hold two access arrangements for its exploration operations under the relevant exploration permits. Rua Gold is intending (as part of its substantive application) to augment these existing access arrangements with a new access arrangement for its activities within public conservation land associated with the relevant mining permit, which will be sought as part of its substantive application. Please refer to Section 3.1.2.2 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for a description of access arrangement activities. It is noted that the conservation area over which an access arrangement is sought for the Project does not meet the description of high value land recognised in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (refer to Section 2.3 of the referral application document attached to this application).

- iii. If so describe how the activity meets the criteria in [section 61\(1A\)](#)(a-e) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991; **or**
- iv. Confirm and provide evidence that the project would not occur in an area for which a permit cannot be granted under that Act:
The proposed activities are not related to land described in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991. Please refer to Section 2.3 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.3.10 Does the project include an activity that would be prevented under any of sections [165J](#), [165M](#), [165Q](#), [165ZC](#), or [165ZDB](#) (regarding the management of occupation in common marine and coastal area) of the Resource Management Act 1991?

No

2.3.11 Provide details about which section the project does not comply with and, if relevant, the provisions of the regional coastal plan that are applicable.

2.3.12 Does the project include an activity (other than an activity that would require an access arrangement under the [Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)) that would occur on land that is listed in [Schedule 4](#) of this Act?

No

- a. Provide the following:
 - i. identify the activity and which clause under Schedule 4 is applicable; and
 - ii. confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#), and if so, whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines and provide the

information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below.

2.3.13 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a national reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 and requires approval under that Act?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity and type of national reserve under the Reserves Act
- ii. identify what approval(s) would be required under the Reserves Act.
- iii. Confirm whether you are seeking that the Minister make a determination under [section 24](#) and if so whether the determination sought relates to existing electricity infrastructure or new electricity lines.? If so, provide the information under 2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24 below

2.3.14 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is vested in someone other than the Crown or a local authority?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person in whom it is vested.
- ii. provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person in whom the reserve is vested and provide a copy of the same; or
- iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.15 Does the project involve an activity that would occur on a reserve held under the Reserves Act 1977 that is managed by someone other than the Department of Conservation or a local authority?

No

a. Address the following:

- i. identify the activity, the reserve type under the Reserves Act, and the person or body who manages the reserve.
- ii. Provide evidence that written agreement has been obtained from the person or body responsible for managing the reserve and provide a copy of the same; **or**

- iii. advise whether it is proposed to rely on [section 5\(2\)](#) of the Act and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below; **or**
- iv. advise whether you consider the activity falls within the scope of [section 5\(5\)](#) of the Act, and provide the information under 2.3 Ineligible activity below.

2.3.16 Does the project involve an activity that is:

- a. a prohibited activity under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 or regulations made under that Act?
- b. described in section 15B (Discharge of harmful substances from ships or offshore installations) of the Resource Management Act 1991 and is a prohibited activity under that Act or regulations made under it;
No
- c. prohibited by section 15C (Prohibitions in relation to radioactive waste or other radioactive matter and other waste in coastal marine area) of the Resource Management Act 1991
No

2.3.17 Does the project involve a decommissioning-related activity as described in section 38(3) of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012:

No

2.3.18 Does the project involve an activity undertaken for the purposes of an offshore renewable energy project?

No

2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement

2.4.1 Mining activities under section 5(2)

The agreement of the relevant groups referred to under 3.5 Persons affected is not required for certain mining activities under [section 5\(2\)](#). If you think this might apply to your application, answer the questions below.

2.4.1.2 Is your application for an activity that is prospecting, exploration, mining or mining operations of Crown-owned minerals undertaken below the surface of any land or area?

Yes

2.4.1.3 Provide details of the activity and identify the owner and occupier of the land and any relevant details concerning the land or area (such as whether it is identified Māori land)

The proposed mining activity will not occur on land which is subject to an agreement with the relevant groups identified under Section 3.5 (or under section 5 subsection (1)(a), (b), (j), or (k) of the Act) and therefore does not require an exemption under section 5(2) of the Act. Refer to Section 2.4.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.4.1.4 Explain the extent, if any to which your activity may be likely to cause any damage to the surface of the land or any loss or damage to the owner or occupier of the land.

The proposed mining activity will not occur on land which is subject to an agreement with the relevant groups identified under Section 3.5 (or under section 5 subsection (1)(a), (b), (j), or (k) of the Act) and therefore does not require an exemption under section 5(2) of the Act. Refer to Section 2.4.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.4.1.5 Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of the use and enjoyment of the land by the owner or occupier of the land.

The proposed mining activity will not occur on land which is subject to an agreement with the relevant groups identified under Section 3.5 (or under section 5 subsection (1)(a), (b), (j), or (k) of the Act) and therefore does not require an exemption under section 5(2) of the Act. Refer to Section 2.4.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.4.1.6 Explain the extent, if any to which your activity will be likely to have any prejudicial effect in respect of any possible future use of the surface of the land, and if no such effects are anticipated, please explain why.

The proposed mining activity will not occur on land which is subject to an agreement with the relevant groups identified under Section 3.5 (or under section 5 subsection (1)(a), (b), (j), or (k) of the Act) and therefore does not require an exemption under section 5(2) of the Act. Refer to Section 2.4.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.4.2 Activities on land proposed to be the subject of a land exchange

The agreement of relevant groups referred to in (subsection 5(1)(a) of the Act) is not required if section 5(5) applies. If you consider this section may be relevant to your application, complete the below.

2.4.2.1 Is the reserve on which the activity is to occur proposed to be the subject of a land exchange?

No

2.4.2.2 Is the reserve a Crown-owned reserve?

2.4.2.3 Are the person or persons responsible for managing the reserve in place because of a Treaty settlement?

2.4.2.4 Provide any supporting details which may be relevant for your responses to the above questions.

2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24

Complete this section if you wish to seek a ministerial determination under section 23 or section 24 that your project is not an ineligible activity.

