

8 May 2026

FTAA-2604-1206

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

Dear Penny

Request for report in relation to the use of public conservation land under section 19 of the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 for the Auld Creek project

Note: The due date for the section 19 report is **3 June 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 project area includes public conservation land (as defined under the Act) within Victoria Forest Park and requires the following proposed approvals under specified Acts:

- 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.

Under delegation from the Minister and in accordance with section 19(1) of the Act, I am writing to request and obtain a report in relation to the use of public conservation land that is prepared by the Director-General of Conservation.

As specified under section 19 of the Act, the report must include the following:

1. *the existing arrangements (whether formal or informal) for the administration, access to, or use of public conservation land within the project area.*

2. *advice on the risks to, and potential liabilities of, the Crown that relate to any proposed approvals of the kind described in section 42(4)(e), (f), (l), or (m) (concession, land exchange, or access arrangement).*
3. *if the referral application was required to include information under paragraph (q) or (r) of section 13(4), advice on the matters set out in the applicable paragraph.*

Please note, as required under section 19(3), the report content related to the existing arrangements and advice on risks and liabilities must be prepared in consultation with every owner, administrator, or manager of the land who is not the Crown.

Please provide the section 19 report no later than **17 working days** from receipt of this letter (refer to the due date above). If you do not consider the report can be prepared by that date, please let us know as soon as possible.

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.

The information you are receiving is being provided to you consistent with the statutory requirements under section 19 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.

Before the due date, please upload the report to the application portal feedback page. Alternatively, if you wish to email the report 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', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stephanie Frame
Manager – Fast-track Operations

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.