



Rua Gold

**Proposed Mine
Reefton**

24 March 2026

INTRODUCTION

RUA GOLD

RUA GOLD is an exploration company, strategically focused on New Zealand. With decades of expertise, our team has successfully taken major discoveries into producing world-class mines across multiple continents.

RUA GOLD is a minerals company at the forefront of the mining industry, specializing in gold exploration and discovery. With permits which have rich history dating back to the gold rush era, RUA GOLD has successfully combined traditional prospecting practices with modern technologies to uncover and capitalize on valuable gold deposits.

Our commitment to responsible and sustainable exploration is evident in our professional planning and execution, ensuring minimal environmental impact. RUA GOLD has a skilled team of professionals who possess extensive knowledge and experience in geology, geochemistry, and geophysical exploration technology.



PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The information in this document provides an overview of the proposal.

It provides details of the phases of the project, the majors aspects of the operation and their potential effects.

The high-level overview enables a greater understanding of the project and supports engagement with the project by the various interest groups and other parties.

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION

The Auld Creek Mine is a proposed mining development located near the historic gold-mining town of Reefton, situated in the West Coast Region of New Zealand’s South Island.

The area has a rich history of gold production, with Reefton itself being one of the first places in New Zealand where gold was discovered, spurring significant early mining activity.

This project aims to revive gold and antimony extraction operations in the region using modern and sustainable mining practises.

LOCATION

Reefton is located in the Buller District on the West Coast of New Zealand's South Island, about 80 km northeast of Greymouth and 60 km southwest of Murchison, along State Highway 7.

The **Inangahua River** rises in the Victoria Range, flows generally northwest through the Buller District, and joins the Buller River near Reefton after passing through a narrow valley and several small settlements.

Soldiers Creek, Devils Creek and Auld Creek are small, fast-flowing tributaries near Reefton that drain steep, forested terrain and join the Inangahua River.

State Highway 7 runs east–west across the northern South Island from Waipara to Greymouth, passing through inland valleys and river gorges via towns such as Hanmer Springs, Murchison, and Reefton.

Quigleys Road (Primary site access route) is a local rural road near Reefton that provides access to surrounding farmland, bush areas, and nearby tributaries of the Inangahua River.

Soldiers - Big River Road (Diversion to separate mine traffic from local road) is a winding rural route that connects Reefton with the Big River area, following valleys and forested terrain alongside small creeks such as Soldiers Creek.

