

Social Impact Assessment Consultation – Preliminary Findings

Rua Gold would like to extend its sincere thanks to the Reefton community for its valuable participation in the recently completed Social Impact Assessment (SIA) consultation. We greatly appreciate the time, insights, and feedback provided by our key stakeholders and community members to our independent SIA consultants, EMM Consulting.

The SIA consultation will inform our project planning and approvals process - supporting the project in managing its social impacts more effectively. Our approach is to ensure community perspectives remain at the forefront of our decision-making. We are pleased to share some of the key themes raised during the consultation, along with the actions Rua Gold is taking in response.

Overall, the consultation on the whole identified a positive level of support for the project, with many participants recognising the potential economic and social benefits for Reefton and the wider West Coast region.

Community members acknowledged Rua Gold's efforts to date in maintaining open communication with stakeholders and affected parties, as well as the company's sponsorship and support of local events and organisations. Rua Gold remains committed to transparent and ongoing engagement and encourages community members to continue sharing their questions, concerns, and ideas as the project progresses. Feedback from the consultation highlighted the importance of maintaining this open dialogue throughout all stages of the project, and Rua Gold is committed to meeting that expectation.

The feedback also reinforced the importance of protecting the environment and preserving access to Reefton's valued recreational assets, including local tracks and trails. Community members sought reassurance that these facilities would remain accessible throughout the life of the mining operation.

Rua Gold can confirm that the Globe Bike Track will remain in its current location and continue to be available for public use. While some mining-related activities may occur adjacent to sections of the track, these will be managed to ensure ongoing access and enjoyment. Road access via Soldiers Road past the intersection with Harwood Road is proposed to be redirected via Quigley's Road, maintaining access to Department of Conservation land and the surrounding network of tracks and trails.

Employment opportunities remain a key priority for the community. In response, Rua Gold has developed a Local Procurement Policy and Recruitment Plan aimed at maximising opportunities for West Coast residents and businesses. While some specialist roles may require recruitment from elsewhere in New Zealand or internationally, the company is committed to sourcing local talent wherever possible. Rua Gold also plans to work closely with local schools and youth organisations to create pathways into employment and training opportunities associated with the project.

Housing availability was also identified as an important issue, given the workforce requirements of the proposed operation. Rua Gold is actively working with district and regional agencies to explore both short- and long-term housing solutions. The company's intention is for employees to live locally wherever possible, supporting the local economy and community. To minimise traffic impacts, Rua Gold also plans to provide employee transport services between Reefton and the project site.

Rua Gold values the ongoing partnership it has built with the Reefton community and looks forward to continuing to work collaboratively with residents, businesses, iwi, and stakeholders as the project develops.