2.5.1 Determination in relation to linear infrastructure on Māori land under section 23

2.5.1.1 Is your application seeking a determination under [section 23](#) (linear infrastructure on certain identified Māori land)

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.1.2 Confirmation that the activity is the construction of electricity lines or land transport infrastructure (and identify which it is)

2.5.1.3 Confirmation that the above construction (or operation of) will be undertaken by a network utility operator that is a requiring authority, and that that same party is the applicant for the necessary approvals, providing details of the same.

2.5.1.4 Confirmation that the activity would occur on identified Māori land that is Māori freehold land or General land owned by Māori that was previously Māori freehold land (and identify that land)

2.5.1.5 Provide information on the rights and interests of Māori in that land

2.5.1.6 Provide an assessment of the effects of the activity on those Māori rights and interests and on the relevant land.

2.5.2 Determination in relation to existing electricity infrastructure under section 24(2)

2.5.2.1 Is your application seeking a Ministerial determination under [section 24](#)(2) (in relation to maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure on certain Schedule 4 land or in a national reserve)

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.2.2 Confirmation that the activity is the maintenance, upgrading, or continued operation of existing electricity infrastructure.

2.5.2.3 Confirmation that the activity would occur on eligible land, as defined in section 24(3).

2.5.2.4 Advise whether the activity would materially increase the scale or adverse effects of the existing electricity infrastructure and provide an explanation of the same.

2.5.3 Determination in relation to new electricity lines under section 24(4)

2.5.3.1 Is your application seeking a determination under [section 24](#) (the construction and operation of new electricity lines on eligible land (as defined in [schedule 4](#) excluding land classified as a national park or listed in subsections 2, 4, 5(a), 7 or 8 of that schedule)?

No

Provide the following information:

2.5.3.2 Is the activity the construction and operation of new electricity lines? (provide any necessary details)

Would the activity occur on eligible land (and identify which category of eligible land);

2.5.3.3 Provide the requested information for each alternative site considered for the construction and operation of the new electricity lines:

2.5.3.4 A description of the alternative site.

2.5.3.5 A statement of the anticipated and known financial cost of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.6 A description of the anticipated and known adverse effects of undertaking the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.7 A description of the anticipated and known financial cost and practicality of available measures to avoid, remedy, mitigate, offset, or compensate for the anticipated and known adverse effects of the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.8 A description of any issues (including financial cost) that would make it impractical to undertake the activity on the alternative site.

2.5.3.9 An assessment of whether it would be reasonable and practical to undertake the activity on the alternative site, considering the matters referred to above.

2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process

Here you must explain how the project meets the referral application criteria ([section 22](#)). Please consider and respond where relevant, to each question.

If the project is planned to proceed in stages, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria.

If a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project, you must explain how each stage meets the referral application criteria,

- 2.6.1** The criteria for accepting a referral application is that the project is an infrastructure or development project that would have significant regional or national benefits. Explain how this project satisfies the criteria:

Please refer to Section 2.6.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for further details on how the Project meets the purpose of the FTAA.

The Auld Creek Project is a significant mining project that will unlock mineral resources and deliver substantial regional and national economic benefits. The overall purpose and objective of the activity is to bring New Zealand's largest known antimony deposit into production. Antimony is a highly valued mineral across multiple industries, from finance to advanced technologies. Antimony is considered a critical mineral (included in the Mineral Strategy 2040) which occurs principally in association with orogenic gold bearing quartz veins in greywacke in Westland (Reefton) and in schist in Marlborough and Otago. Antimony exhibits unique physical and chemical properties that contribute to its durability, malleability, and resistance to tarnishing (refer to Attachment 11 - Antimony Fact Sheet).

Antimony is considered a strategic mineral essential for supply chain resilience and security. This Project provides an opportunity to establish New Zealand as an additional contributor to the antimony supply chain, a strategically significant mineral. Economic Evidence prepared by Eaquib & Eaquib Limited (2026) (included as Attachment 12 to this application) assumes an antimony price of US\$27,250/tonne and a gold price of US\$4,116/oz, applying an exchange rate of NZD 0.58 to the USD this will average gold exports at \$217 M per year and antimony exports \$67 M per year over the eight years of production. This provides a total export revenue of \$2,269 m, with a net present value of \$1,636 M over the 8-year production period.

It is clear the Project will undeniably provide a significant level of economic

benefit at national level. In addition to the significant national benefits, the Project will provide a number of regional benefits, including considerable economic benefits and contribution to GDP, and significant increases to employment and future employment opportunities. Eaquad & Eaquad (2026) has identified a total GDP contribution of \$403 M per year across the production period, comprising \$162 M in direct mine value-added, \$179 M in indirect supplier activity. At a local and regional level the Project will add an average \$46 M per year to the Buller district's GDP across the production period and a further \$29 M accrued to the West Coast Region (Eaquad & Eaquad, 2026).

The Project will provide an average of 200 long-term jobs during the mining operation increasing to 267 during peak production between 2028 and 2029. During peak production, the total employment supported in the Buller district will reach 771 persons, including 267 direct, 402 indirect, and 102 induced. The Project is a progressive mining operation requiring a specialised skill set in underground, hard-rock narrow-vein mining methods. This is reflected in mining wages, which will average above \$100,000 and further drive induced consumption effects. The above outlines the Project's strategic and economic dimensions. It is evident that the Project will provide immense national and regional benefits across multiple facets, including both strategic geopolitics and global market strength, while also providing a significant level of economic benefits across the country and locally within the West Coast Region and Buller District. The Project, therefore, should be assessed in a whole-of-government context and recognised as a significant resilience and economic opportunity for New Zealand.

