4 September 2026

Fast-Track Team

Fast-Track

New Zealand Government

P O Box 63-002

Wellington 6140

Dear Ministers

Letter of Support - Rua Gold
REEFTON GOLD PROJECT

On behalf of the West Coast Mayors, Chairs and Iwi Group, we are pleased to provide our support for Rua Gold's proposed Reefton Gold Project and its application through the Fast-Track Approvals process.

The West Coast Mayors, Chairs and Iwi Group brings together the leadership of Buller District Council, Grey District Council, Westland District Council, West Coast Regional Council, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio, and Development West Coast. Collectively, we work to support the long-term social, cultural, environmental and economic wellbeing of the West Coast and its communities.

The West Coast has a long and proud history of mining, with the sector continuing to play an important role in supporting employment, regional prosperity and community resilience. Mining has helped shape many of our communities and remains an important contributor to the regional economy.

The proposed Reefton Gold Project represents a significant investment in the future of the West Coast and the Reefton community. The project has the potential to generate employment opportunities, support local businesses and contractors, attract investment into the region, and strengthen the economic resilience of one of the Coast's most historically significant mining centres.

As regional leaders, we support initiatives that contribute positively to the wellbeing and prosperity of our communities while recognising the importance of appropriate environmental stewardship, cultural values, and constructive engagement with affected stakeholders. We

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acknowledge Rua Gold's commitment to engaging with local communities, Poutini Ngāi Tahu, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders as the project progresses through the approvals process.

Reefton continues to play a strategically important role in the West Coast economy. Investment that creates jobs, encourages people and families to remain in or relocate to the region, and supports local economic activity contributes to the long-term sustainability and vitality of communities across the Coast.

While the assessment of the application remains a matter for the relevant decision-makers, the West Coast Mayors, Chairs and Iwi Group recognises the potential regional benefits associated with the project and supports the application progressing through the Fast-track Approvals process for consideration.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this letter of support and look forward to the outcomes of the assessment process.

Yours sincerely

Sam MacDonald
Chair - Development West Coast

Colin Smith
Chair - West Coast Regional Council

Chris Russell
Mayor - Buller District

Helen Lash
Mayor - Westland District

Tania Gibson
Mayor - Grey District

Paul Madgwick
Chair - Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio

Francois Tumahai
Chair - Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae