

## PRESS RELEASE

### *RUA GOLD submits Fast Track Referral application to EPA*

Rua Gold (“Rua” or “The Company”) is pleased to announce that it has submitted a Fast Track Referral application to the New Zealand Government for the proposed Auld Creek underground gold and antimony mine.

This is a key milestone in the Rua Gold journey to transition from an explorer to mine developer, with the potential to operate at Auld Creek, located a few kilometres from Reefton on New Zealand’s West Coast, for up to eight years.

Antimony and gold have both been identified as critical minerals by the New Zealand Government. Based on the initial gold and antimony resource that has been defined, the proposed mine could employ approximately 200 people, contribute around NZ\$240 million to the regional economy, deliver millions in export dollars for New Zealand, and establish a processing hub which could be used for future mines post Auld Creek.

In late 2025, Rua Gold engaged a project team to commence work on permitting activities to support a Fast Track Referral application to the New Zealand Government.

If successful, the referral application, which has been submitted to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) for assessment, would enable Rua Gold to utilise the Fast Track process to obtain all necessary permissions to develop the Auld Creek Mine, including mining permit, resource consents, water use permissions and any wildlife approvals.

Rua Gold takes its environmental responsibilities very seriously and has worked in partnership with 30 independent advisors and consultants to prepare the referral application which included technical notes on ecology, water, traffic, noise, vibration, dust, archaeology, landscape architecture, social and economic impacts.

The Rua Gold team is grateful for the strong support from the local Iwi Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and has welcomed the opportunity to have active dialogue on potential commercial partnerships for the Auld Creek proposal. The team has also welcomed the opportunity to engage with 8 different Government agencies on the Auld Creek proposal.

The Company has been undertaking broad community, stakeholder and regulator engagement on the Auld Creek Mine proposal, including two public town hall meetings, regular online updates, establishment of a town office in Reefton for community dialogue and over 300 individual stakeholder engagements.

In parallel with this referral application, The Company is currently undertaking a Preliminary Economic Assessment (PEA) study which will be published within the next month, with further

work underway to advance this study to Preliminary Feasibility Study (PFS) level in the second half of the year.

The Company is pleased to have reached this latest milestone and will continue its vision to grow Auld Creek into a larger, multigenerational project, supported by increased exploration efforts in Reefton.

Rua Gold would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their assistance and input to date into the referral application:

*Mitchell Daysh, Simpson Grierson, Tonkin & Taylor, Ecological Solutions, Wayfinder, Eaqub & Eaqub, Stantec, Green Road Group, Mine Waste Management, Hydro Geochem Group, EMM Consulting, Mining One, Pitch Black Group, Knight Piesold, Terra Firma Mining, RSC Geological Consultants, APL Property Group, Resource and Reserve Limited, Southern Archaeology and AMC Consultants.*

*Rua Gold would also like to thank OceanaGold who we share a building within Reefton for their strong support and assistance with background environmental information which was critical to supporting our submission timelines.*

The coming 12 months is potentially transformative for Rua Gold and the Company is pleased to have achieved this milestone and look forward to the Government's considered determination.

## **RUA GOLD Contact**

### **New Zealand**

Simon Delander

Vice President

Email: [sdelander@RUAGOLD.com](mailto:sdelander@RUAGOLD.com)

### **Canada**

Robert Eckford

Chief Executive Officer

Email: [reckford@RUAGOLD.com](mailto:reckford@RUAGOLD.com)

## **Community Contact Line**

Phone: +64 9-886 9861

An indicative mine map and processing plant design is outlined below.

