FAST TRACK APPLICATION SUBMITTED

PROPOSED AULD CREEK PROJECT

06/11/2026

Rua Gold's Auld Creek Project (the Project) was initially assessed by the New Zealand Government through a Fast-track Referral process. The Referral application was accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) allowing Rua Gold to make a Substantive application.

The Rua Gold team are pleased to announce the ***successful submission of the Substantive application*** following an extensive reporting process across a range of work streams.

The Project is expected to generate up to 200 new jobs on the West Coast with flow on effects to be felt throughout the wider West Coast. It is anticipated that the project will generate NZ$240 million in economic benefits over the life of the project.

Rua Gold's Vice President Simon Delander said, *"The application for the Auld Creek project has now been submitted following over 12 months of report preparation including rigorous environmental and technical studies right through to social impact assessments."*

"The application also reflects the extensive engagement with our stakeholders, Ngāti Waewae and regulatory authorities to provide the EPA with a comprehensive application document."

"The West Coast has a strong mining history and we are looking forward to being able to write the next chapter of the mining story for Reefton and the West Coast"

Our focus is now on supporting the assessment process and responding to requests for further information. We thank Ngāti Waewae, the Reefton and wider West Coast communities, and everyone who has contributed to reaching this milestone."

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae has engaged with Rua Gold throughout the preparation of the substantive application.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Waewae Chairman Francois Tumahai says *"As mana whenua, Ngāti Waewae carries a responsibility to our whenua, our awa and our people, now and for the generations to come. We have engaged with Rua Gold in good faith throughout the preparation of this application, and we acknowledge the open and constructive way the company has worked with us."*

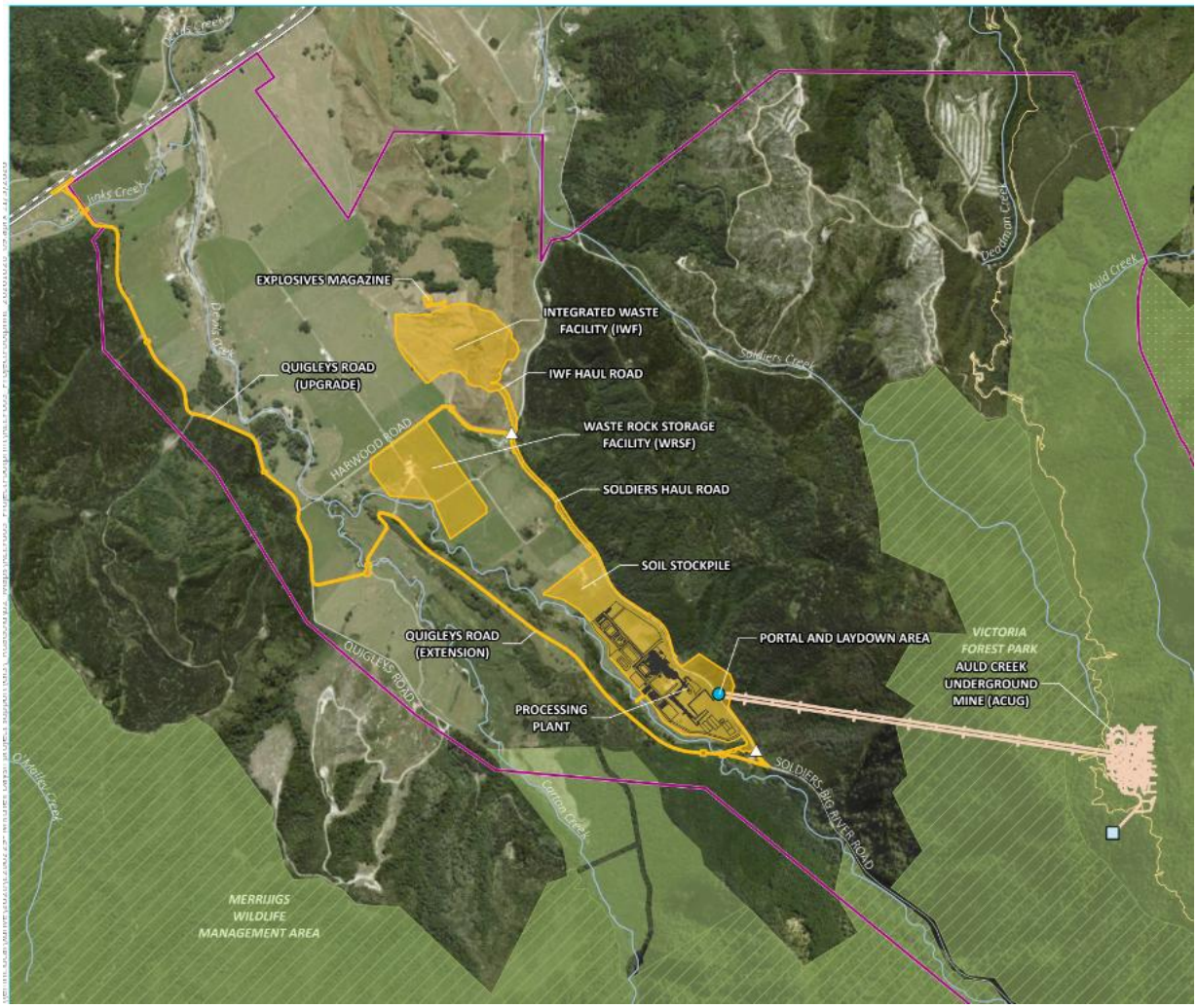
"Based on the information shared and the engagement undertaken to date, Ngāti Waewae is fully supportive of the Auld Creek Project progressing through the fast-track approvals process. Mining has long been part of our history right across Te Tai Poutini, and a well-run project can bring real opportunities for our whānau and the wider West Coast community."