2.6.2 Explain how referring the project to the fast-track approvals process:

2.6.2.1 Would facilitate the project, including by enabling it to be processed in a more timely and cost-effective way than under normal processes; and

The FTAA established a streamlined decision-making process for development and infrastructure projects that deliver significant regional and national benefits. The Project involves approvals that would otherwise need to be applied for under a number of different legislative processes (e.g. resource consents, wildlife permits, mining permits and associated arrangements, and concessions) before different regulators. Given the number of approvals required to authorise the Project, including the application for a mining permit, the use of the FTAA process will therefore significantly reduce the processing timeframe for the Project (by approximately 2 years) and the associated costs that would occur under normal processes. The Project is not considered overly complex in that it is for the development of an underground mine, of which the effects are well understood and can be addressed through the implementation of appropriate management measures, as has occurred for the development

of other mines within the West Coast region including the Snowy River Mine as a similar underground mining operation located approximately 17 km south of the Auld Creek Project. Rua Gold has commissioned independent technical reports to support the substantive application for the Project. The application will be of a high standard, ensuring it can be processed efficiently and will therefore not materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process. For further details please refer to Section 2.6.2.1 and Section 2.6.2.2 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.6.2.2 Is unlikely to materially affect the efficient operation of the fast-track approvals process

2.6.2.3 Has the project been identified as a priority project in a central government, local government, or sector plan or strategy (for example, in a general policy statement or spatial strategy), or a central government infrastructure priority list?

For example – a sector plan that specifically identifies the project including details such as location.

Yes

a. Identify the plan, strategy or list (or any other relevant document). Whilst the Auld Creek Project itself has not been identified as a priority project, the New Zealand government has set clear goals and targets for the mining sector through the Mineral Strategy for New Zealand 2040, released by MBIE in January 2025. The Mineral Strategy outlines a clear vision for the mineral sector which delivers for New Zealanders, now and into the future, by supporting a productive and resilient economy through responsible and sustainable practices. Supporting this vision, MBIE have outlined a goal to double the value of mineral exports to \$3 billion by 2035. The Auld Creek Project will significantly contribute in meeting this goal as a Project which meets the three identified growth drivers in the Strategy including: scaling up current mineral exports (gold), realising new critical mineral opportunities (antimony), and adding value through domestic processing on an antimony concentrate rather than exporting raw ore. For further details please refer to Section 2.6.2.3 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

2.6.2.4 Will the project deliver new regionally or nationally significant infrastructure or enable the continued functioning of existing regionally or nationally significant infrastructure?

No

a. Explain how the project will deliver this.

2.6.2.5 Will the project increase the supply of housing, address housing needs, or contribute to a well-functioning urban environment (within

the meaning of policy 1 of the National Policy Statement on Urban Development 2020). If yes, explain how the project will achieve this.

2.6.2.6 Will the project deliver significant economic benefits, and if so, how?

Please refer to Section 2.6.2.6 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for further details on how the Project will deliver significant economic benefits. The Project will deliver significant economic benefits both at a regional level and national level. The Project will deliver significant economic benefits at the local, regional, and national levels. Eaquib & Eaquib (2026) assess that without this project, the \$597 M of foreign capital will not take place, exports of \$2.3 B will not be realised, and 200 well-paid permanent jobs will not be created in Buller / West Coast.

The direct, indirect and induced economic benefits of the Project associated with the construction and operation of the Auld Creek project include:

Export Revenue: Total export revenue over the production period is estimated at \$2,269 m, with a net present value of \$1,636 M. It is noted that even under conservative assumptions, annual exports remain above \$214 M.

Expenditure (FDI): The applicant is a subsidiary of a foreign company based in Vancouver, Canada, and therefore requires capital to develop the Project for Foreign Direct Investment ("FDI"). FDI attributable to this Project is in the order of \$597 M. It should be noted that exploration expenditure across the Reefion goldfield accounts for \$233 M of this, solidifying Rua Gold as a long-term contributor to the local and regional economy.

Expenditure (NZ): Total New Zealand-based expenditure, capital and operating, net of identified large imports, averages \$125 M per year, totaling \$1,125 M over the project life.

Spending: Even utilising a conservative approach to calculate the total GDP contribution based on the Project's New Zealand-based spending (where large, imported items such as specialist mining equipment have been excluded); over the full Project lifecycle, the total GDP contribution reaches \$3,627 M, with a net present value of \$2,462 M.

Employment Effects: Including indirect and induced employment in

Buller, the total employment effect in the district averages 477 persons across the production period. At peak activity in 2028, total employment supported in the Buller District reaches 771 persons: 267 direct, 402 indirect, and 102 induced. It should further be noted that mining wages average well above \$100,000, which drives larger induced economic benefits.

Royalties and Tax: The calculated total tax contribution of the Project is \$359 M (NPV: \$261M).

2.6.2.7 Will the project support primary industries, including aquaculture, and if so, how?

Mining is a primary production activity (as defined in the National Planning Standard 2019) and as outlined above, the Auld Creek Project will support employment opportunities for mine workers, investment to facilitate operations and infrastructure and security. Referral to the FTAA process would promote investor certainty in the near and long term and encourage further investment in exploration and development at Reefton. The Project will therefore make a significant contribution to the continued support of New Zealand's primary industries.

2.6.2.8 Will the project support development of natural resources, including minerals and petroleum, and if so, how?

The Project will directly support the development of natural resources through mining for the extraction of minerals (gold and antimony). The Project will enable the extraction of these natural resources, which will, in turn, generate significant regional and national benefits, including significant employment and economic benefits.

2.6.2.9 Will the project support climate change mitigation, including the reduction or removal of greenhouse gas emissions, and if so, how?

2.6.2.10 Will the project support climate change adaptation, reduce risks arising from natural hazards, or support recovery from events caused by natural hazards, and if so, how?

2.6.2.11 Will the project address significant environmental issues, and if so, how?

2.6.2.12 Is the project consistent with local or regional planning documents, including spatial strategies, and if so, how?

For assessment of the Project against relevant local and regional planning documents and spatial strategies please refer to Section 2.6.2.13 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

The Project seeks resource consents that would otherwise be applied for from the West Coast Regional Council and Buller District Council. The relevant local and regional planning documents assessed include:

West Coast Regional Policy Statement 2020

West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan

West Coast Regional Air Quality Plan

Buller Long Term Plan

Operative Buller District Plan

Te Tai o Poutini Plan

Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu's Freshwater Policy Statement.

