

From: [Infrastructure Portfolio](#)
To: [Nicola Willis \(MIN\)](#); [Shane Jones \(MIN\)](#); [Nicola Grigg \(MIN\)](#); [Tama Potaka \(MIN\)](#); [James Meager \(MIN\)](#)
Cc: [FTAreferalls](#)
Subject: Invitation to comment on Fast-track referral application for the Auld Creek Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 – FTAA-2604-1206
Date: Friday, 8 May 2026 10:57:25 am
Attachments: [Comments Form for Invited Ministers.docx](#)

To:

- Minister for Economic Growth
- Minister for Regional Development
- Minister for the Environment
- Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
- Minister for Māori Development
- Minister for the South Island
- Minister for Resources
- Minister of Conservation

NOTE - This project lodged an application after 31 March 2026, therefore a 15-day comment period applies.

Dear Ministers,

Hon Chris Bishop, the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister), has asked for me to write to you on his behalf.

The Minister has received an application from Reefton Resourced Pty Limited for referral of Auld Creek Project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act) to the fast-track process (application reference FTAA- 2604-1206).

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

Invitation to comment on referral application

I write in accordance with section 17 of the Act to invite you to provide written comments on the referral application. I have provided summary details of the project below.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received by **return email** within **15 working days** of receipt of this email, being **29 May 2026**. The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Any comments submitted will contribute to the Minister's decision on whether to accept the referral application and to refer the project.

If you do not wish to provide comments, please let us know as soon as possible so we can proceed with processing the application without delay.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and to refer the project, the Applicant will need to complete any preliminary steps required under the Act and then lodge their substantive application for the approvals needed for the project. An expert panel will be appointed to decide the substantive application.

Process

The application documents are accessible through the Fast-track portal. Please note that application documents may contain commercially sensitivity information and should not be shared widely. If you haven't used the portal before, you can request access by emailing ftareferalls@mfe.govt.nz. Once you are registered and have accepted the terms and conditions, you will receive a link to view the documents. Existing users will be able to see application documents via the request when logging into the portal. Should you need for your agency to provide any supplementary information, a nominated person can be provided access to the portal, access can be requested by emailing ftareferalls@mfe.govt.nz.

To submit your comments on the application, you can either provide a letter or complete the attached template for written comments and return it by replying to this email, infrastructure.portfolio@parliament.govt.nz.

Before the due date, if you have any queries about this email or need assistance with using the portal, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz. Further information is available at <https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/>.

Important Information

Please note that all comments received from Ministers invited to comment will be subject to the Official Information Act 1982. Comments received will be proactively released at the time the Minister for Infrastructure makes a referral decision, unless the Minister providing comments advises the Minister for Infrastructure's office they are to be withheld, at the time they are submitted.

If a Conflict of Interest is identified by the Minister providing comments at any stage of providing comments, please inform my office and the Cabinet Office immediately. The Cabinet Office will provide advice and, if appropriate, initiate a request to the Prime Minister to agree to a transfer of the project/portfolio invite to another Minister (a request to transfer a COI from one Minister to another can take 1-7 days).

Project summary

Project name	Auld Creek Project
Applicant	Reefton Resourced Pty Limited
Location	Reefton, West Coast
Project description	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. • The project area includes public conservation land within Victoria Forest Park, administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC), as well as land owned by Ngāi Tahu Forestry and privately owned land. • The applicant states the mining operation is to be undertaken in two phases. Phase one involves the development of a portal and adit (straight line mine drive) on Crown land administered by DOC to access and mine the upper part of the deposit. Phase two involves accessing and mining the remaining deposit via an underground twin decline tunnel from land owned by Ngāi Tahu Forestry. • The project also involves the closure and rehabilitation of the site over an estimated 2–5 years, including rehabilitation in accordance with an agreed closure plan, monitoring, and handover once closure criteria are met. • The project comprises the following activities: a. continued mineral resource investigation and exploration progression at Auld Creek b. establishing a new surface facilities area to house the surface infrastructure necessary to facilitate the development and operation of an underground mine located across privately owned farmland, disused Te Pūkenga land, and Ngāi Tahu Forestry land accessed via Quigleys Road c. the establishment and operation of a temporary Run of Mine pad and associated haul road on Ngāi Tahu Forestry land d. the required construction and upgrades of ancillary infrastructure including new network utility connections, public and private road upgrades and service connections

- e. the construction, operation and maintenance of an access portal located on Ngāi Tahu Forestry land and associated access tunnel
- f. the construction, operation and maintenance of a twin incline / decline tunnel extending from the access tunnel termination from Ngāi Tahu Forestry land to the Auld Creek orebody
- g. construction, operation and maintenance of an access portal and associated adit at the top of the orebody located on DOC land
- h. construction, operation and maintenance of the Auld Creek Underground Mine
- i. activities over or within waterways, including the possible damming, diverting, taking and use, and construction of structures over and in waterways (including culverts)
- j. take and use of groundwater
- k. discharge of contaminants (including heat) to land, air and water
- l. low impact surface and groundwater, ecological, meteorological, noise and vibration monitoring activities
- m. ancillary activities that are required to support the activities identified above.