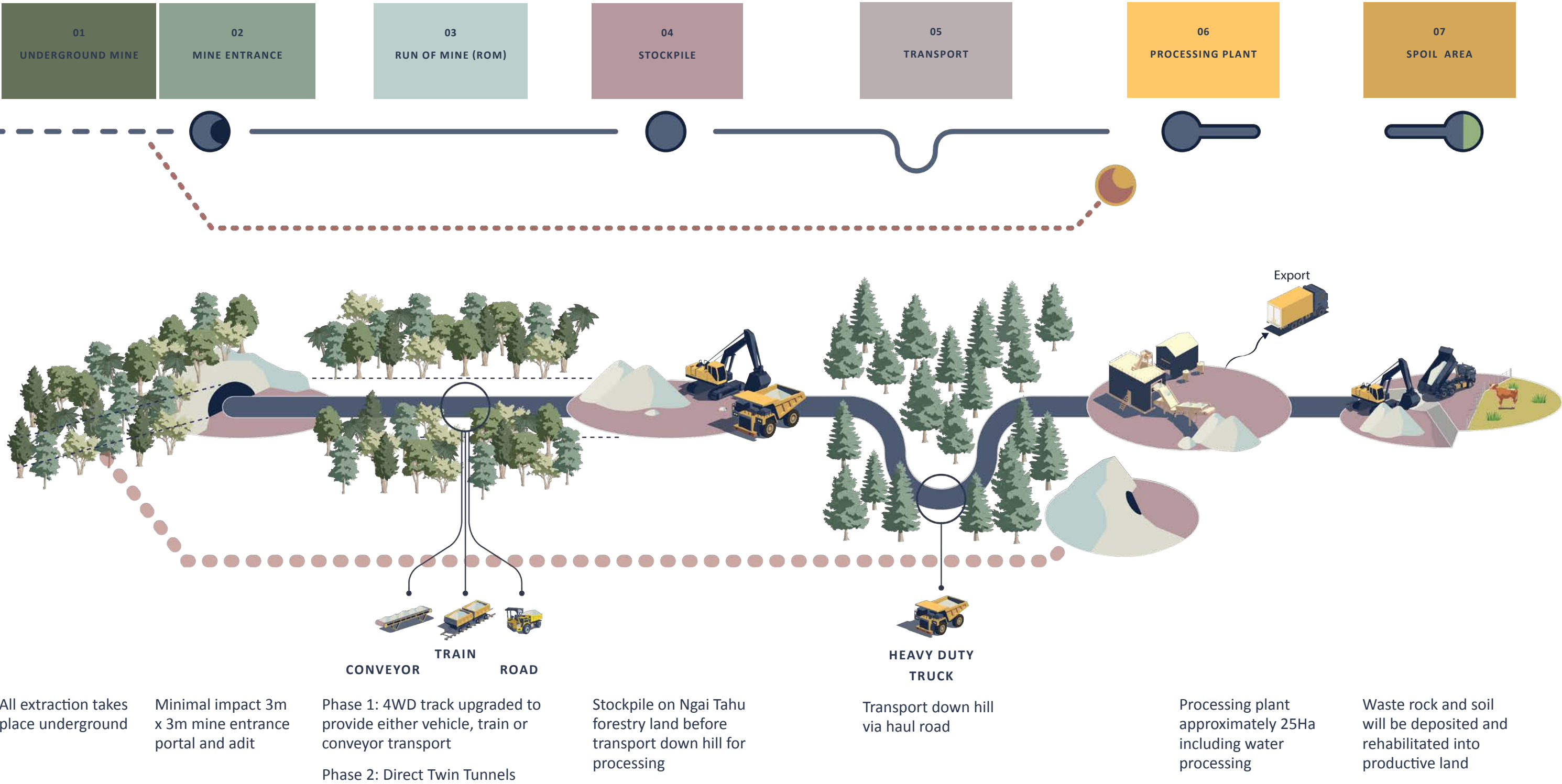
Victoria Forest Park (Department of Conservation) is New Zealand's largest forest park, covering over 200,000 hectares of largely untouched beech and podocarp forest, providing habitat for native birds like kiwi and kaka, and featuring remote backcountry areas popular for tramping, hunting, and mountain biking.

Ngāi Tahu are recognised as mana whenua (tribal authority) for the broader West Coast region including Reefton, with their ancestors and hapū such as Poutini Ngāi Tahu occupying much of Te Tai Poutini to gather taonga like pounamu (greenstone) and maintaining seasonal travel and food-gathering routes across the region.