In summary, through careful and intentional design of the Project, including the location of the surface infrastructure and underground mining methods, and through the early engagement with regulators, iwi authorities and technical experts the Project is consistent with the above planning documents.

Section 3: Project details

Remember: at this stage only a general level of detail is required, enough to inform eligibility to use the fast-track approvals process.

For construction activities, please state the anticipated commencement and completion dates.

Construction of the Project is anticipated to take between 12 and 18 months (estimated between 2027 to 2028) and is not proposed to be staged or staggered in any way (i.e. all surface and mining infrastructure and will be constructed within this timeframe). Production of the mining operation is proposed toward the end of 2028 and will be operational for an estimated six to eight years. Closure of the mine is estimated to take an additional three to five years or until rehabilitation criteria are met and agreed by regulators and iwi. Post-land use of the areas occupied by infrastructure is expected to be forestry and agriculture. Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

3.1 Approvals required

Applications must specify all of the proposed approvals sought but only need to provide a general level of detail about each proposed approval, sufficient to inform the Minister's decision on the referral application.

For each proposed approval an applicant must be eligible to apply for any corresponding approval under a specified Act. For example, if an approval is for a notice of requirement under the RMA, the applicant for that approval would need to be a requiring authority.

Applications for approvals under a specified Act, as required by in [section 13\(4\)\(y\)](#), are covered below in 3.8 Specific proposed approvals.

3.1.1 Outline the approvals sought under the Resource Management Act 1991.

For further details on approvals sought under the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) please refer to Section 3.1.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

The Project will require a suite of approvals under the RMA, including:

Resources Consents under the:

Buller District Plan;

Te Tai o Poutini Plan;

West Coast Regional Land and Water Plan;

West Coast Regional Air Quality Plan;

National Environmental Standards for Freshwater;

National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health; and

National Environmental Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emission from Industrial Process Heat.

3.1.2 Outline the approvals sought under the Conservation Act 1987

Rua Gold is seeking the appropriate leases and easement concessions for activities on DOC land that are required outside the mining activities and the associated mining permit area. For further details on approvals sought under the Conservation Act 1987 please refer to Section 3.1.3 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

3.1.3 Outline the approvals sought under the Reserves Act 1977

N/A

3.1.4 Outline the approvals sought under the Wildlife Act 1953

Approvals are required under the Wildlife Act 1953 for the disturbance of wildlife, including killing, harming, catching, holding and releasing of wildlife regulated by the Wildlife Act 1953. Rua Gold is seeking wildlife approvals as described in clause 1 of Schedule 7 to the FTAA for any activities relating to the potential disturbance of lizards, birds and potentially terrestrial invertebrates. For further details on approvals sought under the Wildlife Act 1953 please refer to Section 3.1.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

3.1.5 Outline the approvals sought under the National Parks Act 1980

N/A

- 3.1.6** Outline the approvals sought under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014

N/A

- 3.1.7** Outline the approvals sought under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983

The Project involves constructing culverts within streams. It is noted that culverts are required within the Project Site; it may be necessary to prevent exotic / pest fish from passing through in order to protect the threatened indigenous fish populations upstream, or similarly, the provision of fish passage may not be deemed necessary due to low flow path, or shallow seabeds. Additionally, fish salvage activities may be required during the construction of culverts and any associated modification of streams. The FTAA includes specific approvals for complex freshwater fisheries activities that would otherwise be granted under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations. At this stage, it is assumed that Rua Gold will need to apply for approval for the proposed culverts under this regulation or seek an appropriate dispensation under section 42 or 43 of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983. Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

- 3.1.8** Outline the approvals sought under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012

N/A

- 3.1.9** Outline the approvals sought under the Crown Minerals Act 1991

For further details on approvals sought under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 please refer to Section 3.1.2 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

Mining Permits:

As part of the Project that Rua Gold is seeking to be referred, Rua Gold is applying for a Tier 1 mining permit for gold and antimony over approximately 1009 ha of Exploration Permit 60648 (Golden Point) and Exploration Permit 60747 (Cumberland). A map of the proposed Mining Permit Area in relation to the exploration permits is included as Attachment 10 to this application. The primary focus of mining activities will be the extraction of gold and antimony.

Access Arrangements:

Concurrently with the proposed mining permit, Rua Gold will also seek access arrangements from DOC under section 61 of the CMA, which will also be included as part of the intended substantive application. An access arrangement permits access to conservation land administered by DOC for the mineral related activities in accordance

with the mining permit. It is noted that access arrangements will be required under section 59 of the CMA for access over private land, including the construction of a surface portal and related underground access, and these applications will be processed outside of the FTAA process, as these applications are not provided for under the Act.

3.1.10 Outline the approvals sought under the Public Works Act 1981

N/A

3.1.11 *Only applicable if more than one applicant:* Provide a statement of which approvals are proposed to be held by which applicant.

N/A

3.1.12 Where there are any particular eligibility requirements to apply for an above approval; identify what they are, who the relevant applicant is, and confirm that the relevant applicant meets those requirements (including providing any necessary supporting information or documentation to evidence this).

Refer at Attachment 03 Existing Exploration Permits

3.1.13 Are there any other types of consents, certificates, designations, concessions, and other legal authorisations (other than contractual authorisations or the proposed approvals) and you consider are needed to authorise the project (including any that may be needed by someone other than you as the applicant(s)). Provide details on whether these have been obtained.

For further details on other approvals required please refer to Section 3.1.6 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

It is noted that several additional approvals are required to facilitate the Project and are outside the FTAA process, as they are not provided for under the Act. These approvals are detailed below for completeness. Notwithstanding, such approvals are not uncommon for large-scale projects, and there are efficient systems in place to ensure that obtaining these permits or undertaking the works will not impede the overall efficient and effective delivery of the Project.