Kind regards,



Office of Hon Chris Bishop

Attorney-General | Minister of Housing | Minister for Infrastructure | Minister Responsible for RMA Reform | Minister of Transport | Associate Minister of Finance | MP for Hutt South

Office: 04 817 6802 | EW 6.3

Email: c.bishop@ministers.govt.nz Website: www.Beehive.govt.nz
Private Bag 18041, Parliament Buildings, Wellington 6160, New Zealand

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8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Simon Pickford
Chief Executive Officer
Buller District Council
Email: info@bdc.govt.nz

Dear Simon

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM**.

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A of this letter.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

Under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite Buller District Council to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

Written comments must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Under section 17(3) of the Act, Buller District Council **must** provide comments advising on the following matter:

- 1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.*

In addition, under section 17(3)(b), Buller District Council **may** also provide other comments, but only if those comments are relevant to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

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The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral** decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or ratepayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the **referral criteria**. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

2. *whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act)*
3. *whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21 of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', enclosed within a light gray rectangular border.

Stephanie Frame

Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: - resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 - wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 - an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) - a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Penny Nelson
Director-General of Conservation
Department of Conservation (DOC)
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Penny

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to invite written comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies).

I invite DOC and the Director-General of Conservation to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for approvals under the Conservation Act 1987 (including the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983), the Wildlife Act 1953, and the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (as the project area includes Crown land administered by DOC and the appropriate Minister for the relevant land is the Minister of Conservation). A copy of the application is available to you via the portal.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of the specified time frame.

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Under section 17(3A) of the Act, any comments made by an administering agency must be **relevant** to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral** decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or taxpayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

1. *whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act)*
2. *whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21 of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is displayed within a light gray rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Josie Vidal
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Minerals Council
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear Josie

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. You have been identified as an “any other person” for the purposes of this section, as the industry association for New Zealand’s minerals and mining sector, who could provide insights to inform the assessment of the project’s significant regional and national benefits. Accordingly, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in *Section 22* of the Act will guide the Minister’s decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete, an expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

John Buick-Constable
National Manager – Petroleum, Minerals & Offshore Renewable Energy
New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals (NZP&M)
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Dear John

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(c) of the Act (which requires the Minister to invite written comments on a referral application from the relevant administering agencies).

I invite NZP&M / MBIE to provide written comments on the referral application as the administering agency for approvals under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. A copy of the application is available to you via the portal.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of the specified time frame.

Under section 17(3A) of the Act, any comments made by an administering agency must be **relevant** to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

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The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or taxpayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

1. *whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act)*
2. *whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21 of Act).*

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be disclosed to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: nzpam@mbie.govt.nz

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Brett Gliddon
Chief Executive Officer
New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA)
Email: S 9(2)(a)

Dear Brett

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(5) of the Act. You have been identified as an “any other person” for the purposes of this section, as the agency responsible for State Highway 7, noting the applicant proposes intersection upgrades to the state highway to facilitate the project. Accordingly, I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

Any written comments you provide, must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Comments received will help inform the Minister and the criteria in *Section 22* of the Act will guide the Minister’s decision-making on whether to refer the project to the fast-track approvals process.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete, an expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

Before the due date, please upload any comments to the application portal feedback page using the template for written comments (attached) or similar format/document.

Alternatively, if you wish to email your feedback or have any queries about this letter, please email to referral@fasttrack.govt.nz and include the name of the lead contact – Ashiley Sycamore.

For assistance with the application portal or to update your account details, please email contact@fasttrack.govt.nz or phone 0800 FASTRK (0800 327 875).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is positioned above a light blue rectangular box.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: EnvironmentalPlanning@nzta.govt.nz

s 9(2)(a)

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Lisa Tumahai
Chief Executive Officer
Pokeka Poutini Ngāi Tahu Limited
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Lisa

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM.**

A referral application has been received by the Minister for Infrastructure (the Minister) from Reefton Resources Pty Limited (the applicant) for the Auld Creek project (the project) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (the Act). Project summary details are in Appendix A.

The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

I write under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(d) of the Act (which requires consultation with relevant Māori groups identified under section 18(2)). I invite you to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements for inviting written comments under section 17 of the Act. The information is being provided in-confidence and may be commercially sensitive. It should not be forwarded to, and comments should not be sought from, anyone outside of your organisation.

If you wish to provide written comments, these must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame. Comments received will inform the Minister's considerations in making decisions on whether to accept the referral application. If a decision is made to refer the project, any comments received may assist in determining the information that must be submitted with the substantive application.