PROJECT OVERVIEW

PROCESS



TIMELINE



01 UNDERGROUND MINE

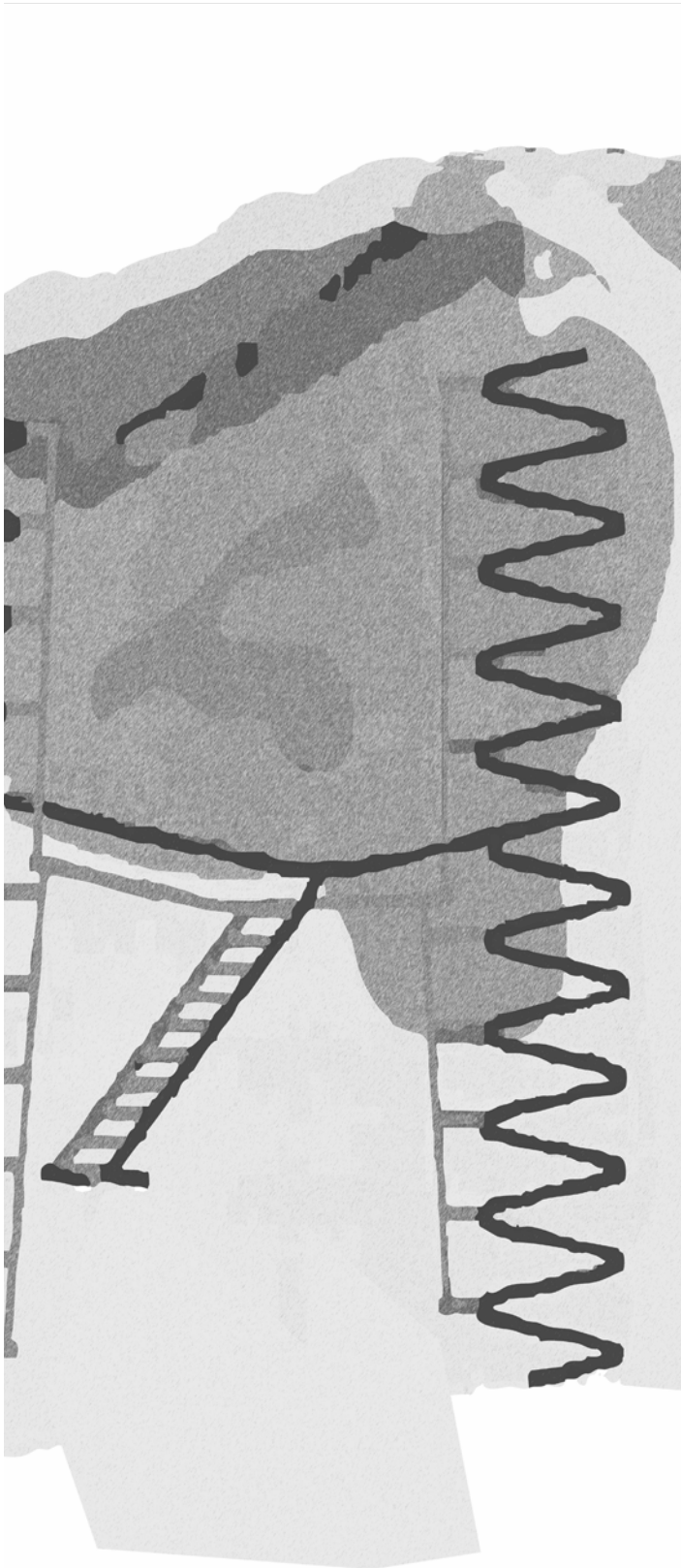
MINE OPERATION



The Auld Creek Gold Mine is proposed to use safe and modern underground mining methods to extract economic ore from the deposit. These methods have been selected due to the characteristics of the known deposit and geotechnical considerations.

The intention is to focus on light touch surface foot print, narrow vein mining techniques with mine access at the top and bottom of the deposit.

Tunnels are created below ground so that most activity happens out of sight, reducing the scale of surface change. Mining machinery operates inside these underground spaces to extract gold-bearing rock while keeping the landform above as intact as possible.



MINING METHODS

Phase 1

Disturbance at the mine entrance will be minimal.

A number of small surface expressions for the mine are planned including the entrance portal, ventilation and supporting infrastructure.

Phase 2

Underground mining will be via a 1.2km twin incline/decline tunnel.

The underground mining must operate within a highly regulated safety regime overseen by WorkSafe, which provides detailed guidance on essential systems such as ventilation, electrical safety, fire and explosion management, and principal hazard controls.

These requirements shape how an underground mine is designed from the outset, ensuring that worker safety, environmental protection, and cultural values remain central.

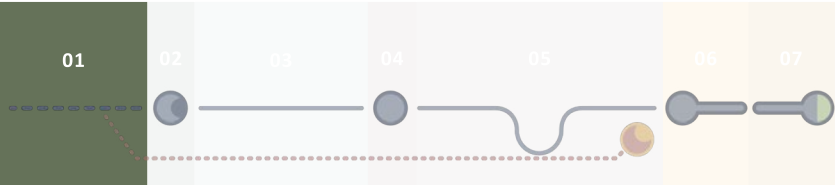
POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Technical experts will also consider whether underground vibrations influence groundwater flows, aquifers, or subterranean habitats such as cave invertebrates or bat roosting niches.

Geotechnical and hydrogeological assessments will be important for understanding stability, settlement risks, and changes to groundwater chemistry.

Noise and vibration specialists typically assess how drilling and blasting propagate through rock and whether these effects are perceptible at the surface.

Ecologists may be involved if the mine intersects with underground habitat systems, and planners will look at whether the activity affects recreational values, public access, or nearby conservation areas, even if those effects are indirect.



02 MINE ENTRANCE

PORTAL AND ADIT



Disturbance at the mine entrance will be minimal.

The mine portal is not located in an area of historic or cultural significance.

It is not anticipated to impact on identified features. There is likely to be very limited to no visibility of the mine portal as it sits within dense mature vegetation away from publicly accessible locations and other sensitive viewpoints such as residential dwellings.