The Project requires access arrangements over approximately 548 ha of non-Crown land under section 60 of the CMA;

Road stopping will be required for the existing legal paper road which run through the Surface Infrastructure Site, this process will occur under either the Public Works Act 1981 or the Local Government Act 1974;

The required intersection upgrades along State Highway 7 will require a Corridor Access Approval and other related traffic management approval from NZTA;

The Project includes the realignment of Soldiers Big-River Road, it is anticipated this

work will require separate approvals from NZTA associated with both the construction of the realigned road and associated road closure; and Building consents for building work associated with the Project under the Building Act 2004.

3.2 Project stages

3.2.1 If the project is planned to proceed in stages, provide: No

1. A statement of whether the project is planned to proceed in stages, including:
 - a. an outline of the nature, scale and timing of the stages; and
 - b. a statement of whether you intend to lodge a separate substantive application for each of the stages.
 - i. If a substantive application is intended to be lodged for each stage, address the questions under the section (Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process) for each stage of the project

3.3 Alternative project

3.3.1 If the project is proposed as an alternative project, provide: No

1. A statement of whether a part of the project is proposed as an alternative project in itself; and
 - a. Describe that part of the project; and
 - b. Explain how that part of the project proposed as an alternative project meets the referral assessment criteria in [section 22](#) of the Act.

3.4 Adverse effects

3.4.1 Describe any anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment.

Please refer to Section 3.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for an assessment of the anticipated and known adverse effects of the project on the environment and the significance of those adverse effects.

A suite of preliminary technical assessments have been prepared to accompany this referral application and are attached accordingly. These assessments have identified anticipated and known effects and outlined mitigation and management measures to address these effects. Each assessment has concluded the Projects adverse effects can be appropriately managed with no significant effects identified. The following adverse effects have been assessed in the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document:
Cultural Effects;

Landscape, Visual Amenity and Natural Character Effects;
Acoustic and Vibration Effects;
Air Quality Effects;
Geotechnical Effects;
Contaminated Land Management;
Hazardous Substances;
Terrestrial Ecology;
Aquatic Ecology;
Surface Water Quality Effects;
Groundwater Quality Effects;
Water Quantity Effects;
Heritage;
Traffic Effects; and
Rehabilitation and Closure.

3.4.2 Provide a statement of any activities involved in the project that are prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991, and identify the relevant prohibited activity provision.

No proposed activities prohibited activities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

3.5 Persons affected

3.5.1 Provide a list of the persons, groups and/or entities who you consider are likely to be affected by the project.

The list should include, as relevant, local authorities, relevant Māori groups (as set out at [section 13\(4\)\(j\)\(ii\)-\(vii\) of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024](#)), persons with a registered interest in land that may need to be acquired under the Public Works Act 198; and if the project includes a land exchange, the holder of an interest in the land that is to be exchanged by the Crown (see [Consultation requirements for referral application](#)).

Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

Rua Gold considers the following persons, groups and entities are likely to be affected by the Project:

Local hapū, iwi authorities, and Māori landowners;

Department of Conservation;

Buller District Council;

West Coast Regional Council;

Local residents, specifically, all immediate neighbours, and those identified by technical assessments as being impacted by the proposal;

3.5.2 Provide a summary of any consultation undertaken with the above persons and/or groups who you consider are likely to be affected by the project, and

any other groups required to be consulted with under [section 11](#) of the Act, **and** how the consultation has informed the project.

Please refer to Section 3.5 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for a summary of consultation undertaken with the persons, groups and entities are likely to be affected by the Project, consultation undertaken with relevant administering agencies, and how this has informed the Project. Letters of support are included as Attachment 13 to this application, and evidence of notification to administering agencies under section (11)(3) are provided as Attachment 20 to this application. In summary, Rua Gold have undertaken comprehensive engagement across stakeholders and the community, this has informed key components of the Project including the surface infrastructure location, underground mining operation, and the closure and rehabilitation objectives and strategy.

3.5.3 List any Treaty settlements that apply to the project area and provide a summary of the relevant principles and provisions in those settlements.

Please refer to the assessment and summary of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as the relevant Treaty settlement that applied to the Project Site is provided in Section 3.5 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this document.

3.5.4 If relevant, detail any principles or provisions in the Ngā Rohe Moana o Ngā Hapū o Ngāti Porou Act 2019 that would be invoked by the project and identify which aspects of the application trigger or otherwise invoke these requirements.

N/A

3.5.5 Will the project be located on land returned under a Treaty settlement?

No

3.5.6 Provide evidence of written agreement by the owners of the land returned.

3.5.7 Describe any processes already undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the project:

No processes have been undertaken under the Public Works Act 1981 in relation to the Project.

3.5.8 Provide information identifying any parcels of Māori land, marae, or identified wāhi tapu within the project area:

There is no marae or other identified wāhi tapu within the Project.

3.6 Legal interests

3.6.1 Provide a description of any legal interests you or any others applying, have in the land on which the project will occur, including a statement of how that affects your ability to undertake the work.

Refer to Section 3.6 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

Rua Gold has entered into investigation and development agreements with the relevant landowners of the properties subject to the Project Site to provide Rua Gold with the property rights necessary to construct and operate the surface infrastructure required on these properties. Rua Gold will apply for an Overseas Investment Office approval for purchase or lease of the Project Site (noting the applicant is a subsidiary of a foreign company based in Vancouver, Canada).

Rua Gold may also need easements for the transmission lines or other construction access requirements that may cross over a privately owned property, depending on the final constructed routes, and will discuss this directly with the landowner as required and if required, establish appropriate legal instruments.

It is acknowledged that there are several paper roads which run through the Surface Infrastructure Site. Rua Gold will enter into a road stopping agreement with the Buller District Council under the appropriate process where the status of the land will be cancelled and then amalgamated with adjoining titles.

3.7 Other matters

3.7.1 Have any activities included in the project, or any that are substantially the same as those involved in the project, previously been the subject of an application or a decision under a specified Act?

