15/04/2026

Department of Conservation
Minister of Conservation
By email: FastTrackApplicationEnquiries@doc.govt.nz
Attn: Tama Potaka
c/- Penny Nelson, Director-General of Conservation

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
National Manager Petroleum & Minerals
By email: s 9(2)(a)
Attn: John Buick-Constable

RE: Rua Gold – Auld Creek Project – Notice for Grant of Right of Access Under Section 59 Crown Minerals Act 1991

Reefton Resources Pty Limited (Hereby known as "**Rua Gold**") intends to apply for a referral application for the Auld Creek Project to be considered under the Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024 ("**FTAA**") and, through the Fast-Track Approvals Amendment Act 2025, its amendments.

Rua Gold seeks referral to apply for approvals for mining and mining related activities and associated infrastructure in the Buller District, 3 km south of the Reefton township.

Activities include (but are not restricted to):

- Continued mineral resource investigation and exploration;
- The construction, operation and maintenance of an underground mine on both private land and land administered by the Department of Conservation (being Victoria Forest Park);
- Associated infrastructure, including surface facilities activities, haul road network, rock stack and stockpile provisions, establishment of processing facilities, and tailings storage facilities; and
- Remediation and closure activities.

The approvals being applied for will include approvals under section 61(1AA)(a) of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 ("**CMA**"). That is, an initial access arrangement from His Majesty the King (" the **Crown**"), acting by and through the Minister of Conservation and the Minister of Energy and Resources ("the **Ministers**"), for access to Crown land (public conservation land) for mining activities in relation to a Tier 1 mining permit which will be sought as part of the substantive application.

Under section 13(y)(viii) of the FTAA, this letter serves as a formal notice to the Ministers under section 59(1) of the CMA of Rua Gold's request for the grant of rights to access Crown-owned land and its intention to obtain an access arrangement for mining activities. The following attachment includes the required information set out under section 59(2) of the CMA.

Should you wish to discuss this notification or the content of this letter further, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Kind Regards,

Simon Delander
Vice President
Rua Gold
s 9(2)(a)

Attachment 1: New Auld Creek Access Arrangement (AA)

(a) ***Land Affected:***

The land affected by the Auld Creek AA is the area within the proposed Auld Creek mining permit, which will be sought under the referral application. The proposed mining permit area is included as Attachment 2 below.

Rua Gold currently holds two access arrangements for its exploration operations under the relevant exploration permits. These include access arrangements 93190-AA (Golden Point) and 109859-AA (Cumberland). Rua Gold is intending (as part of its substantive application) to replace 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.

(b) ***The purpose for which the right of access is required:***

The Auld Creek Project is a proposed mining development with the objective to bring New Zealand's largest known gold-antimony resource into production. Rua Gold is seeking authorisations for the integrated development of the Auld Creek deposit, together with associated infrastructure and mining activities.

The project is targeted to have a resource of 300,000 ounces of gold with antimony at 1%, the ore will be extracted using safe modern methods and then be transported overland to a purpose-built processing facility in the valley on private and Ngai Tahu Forestry owned land.
The activities that Rua Gold will seek to authorise under the access arrangement include:

- Exploratory and Mining drilling activities across approximately 369 ha of conservation land within Victoria Forest Park;
- The construction, upgrade, and use of existing access tracks to establish a haul road network;
- The installation and maintenance of a portal access and associated adit;
- The installation and maintenance of surface ventilation shafts;
- The installation and maintenance of an underground twin access tunnel and the associated underground Auld Creek Project mining operation;
- Minimum impact activities (as defined by the Crown Minerals Act);
- The installation and maintenance of piezometers;
- The installation and maintenance of surface water pumps for extracting surface water;
- The installation and maintenance of water flow monitoring stations;
- The installation and maintenance of rain gauges and a meteorological monitoring station;
- Low impact surface and groundwater, ecological, noise and vibration monitoring
- Tent-based camping anywhere within the area to support any required field work;
- Locating portacoms and a portaloo at up to two drill sites at any time, to support environmental monitoring and any required field work;
- Helicopter access throughout the life of the mine and post-closure period for equipment lifting and personnel access; and
- The use of drones.

(c) ***The proposed programme of work, including the type and duration of work to be carried out and the likely adverse effect on the land or the owner or occupier of the land:***

Type and Duration:

A high-level proposed work programme is included below. It should be noted that the Auld Creek Project is currently in development stages as the referral application is being prepared. Preliminary Economic Analysis reports are nearing final stage. It is noted that refining of the proposed work programme will be included in the Pre-Feasibility Study as part of the mining permit application sought within the substantive application.

The mining permit is proposed for a duration of 30 years.

Indicative Work Programme:

<u>Phase 1 – Site Establishment (up to 1 year)</u>

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

<u>Phase 2 – Development and Construction (1 year)</u>

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

<u>Phase 3 – Mining and processing (6-8 years)</u>

Expected to hit minimum annual production rate of 30,000 ounces per year, processing 150,000 tonnes through the mining activity and onsite processing plant (6-8 years)

<u>Phase 4 – Closure and Rehabilitation (2-5 years)</u>

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

Likely Adverse Effects on the Land:

Nil, all adverse effects will be managed by comprehensive AA conditions

Likely Adverse Effects on the Owner or Occupier of the Land:

Nil, all adverse effects will be managed by comprehensive AA conditions

(d) ***The compensation and safeguards against any likely adverse effects proposed:***

In the substantive application, Rua Gold will propose conditions to address compensation and safeguards against any likely adverse effects. The proposed conditions will reflect compensation and safeguard conditions from within Rua Gold's existing Golden Point (93190-AA) and Cumberland (109859-AA) exploration access arrangements, which have operated effectively since June 2021 and December 2023, respectively.

(e) ***The type of permit held or applied for by the person giving the notice***

Rua Gold holds two exploration permits, which are relevant to the proposed access arrangement. The Golden Point EP 60648 is classified as a Tier 2 permit. The Cumberland EP 60747 is classified as a Tier 1 permit. The current permits remain in good standing. The proposed mining permit, which will be sought under a substantive application, will be classified as a Tier 1 mining permit as the Auld Creek Project is an underground mining operation.

(f) ***If the notice relates to access to Crown land or land in the common marine and coastal area, the direct net economic and other benefits of the proposed activity in relation to which the access arrangement is sought.***

The Auld Creek Project will deliver significant economic benefits both at a regional level and a national level.

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):
  Rua Gold 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 Reefton 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, totalling $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 $359m (NPV: $261m).

Attachment 2: Proposed Auld Creek Mining Permit Area