A number of small surface expressions for the mine portal, ventilation and supporting infrastructure.

The portal is the single visible entrance where the underground mine meets the hillside. It is a carefully managed point of access where vehicles and staff move in and out. Its design aims to sit neatly within the existing landform so that the surrounding landscape values with the area remain respected.

Phase one requires a potal and adit (tunnel) on DOC land. This will be 3m wide x 3m high. Temporary surface infrastructure includes equipment laydown and storage areas, and sheds/offices for workers. This will require a platform of approximately 50m x50m.

After extraction is complete geotechnical stabilisation works will secure the rock mass and enable safe ongoing mining from the underground portal access.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS

Landscape architects will examine its visibility, how it sits within the landform, and how its lighting and structures influence natural character.

Noise engineers usually assess vehicle movements and machinery presence at the portal.

Stormwater and erosion specialists evaluate how runoff is captured and controlled to protect nearby waterways, soil stability, and aquatic health.

Heritage specialists may check whether the portal encroaches on archaeological features, historic mining remnants, or early settler infrastructure.

Ecologists will look at vegetation clearance, edge effects, and fauna disturbance — especially birds and bats that may be sensitive to lighting, vehicle activity, or noise.

Work will be needed to understand the species present in Victoria Forest Park that may be affected.



03 RUN OF MINE

TRANSPORT TO ROM STOCKPILE



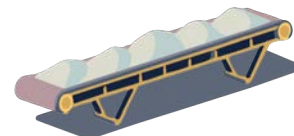
The run of mine operation on the upper haul road could be one of three options:

- Conveyor
- small truck
- carts

There is an existing vehicle track that will require some surface upgrade but is not anticipated to increase in width or require removal of significant amounts of vegetation.

All three options are anticipated to be relatively low impact because they don't require substantial modification of the existing 4WD track.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

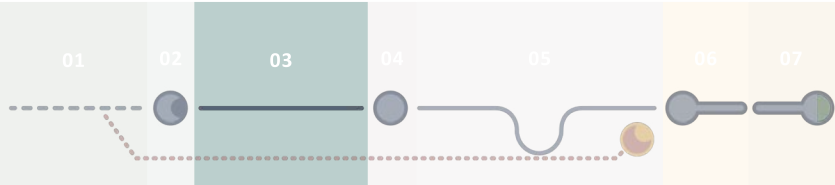
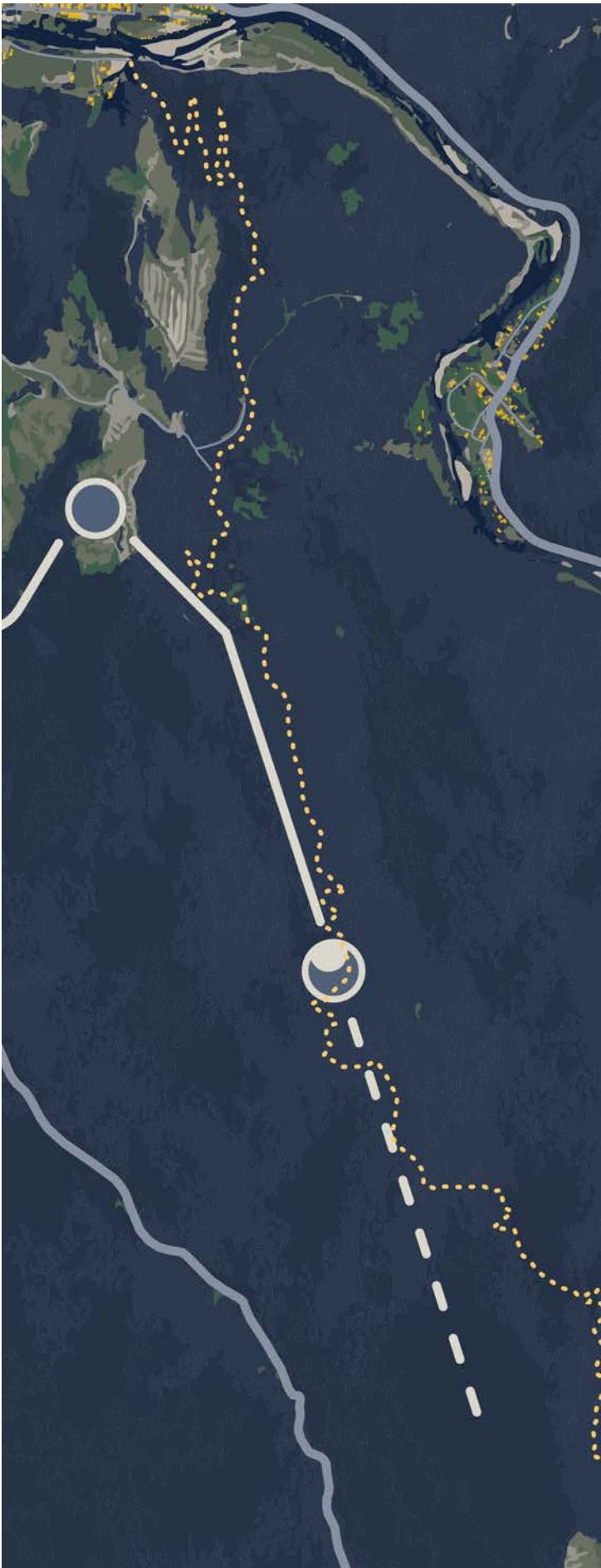