Please note the term 'application' includes a notice of requirement and any other means by which a decision may be sought under a specified Act.

Yes

3.7.2 If an application has been made, provide details of the application.

Please refer to Section 3.7 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for further details on applications under relevant specified acts.

Rua Gold has applied for exploration permits and associated access arrangements under sections 23 and 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 as a specified Act. It is further noted that applications have recently been made to NZP&M to change the minerals to which EP 60747 relates to include all metallic minerals (excluding uranium) and all non-metallic minerals, and to extend the duration of EP 60648.

3.7.3 If a decision has been made, also provide the outcome of the decision and the reasons for it.

Please refer to Section 3.7 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for further details on applications under relevant specified acts.

A number of the above permits have been approved; it is noted that there are some pending CMA applications as outlined in Section 3.7.2 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document. However, it should be noted that the permits and arrangements remain in good standing, and the proposed activities are considered to be in accordance with the relevant standards under the CMA.

3.7.4 Provide a description of whether and how the project would be affected by climate change and natural hazards:

Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application. The main natural hazard risk to the Project is from potential seismic events, but it is no greater than the general risk profile in this area for this type of event. The site is, however, not subject to any specific natural hazard overlays in the West Coast natural hazards database/mapping service. The underground mine and associated surface infrastructures design and construction methodology will be informed by multiple engineering design reports to ensure the risks from natural hazards are managed to acceptable levels. Therefore, the Project is not subject to significant risks associated with climate change and natural hazards.

Provide the additional details requested below as relevant to your application.

3.8 Specific proposed approvals

3.8.1 Approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991

3.8.1.1 *Resource consents*

If your application is seeking a consent for an activity that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, including an activity that is prohibited under the Act, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards and, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

The Project is seeking approvals for activities that would otherwise be applied for under the RMA. Please refer to Section 3.8.1 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for an assessment against any relevant national policy statement and national environmental standards.

The following National Policy Statements and National Environmental Standards have been assessed in the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document:

National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity;
National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management;
National Environmental Standards for Freshwater;
National Policy Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat;
National Environmental Standards Statement for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Industrial Process Heat;
National Environmental Standard for Assessing and Managing Contaminants in Soil to Protect Human Health;
National Environmental Standards for Air Quality;
National Policy Statement for Highly Productive Land; and
National Environmental Standard for Sources of Drinking Water.

- Information on whether, to the best of your knowledge, there are any existing resource consents relevant to the project site to which RMA [section 124C\(1\)\(c\)](#) (existing consent would need to expire to enable the approval to be exercised) or RMA [section 165ZI](#) (space already occupied by the holder of an aquaculture permit) would apply if the approval were to be applied for as a resource consent under that Act

There are no existing resource consents relevant to the Project Site to which RMA section 124C(1)(c) or section 165ZI applies.

3.8.1.2 *Resource consents where the project includes standard freshwater fisheries activities*

If your application is seeking a resource consent and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.
As discussed in Section 3.1.6 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application, although it is not the intention to impede fish passage, it may be necessary to prevent exotic / pest fish from passing through culverts in order to protect the threatened indigenous fish populations upstream, or similarly, the provision of fish passage may not be deemed necessary due to low flow path, or shallow stream beds.
- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.
Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application. If required, an Aquatic Ecology Management Plan will be

prepared as part of the substantive application; this management plan will include specific details of any salvage activities required, including any required capture, handling, or salvage, and any required relocation of fish during construction activities. The management plan will be drafted in accordance with best practice and guidance under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, including ensuring any required fish relocation is provided for within the same reach of the watercourse.

3.8.1.3 *Designations*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation for which a notice of requirement would otherwise be lodged under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide the information below:

- An assessment of the project against any relevant national policy statement, any relevant national environmental standards, or, if relevant, the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

N/A

3.8.1.4 *Designations where the project includes a standard freshwater fisheries activity*

If your application is seeking a designation or an alteration to an existing designation and your project includes a [standard freshwater fisheries activity](#), provide the information requested below:

- If an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), provide a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.

N/A - this application is not seeking a designation or alteration to a designation.

- Indicate whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.

N/A

3.8.1.5 *Change or cancellation of conditions*

If your application is seeking a change of cancellation of resource consent condition that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

- Information about whether the change or cancellation of the condition is material to the implementation or delivery of the project.

N/A

3.8.1.6 *Certificates of compliance*

If your application is seeking a certificate of compliance that would otherwise be applied for under the Resource Management Act 1991, provide:

information that demonstrates the activity that the certificate of compliance is intended to cover can be done lawfully in the location without a resource consent.

N/A.

3.8.2 Approvals relating to [Conservation Act 1987](#), [Reserves Act 1977](#), [Wildlife Act 1953](#), and [National Parks Act 1980](#)

3.8.2.1 *Concessions*

For applications seeking a [concession](#) that include a lease, answer the following:

- Will the lease be for a term (including any renewals that will, or is likely to, be more than 50 years?
No
- Will the granting of the lease trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return?
 - If you answered yes to both a. and b. above, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder(s) of the right of first refusal or [right of offer or return](#) to waive that right for the purposes of the proposed lease.

3.8.2.2 *Land exchanges*

For applications seeking an approval for a land exchange involving conservation land, provide the details below:

No

- A description of both land areas proposed for exchange (for example, maps showing areas and location, addresses and legal descriptions where possible)
- The financial value of the land proposed to be acquired by the Crown
- A brief description of the conservation values of both pieces of land, including an explanation of why the exchange would benefit the conservation estate.
- If the land exchange would trigger a right of first refusal or a right of offer or return, provide evidence that the applicant has written agreement from the holder of the

right of first refusal or right of offer or return to waive that right for the purpose of the land exchange

- Provide sufficient detail in respect of both land areas to confirm that no part of any land to be exchanged by the Crown is land listed in [Schedule 4](#) or a reserve declared to be a national reserve under [section 13](#) of the Reserves Act 1977.

3.8.3 Approvals relating to complex Freshwater Fisheries activities

If your application is seeking an approval or dispensation that would otherwise be applied for under regulation [42](#) or [43](#) of the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 in respect of a [complex freshwater fisheries activity](#) provide the information requested below:

- Whether an in-stream structure is proposed (including formal notification of any dam or diversion structure), and a description of the extent to which this may impede fish passage.

As discussed in Section 3.1.6 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application, although it is not the intention to impede fish passage, it may be necessary to prevent exotic / pest fish from passing through culverts in order to protect the threatened indigenous fish populations upstream, or similarly, the provision of fish passage may not be deemed necessary due to low flow path, or shallow stream beds.

- Whether any fish salvage activities or other complex freshwater fisheries activities are proposed.

Please refer to the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application. If required, an Aquatic Ecology Management Plan will be prepared as part of the substantive application; this management plan will include specific details of any salvage activities required, including any required capture, handling, or salvage, and any required relocation of fish during construction activities. The management plan will be drafted in accordance with best practice and guidance under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983, including ensuring any required fish relocation is provided for within the same reach of the watercourse.

3.8.4 Approvals relating to [Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf \(Environmental Effects\) Act 2012](#)

If your application is seeking a marine consent that would otherwise be applied for under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf Act 2012, provide the information requested below:

- Any information relating to whether the Minister for Conservation is an affected person.

N/A

- If the applicant or the proposed holder of the marine consent has already applied for a consent under the EEZ Act in relation to the project, provide:
 - Details of any application made;
 - An explanation of any decisions made on that application; and
 - Any information that Minister may consider under [section 22](#)(6) (comparison of activity against current or likely use of the area).

N/A

- Additional information (in a summary form) about compliance or enforcement action taken against the applicant or the person who is identified in the application as the proposed holder of the marine consent by the EPA under the EEZ Act.

N/A

3.8.5 Approvals relating to Crown Minerals Act 1991

3.8.5.1 *Access arrangements*

For an approval for an access arrangement that would otherwise be applied for under section 61 or 61B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide:

- Information that confirms the applicant or the person identified in the application as the proposed holder of the access arrangement complies with [section 59](#)(1) and (2) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (which applies as if a reference to an access arrangement under that Act were a reference to an access arrangement under this Act) including;
 - Evidence that the applicant or person has provided each owner and occupier of the relevant land a notice in writing of their intention to obtain an access arrangement; and
 - Evidence that the notice complies with the requirements in [section 59](#)(2) of the Crown Minerals Act, and any matters required by regulations. =

Refer at Attachment 21 - Notice of Request to for Grant of Right of Access.

3.8.5.2 *Mining permits*

For an approval for a mining permit that would otherwise be applied for under [section 23A](#) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991, provide the information requested below:

- A copy of the relevant exploration permit or existing privilege to be exchanged for a mining permit that entitles the holder to mine a Crown-owned mineral.

Refer to Attachment 3 - Existing Exploration Permits

- The name and contact details of the proposed permit participants and the proposed permit operator.

Please refer to the Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application, including the redacted version.

Proposed Permit Operator:

Organisation: Reefton Resources Pty Limited

Contact Person: Simon Delander

Phone: +61 418 253 201

Email: simon.delander@reeftongold.net

Postal Address: 1 Hattie Street, Reefton 7830.

Proposed Permit Participant:

Organisation: Terra Firma

Contact Person: Lincoln Smith

Phone: +64 27 240 9108

Email: lincoln@terrafirma.kiwi.nz

Postal Address: PO Box 67, Ngaruawahia, 3742.

- A proposed work programme for the proposed permit, which may comprise committed work, committed or contingent work, or both.

Please refer to the Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

A high-level work programme is included below:

Phase 1 – Site Establishment (up to 1 year)

Early works including establishing access, portal, lay down, civil works and support infrastructure.

Phase 2 – Development and Construction (1 year)

Development of mine declines, drill pads, water & power infrastructure, construction of processing plant

Phase 3 – Mining and processing (6-8 years)

Expected to hit minimum annual production rate of 30,000 ounces per year, processing 150,000 tonnes through mine (6-8 years)

Phase 4 – Closure and Rehabilitation (2-5 years)

Rehabilitation of site as per agreed closure plan, monitoring and hand over once closure criteria is met (2-5 years)

- Evidence of the technical or financial capability of the proposed permit holder to comply with and give proper effect to the work programme.

Please refer to the Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

An economic model is included as Attachment 22 to this application and

demonstrates the financial capability of Rua Gold as the permit holder to give effect to the work programme. It should be noted that, the Auld Creek resources size and definition, associated opex and capex, are expected to be larger than described in the PEA Report (included as Attachment 6 as a reference to this application). The PEA is conservative and still being internally reviewed by Rua Gold at the time of this referral application submission. The current 19,000 m drilling programme in Reefton is designed to add greater confidence to the Auld Creek resource and support the delivery of a Pre-Feasibility Study at the time of the substantive application.

- Information about the proposed permit holder's history of compliance with mining or similar permits and their conditions.

Please refer to the Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

On 31 May 2019, Rua Gold underwent a change of control within the meaning of the CMA, for which the Minister's consent was not sought or obtained. This constituted a breach of the CMA because Rua Gold was, and is, the permit operator for a Tier 1 exploration permit (EP 60491). On 26 February 2020, Rua Gold Limited received a warning letter from NZP&M regarding the breach. The warning letter confirmed that the Minister does not intend to revoke Rua Gold's exploration permit or prosecute Rua Gold for the breach. To the best of Rua Gold's knowledge, it has not otherwise contravened any environmental regulations.

- The proposed date on which the substantive application is intended to be lodged (if your referral application is accepted) in accordance with [section 42\(11\)](#).

The intended date for lodgement of the substantive application (should the referral be accepted) is 18 September 2026.