If you provide written comments as a **Māori consultation group**, you may be entitled to a financial contribution of \$2,000 (excluding GST) under Schedule 2 of the Fast-Track Approvals (Cost Recovery)

Regulations 2025. For general information about contribution fees and invoices refer to the Fast-track webpage on *Cost recovery for agencies*. The process for applying for a contribution fee payment as a Māori consultation group is outlined here: *Applying for a contribution fee payment*.

If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete, an expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

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Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Frame', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: - resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 - concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 - wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 - an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 - an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) - a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Justin Tipa
Chair
Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Email: s 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Justin

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

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Nāku noa, nā



Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

cc: s 9(2)(a) [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Hamiria Ngamo
Manager
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae
Email: S 9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe Hamiria

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Nāku noa, nā

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Cc: s 9(2)(a)

Appendix A – Project summary details

Application number	FTAA-2604-1206
Project name	Auld Creek
Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
Project summary details	The project is for the phased development and operation of a new underground mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6-8 years from the Auld Creek deposit. The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years. The project area encompasses multiple sites covering an area of approximately 1,009 hectares around three kilometres south of Reefton, within the Buller District of the West Coast Region. The project area is accessed from Quigleys Road, south of State Highway 7. The applicant seeks the following approvals under the fast-track approvals process to authorise the project: a. resource consents under the Resource Management Act 1991 b. concessions under the Conservation Act 1987 c. wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953 d. an approval, a dispensation, or an authorisation for a complex freshwater fisheries activity under the Freshwater Fisheries Regulations 1983 e. an initial access arrangement under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA) f. a mining permit under the CMA.

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

Darryl Lew
Chief Executive Officer
West Coast Regional Council
Email: info@wrc.govt.nz

Dear Darryl

Invitation to provide written comments on the referral application for the Auld Creek project under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

Note: Comments must be received by **29 May 2026, 11.59PM**.

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The purpose of the Act is to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits. *Section 22* of the Act sets out the criteria that inform the Minister's decision-making process on referral applications.

Under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 17(1)(a) of the Act, I invite West Coast Regional Council to provide written comments on the referral application, a copy of which is available to you via the portal.

Written comments must be received within **15 working days** of receipt of this letter and a copy of the application (refer to the due date above). The Minister is not required to consider information received outside of this time frame.

Under section 17(3) of the Act, West Coast Regional Council **must** provide comments advising on the following matter:

- 1. Any applications that have been lodged with the Council that would be a competing application or applications if a substantive application for the project were lodged. If no such applications exist, please provide written confirmation.*
- 2. In relation to projects seeking approval of a resource consent under section 42(4)(a) of the Act, whether there any existing resource consents issued where sections 124C(1)(c) or 165ZI of the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) could apply, if the project were to*

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Fast-track referrals are administered on behalf of the Minister for Infrastructure by the Ministry for the Environment
PO Box 10362 | Wellington 6143, New Zealand | NZBN: 9429041908853

be applied for as a resource consent under the RMA. If no such consents exist, please provide written confirmation.

In addition, under section 17(3)(b), West Coast Regional Council **may** also provide other comments, but only if those comments are relevant to the application and the decision on the application that the Minister is required to make under section 21.

The requirement for any other comments to be **relevant** is new, made through the Fast-track Approvals Amendment Act 2025. This change was made to ensure comments from organisations that recover costs from applicants are focused on matters relevant to the Minister's **referral** decision and do not stray into peripheral matters that are not material to that decision, or are overly technical or detailed where this level of input is not justified as being relevant to the decision. This is particularly important to help manage cost escalations which may otherwise be borne by applicants and/or ratepayers, without adding value to the Minister's decision on whether to refer the application.

Note that consideration of this referral application under these criteria is more limited than the detail required to be considered during a substantive application stage. Comments should therefore be limited to matters relevant to the referral criteria. Please refrain from providing overly detailed comments, which are not relevant to the referral decision.

You may have a later opportunity to provide further detail in comments on a substantive application (for example, site specific constraints or conditions), if the project is referred to an independent expert panel.

To this end, please ensure any comments you choose to provide are specific to this particular referral application, and linked to the Minister's decision-making criteria as set out in sections 21 and 22 of the Act. In this regard, we are particularly interested in comments you might have on the following matters:

3. *whether you consider the project may involve an ineligible activity, and if so, why (as defined in section 5 of the Act)*
4. *whether you consider any of the reasons to decline a referral application may be applicable to this application, and if so why (under section 21 of Act).*

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If the Minister decides to accept the application and refer the project to the fast-track approvals process, the applicant will be required to complete any preliminary steps under the Act before lodging a substantive application. If the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) deems the substantive application complete and within scope, an independent expert panel will be appointed to make a final decision on the required approvals.

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Yours sincerely

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Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

Appendix A: Project summary details

Appendix A – Project summary details

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Applicant name	Reefton Resources Pty Limited
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