RECREATION



Recreation in the area includes walking and mountain bike tracks, with the most likely impacted feature being the Globe Hill Track that connects Reefton to the Globe Progress Mine site.

The existing bike track will be diverted and reinstated via an alternative route. it is likely the existing bike track will be used for internal movement of waste rock and ore.



04 STOCKPILE

RUN OF MINE STOCKPILE



The stockpile will be relatively contained but may result in some visual effects from vehicle movements and material being manged.

The stockpile is a controlled, temporary holding area for the rock taken from the underground workings. It is shaped and screened to reduce its visibility in the wider landscape and managed to protect nearby waterways and culturally significant places.

Material doesn’t stay here long — it is simply staged before transport to the processing plant.



MONITORING & REPORTING

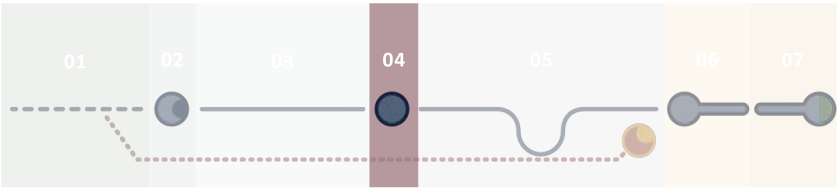
For mana whenua, ongoing monitoring is an essential expression of kaitiakitanga, ensuring that the mauri of the whenua and the wellbeing of the underground environment are actively protected throughout the life of the mine.

In Aotearoa, monitoring and reporting are not optional or informal practices—they are legally required components of operating an underground mine. The following monitoring activities will be required:

- water quality
- noise and vibration
- dust
- meteorological and weather stations
- wildlife stations
- groundwater/geotechnical piezometers

Although the exact conditions would be set through regional and district planning processes, underground mines in Aotearoa typically need to monitor groundwater levels and quality, surface water flows and clarity, sedimentation effects, discharge quality, dust, noise, vibration, rehabilitation progress, and the condition of adjacent ecological or culturally important sites.

These expectations align with the broader compliance framework WorkSafe and MBIE describe in outlining hazard management systems and minimum performance standards for mines operating under New Zealand law.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS

For the stockpile area, the focus begins with understanding how the location affects the cultural landscape and whether it sits comfortably within mana whenua aspirations for the area.

Landscape experts will analyse how the form and height of the stockpile influence views, naturalness, and landscape coherence.

Dust experts assess particulate emissions and their interaction with sensitive receptors such as marae, dwellings, ecological areas, and waterways.

Ecologists consider the footprint, potential habitat loss, and the integrity of nearby freshwater systems.

Water quality and stormwater specialists will examine leachate risks, sediment runoff, and containment design.

If the stockpile is close to older mining landscapes or historic features, heritage advisors may be involved to ensure protection or interpretation of those values.

05 TRANSPORT

TRANSPORT TO PROCESSING PLANT



From the stockpile, the rock is moved down the hill using a defined haul route. Transport of the mined material down the hill could be via larger transporter trucks or using a cableway.

Option 1: Trucks will use a new roadway down the hill.

Option 2: The cableway will be highly visible as it will extend above the tree canopy.

This transport path is designed to minimise landscape disturbance and avoid areas of cultural importance identified through mana whenua engagement. Traffic is managed so that dust, noise, and visual effects remain low for neighbouring communities.