- If the authorised person proposes to provide information under [section 37](#) (to the relevant chief executive), the date on which the person intends to provide that information.

No information is proposed to be provided under section 37.

- The proposed duration of the permit.

The proposed duration of the permit is 30 years.

3.8.5.3 *Mining permits for petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is

intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.

N/A

- The resources and reserves relating to the project, estimated in accordance with the Petroleum Resources Management System.

N/A

- A high-level overview of the following:
 - the proposed field development plan;
 - the proposed date for the commencement of petroleum production;
 - the economic model for the project;
 - the proposed duration of the proposed mining permit and;
 - decommissioning plans.

N/A

3.8.5.4 *Mining permits for minerals other than petroleum*

If the proposed approvals include a mining permit for minerals other than petroleum, provide:

- A map of the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made, the area in which the surrender of an exploration permit or existing privileges is proposed (which must be the same area as the area over which the mining permit application is intended to be made), and the extent of the resource and reserves to which the development plan relates.

Refer to Attachment 10 - Mining Permit Area Maps

- For minerals other than gold or silver, a report or statement confirming the ownership of the minerals targeted

Refer to Attachment 23 - Land and Mineral Status Report

- Information on whether the application will be for a [Tier 1 or Tier 2 permit](#).

The mining permit is proposed as a Tier 1 permit. The Project meets the definition of a Tier 1 permit under section 2B(e)(i) of the CMA as an underground mining operation.

- An estimate of the mineral resources and reserves relating to the project, including a summary on acquisition of the data and the data underpinning the estimate (such as information on sample locations, grade, and geology). For a Tier 1 permit application the resources and reserves relating to the project are to be estimated in accordance with a recognised reporting code such as JORC or NI 43-101.

Please refer to the Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application.

A Technical Report (Technical Report on the Reefton Project, New Zealand,

Report for NI 43-101 on the Reefton Project, New Zealand prepared by RSC Consultants, dated 27 Feb 2026) is included as Attachment 5 to this application. The Technical Report has been prepared in accordance with National Instrument 43-101 - Standards of Disclosure for Mineral Projects (NI 43-101) and Form 43-101F1 and provides a comprehensive review and assessment of all data and data collection procedures for the Project and current mineral resources. It should be noted that exploration of Auld Creek (in-accordance with existing exploration permits) is on-going, therefore the resource estimates are expected to increase overtime. Therefore, it is likely the in resources estimates will be updated by the intended substantive lodgement date.

- An indicative mine plan.

Refer to Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application and Attachment 6 - Underground PEA as a reference and indicative Mine Plan.

- A high-level overview of the following:
 - the proposed mining method;
 - the proposed date for the commencement of mining and estimated annual production;
 - the economic model for the project;
 - the status of or anticipated timing for completing any pre-feasibility or feasibility studies;
 - the proposed methods for processing mined material and handling and treating waste and;
 - anticipated plans for mine closure and rehabilitation.

Refer to Section 3.8.4 of the Auld Creek Project - Referral Application Document attached to this application for further details.

In summary:

Mining One have selected Overhand Cut and Fill using a combination of cemented and uncemented backfill as the preferred mining method to form the base-case for the mine plan, including the underground mine design and scheduling. Further details of the proposed mining method are included as Attachment 6 as a reference to this application.

The indicative date for the commencement of mining is expected to be early 2028 between January and March, subject to FTAA Approval and construction. The Project is expected to process 200 – 250 kt annually.

The economic Model is included as Attachment 22 to this application.

Final Pre-Feasibility Studies have been engaged and will be included in the

substantive application (provided the referral application is accepted) in September 2026.

The key processing activities are described below:

Three-stage crushing, with fine ore-bin storage and emergency reclaim;
A single-stage ball mill, with a flotation cell treating cyclone overflow, producing an antimony/gold concentrate;
Separate gravity circuit to treat ball-mill discharge and flotation tails products to produce gravity gold Doré;
Concentrate dewatering using a thickener and a filter to produce a transportable concentrate; and
Appropriate tailings-handling facilities (including detoxification of cyanates) depending on plant location and underground paste fill requirements.

A detailed rehabilitation plan for the mine site post-production will be implemented. At a high level the rehabilitation plan will address the following objectives:

To establish a vegetation cover over all disturbed areas;
To minimise maintenance after rehabilitation;
To protect water and soil from the effects of erosion and contaminants;
To restore disturbed watercourses to a natural stable condition; and
To visually integrate finished structures, landforms and vegetation into the surrounding landscape.

Section 4: Authorisation

To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this application is true and correct.

I confirm that I am authorised to make this application - Yes

I have provided a copy of the application with all contact details redacted - Yes

I understand that all actual and reasonable costs incurred in relation to this application by MfE, EPA and other central and local government agencies will be recovered from me in accordance with [section 104](#) of the Act, and the [Fast-track Approvals Cost Recovery Regulations 2025](#) - Yes

Signature: *Ella Williams*

Date: 4/18/2026

Name: Ella Williams

Section 5: Attachments

List any documents submitted with the application.

- Remember: include a copy of your application with all contact details redacted.

Attachment number	Document name	Author	Document version

Referral application checklist

Use this checklist to confirm you have completed all sections of the referral application form.

Section 1: Applicant details	No
1.2 & 1.3 Agent's evidence of authority to represent the applicant(s) - if applicable	No
1.4 Compliance and enforcement history	No
Section 2: Referral application summary	No
2.1 Project name	No
2.2 Project description and location	No
2.3 Ineligible activity	No
2.4 Exemptions from requirement to provide agreement	No
2.5 Ministerial determinations under sections 23 and 24	No

2.6 Appropriateness for fast-track approvals process	No
Section 3: Project details	No
3.1 Approvals required	No
3.2 Project stages	No
3.3 Alternative project	No
3.4 Adverse effects	No
3.5 Persons affected	No
3.6 Legal interest	No
3.7 Other matters	No
3.8 Specific proposed approvals	No
Section 4: Authorisation	No
Section 5: Attachments	No