NGĀTI WAEWAE ARAHURA
TE RŪNANGA O NGĀTI WAEWAE

3 November 2026

Simon Delander
Reefton Resources Pty Limited (Rua Gold)
By email: simon.delander@reeftongold.net

Tēnā koe Simon,

Re: Auld Creek Project – Iwi Consultation under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024

This letter confirms that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae has been consulted, and has had the opportunity to provide comment, in relation to the Auld Creek Project (**Project**) under the Fast-track Approvals Act 2024 (**FT Act**). Although the Project is not a listed project under Schedule 2 of the FT Act, it has been accepted and referred into the fast-track approvals process.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae writes to you to exercise our rangatiratanga and our rights as mana whenua over the Kawatiri takiwā. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is a party to Te Tai Poutini Mana Whakahono ā Rohe agreement, together with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Makaawhio and West Coast Regional Council. The FT Act requires consultation with all parties to that agreement.

Auld Creek Project

We understand that Reefton Resources Pty Limited (Rua Gold) proposes to develop the Project, comprising a new gold and antimony mine located approximately 3 km south of Reefton in the West Coast Region. The Project would develop and extract the Auld Creek mineral deposit, known as the Fraternal and Bonanza lodes.

We understand that Rua Gold is seeking the approvals necessary under the FT Act to enable the construction, operation, maintenance and eventual closure of the Project, including associated mine infrastructure, processing facilities, waste management, water management, access arrangements, services, rehabilitation and closure activities.

We further understand that the Project includes, among other matters:

- construction, operation and maintenance of the Auld Creek Underground Mine, including the twin inclined tunnels, underground exploration activities, ventilation, dewatering, mining and ore transport;
- construction and operation of a processing plant and supporting surface infrastructure to process gold and antimony ore and produce separate concentrates;
- construction and operation of the Integrated Waste Facility for management of filtered tailings and waste rock, including progressive rehabilitation and closure;
- road upgrades, access arrangements and internal haul roads, including works associated with Soldiers Big-River Road, Quigleys Road, Harwood Road and Project haul roads;
- water takes, diversions, treatment, reuse and discharge activities, including works in and around Devils Creek, Soldiers Creek, Carton Creek and unnamed waterways;
- vegetation clearance, earthworks, stream crossings, culverts, ecological management, fauna handling, environmental monitoring and mitigation or compensation activities; and
- rehabilitation and closure activities across the Project site.

Iwi Consultation

The FT Act requirements for a referred project differ from those for a listed project. As the Project has been referred into the fast-track approvals process, the relevant iwi engagement requirements are those that apply to the substantive application and the approvals sought through that process. In particular:

- section 53 requires the expert panel (**Panel**) to direct the Environmental Protection Authority (**EPA**) to invite written comments on the substantive application from relevant iwi authorities, relevant hapū, Treaty settlement entities and any other persons or groups identified in the FT Act or the referral decision;

- section 67 enables the Panel to request information from iwi or other relevant parties before making its decision on the substantive application;

- clause 6 of Schedule 5, in relation to approvals under the Resource Management Act 1991, requires the assessment of environmental effects to identify persons who may be affected by the proposal and to record the views of persons consulted, including iwi and hapū, together with any response to those views;

- clause 3(1)(k) of Schedule 6, in relation to concession approvals under the Conservation Act 1987, Reserves Act 1977, Wildlife Act 1953 and National Parks Act 1980, requires full details of consultation undertaken with relevant iwi to be provided;

- clause 2(1)(n) of Schedule 7, in relation to wildlife approvals under the Wildlife Act 1953, requires proof and details of consultation undertaken with hapū and iwi regarding wildlife impacts; and

- clause 3(e) of Schedule 11, in relation to approvals under the Crown Minerals Act 1991, requires an outline of consultation undertaken, including full details of consultation with relevant iwi.

Collectively, these provisions contemplate ongoing engagement with relevant iwi and require consultation undertaken by an applicant to be documented and considered as part of the substantive application and assessment process.

Land Interests

Parts of the Project are located on land owned by Ngāi Tahu Forestry, including the land on which the mine portal would be located and parts of Quigleys Road that are proposed to be upgraded. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Ngāi Tahu Forestry will continue to work with Rua Gold to agree appropriate commercial terms for the use of that land, and those discussions will continue as the substantive application progresses.

Ngāi Tahu Forestry is supportive of access to its land for mining infrastructure and roading, with the final details to be worked through on completion of the fast-track approvals process.

Other parts of the Project area are located on land held by the Open Polytechnic, some of which will be required for stockpiles, roading and mining infrastructure. Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is working with the Open Polytechnic on either a sale of that land or a lease to Rua Gold on appropriate commercial terms, and those discussions will also continue as the substantive application progresses.

Ongoing Engagement

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae confirms that consultation and engagement in relation to the Project have occurred for the purposes of the FT Act substantive application process for a referred project. This letter may be relied on as evidence that Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae has been consulted in relation to the Project. However, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae reserves its position on any final matters arising from the substantive application, including the associated technical assessments, draft conditions, the Panel's invitation to comment, any request for further information and any further information provided through ongoing engagement.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae and Rua Gold have agreed that, rather than a Cultural Impact Assessment being prepared for the Project, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae will continue to engage directly with Rua Gold throughout the substantive application process. This engagement will include review of technical reports, environmental assessments, draft application materials, proposed management and mitigation measures and draft conditions, with Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae providing comments and feedback as that information becomes available.

Based on the information provided and the engagement undertaken to date, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae is fully supportive of the Project progressing through the fast-track approvals process. That support is provided on the basis of continued engagement and access to relevant Project information. It does not limit or constrain the ability of Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae to provide further comments, recommendations or concerns as additional information becomes

available, during the substantive application process or in response to any invitation to comment from the Panel.

As mana whenua within the Ngāti Waewae takiwā, we expect to be actively engaged in the assessment of the Project, consistent with our role as kaitiaki and as holders of rangatiratanga. We look forward to continuing our engagement with Rua Gold as the Project progresses.

Nāhaku noa, nā



Francois Tumahai
Chairman
Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae

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