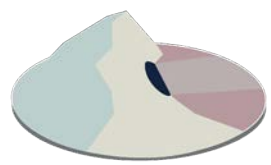


TRANSPORTATION: PHASE 1

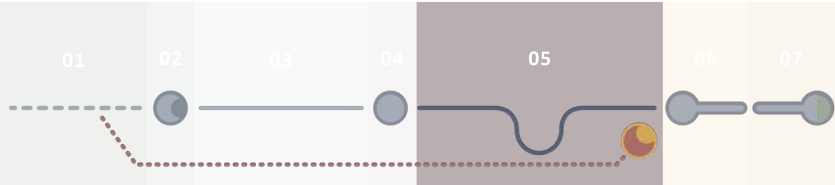


Transport down hill via haul road

TRANSPORTATION: PHASE 2



Access to and mining of remaining deposit is via a 1.2km underground twin decline tunnel.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS



Where the route intersects public tracks, roads, or recreation areas, social and recreation experts assess how transport affects people’s use and experience of the place.



The effects of the haul road or other transport mechanism to move material from the ROM storage to the processing site could potentially range from low to moderate depending on the design.

The effects are primarily visual and seen from the Devil’s Creek valley to the west. However, due to the hill landforms much of the visibility is reduced.

Dust, noise and vibration specialists will consider how truck movements influence the surrounding environment, with attention to ecology such as lizards, birds, and freshwater habitats.

Drainage engineers usually evaluate how the route manages stormwater, while landscape planners review how cut-and-fill earthworks alter the slope and landform character.

06 PROCESSING PLANT

ROCK PROCESSING AND METAL EXTRACTION



- At the processing plant, the gold-bearing rock is crushed and treated so the gold can be separated.
- This facility is designed to sit within an already modified part of the landscape, reducing new disturbance. Water, noise, and energy use are carefully monitored so the operation respects cultural values and the health of the surrounding environment.
- The preferred plant site is at the end of Soldiers Road which would require the purchase of two farms to allow for the construction of a processing plant and waste storage facility.
- Initial build of a 200,000 - 250,000 tonne per annum plant, with redundancy and flexibility considered in design to facilitate an expansion as mining development expands and exploration potential unfolds. Structures will include:
- three-stage crushing, with fine ore-bin storage and emergency reclaim;
 - a single-stage ball mill, with 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;



POTENTIAL EFFECTS



- The processing operation is a substantial facility. The scale and nature of the operation is likely to result in some degree of landscape effects on the surrounding area, however due to the very small number of dwellings (the preliminary site visit has identified 2 nearby) the effects are likely to be in the lower range of very low to moderate.
- Noise and air quality experts will review plant emissions, operational noise, and odour.
- Water engineers and freshwater ecologists evaluate the processing water cycle, discharge systems, and potential contaminants.
- Landscape architects examine plant scale, building form, lighting, and screening. Hazardous substances experts advise on containment, emergency response, and regulatory requirements.
- Social impact practitioners may also assess community concerns, perceptions, and the visibility of the plant from public viewpoints or recreation spaces.

PROCESSING SITE FEATURES

- Site entry to the north on Soldiers-Big River Road realignment.
- Waste Rock Stack (WRS) and dry stack Tilings Storage Facility (TSF)
- The tailings and processing waste facility is proposed to be located next to processing facility and use a dry stack methodology and integrate waste rock storage.
- Water Treatment
- Process and tailings filtration
- Warehouse, offices, change rooms
- Workshop, fuel, heavy vehicle parking
- Portal area



07 SPOIL DISPOSAL

OVERBURDEN AREA

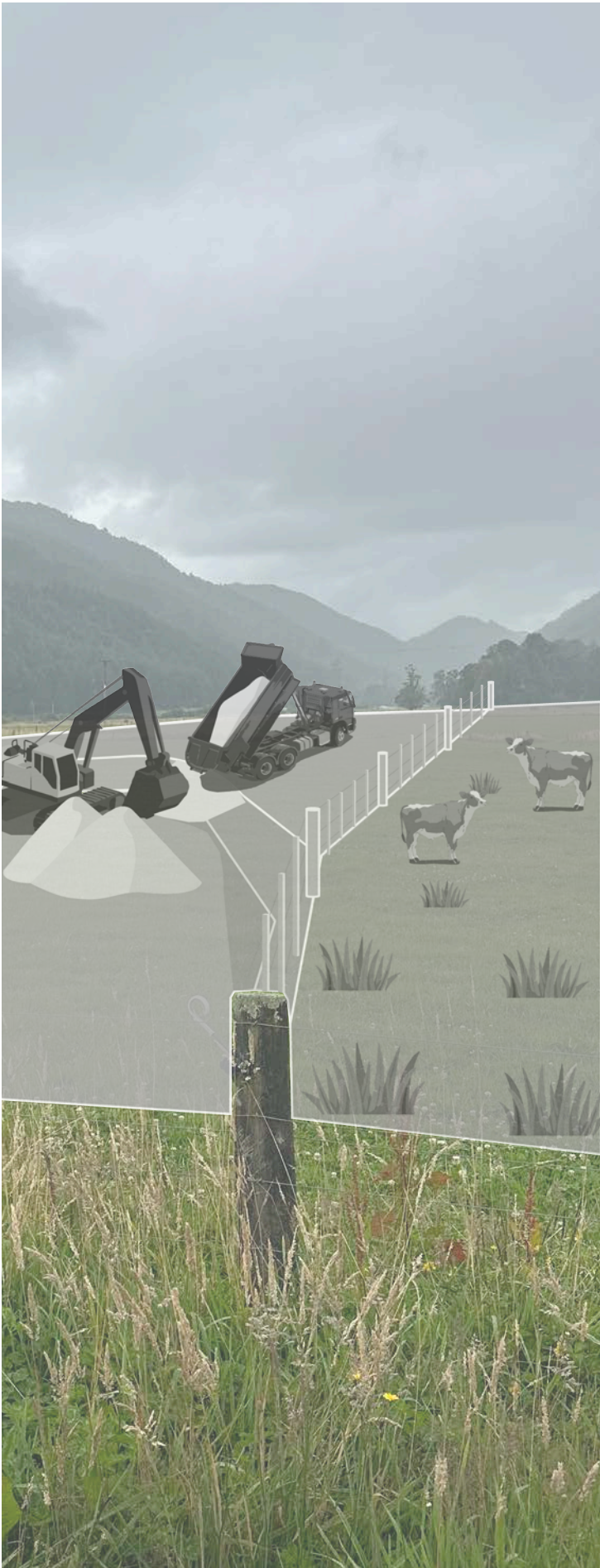


Rua gold is working out arrangements for use of the Tai Poutini polytechnic site adjacent to the processing plant. This area will be used to dispose of the processed rock.

The deposition of spoil on the Tai Poutini Polytechnic site is appropriate as the area is large and the volume being deposited will be over a long timeframe. This is unlikely to result in a significant change to the landform.

The overburden spoil area is where surplus material (rock and soil) with no gold is placed. It is shaped to follow natural landforms and replanted so that it blends back into the environment over time.

Mana whenua and ecological advice guide how this area is restored, ensuring the whenua can return to a healthy and meaningful landscape.



POTENTIAL EFFECTS

For the spoil area, cultural landscape specialists consider how the proposed landform relates to the ancestral landscape, including opportunities for shaping, revegetation, and long-term restoration that aligns with mana whenua aspirations.

Ecologists will examine soil types, stability, potential for natural regeneration, and the design of indigenous planting to restore ecological function.

Geotechnical and hydrological experts analyse stability, drainage, seepage behaviour, and long-term resilience.

Landscape specialists focus on how the reshaped landform blends with natural patterns and reduces visual prominence.

Freshwater scientists look at sediment pathways, wetland opportunities, and the condition of receiving environments.

If the area overlaps with older mining landscapes or known archaeological sites, heritage assessments may be required.

EXPORT OF CONCENTRATE

The products will be transported away from the site via Quigleys Road and State Highway 7.

Gold recovery from the gravity circuit plus flotation concentrate would be in the range of approximately 90 - 93%. Antimony recoveries using lead nitrate as an activator would be in the range of 70-95%.

REHABILITATION & CLOSURE

Rehabilitation is integral to the project. A detailed rehabilitatio plan will be prepared and implemented and cover the following objectives:

- restablish vegetation cover over all disturbed areas
- minimise maintenance after rehabilitation
- protect water and soil from erosion
- restore disturbed watercourses to a natural and stable condition
- visually integrate finished structures, landforms and vegetation into the surrounding landscape