"Our support comes with the expectation that we will remain actively involved, we have agreed with Rua Gold to work alongside them directly as the application progresses, reviewing technical reports, environmental assessments and proposed conditions, and providing our input as kaitiaki to see this project come to fruition."

The application will now be subject to statutory reviews and assessment under the Fast Track Approvals Act 2024 for completeness before an expert panel is formed for a full assessment of the project, should the application meet the requirements of the completeness test.

A list of the reports submitted as part of the application are below:

- Hydrology Assessment
- Underground Mine Groundwater Assessment & Memo
- Surface Infrastructure Groundwater Assessment & Memo
- Preliminary Site Investigation
- Water and Load Balance Model
- Geo-environmental Hazards Report
- Column Leach Test Report
- Source Terms Report
- Water Treatment Report
- Background Water Quality Report
- Water Process Flow Diagrams
- Aquatic Ecology Assessment
- Erosion and Sediment Control Assessment
- Devils/Carton Creek Crossing Preliminary Study
- Traffic Assessment
- Archaeology Assessment
- Noise and Vibration Assessment
- Air Quality Assessment
- Landscape Effects Assessment
- Greenhouse Gas Assessment
- Process Plant Interim Design Report
- Integrated Waste Facility Design Report
- Terrestrial Ecology Assessment
- Hazardous Substances Risk Assessment
- Residual Effects Management Report
- Water Quality Technical Memo
- Wildlife Approval Technical Report
- Social Impact Assessment
- Economics Assessment
- Mine Plan & Schedule (PFS)
- Mining Permit Application
- Closure Cost Estimates & Bonding



About the Project:

Rua Gold's application for the development and operation of the Auld Creek Underground Mine for the extraction of gold and antimony for approximately 6–8 years from the Auld Creek deposit which is located

approximately 3 km south of Reefton in the West Coast Region. The Project Site includes private land, land owned by Ngāi Tahu Forestry Limited and a small parcel of public conservation land within the Victoria Forest Park (VFP) for a ventilation adit.

The development of the Project is proposed to be undertaken in three phases.

- Phase one (construction) includes all project surface construction activities and mine tunnel development up until when the process plant is commissioned.
- Phase two (operation) commences upon the commissioning of the process plant, enabling the processing of ore to commence. This phase also includes any decommissioning and rehabilitation activities following the completion of mining and processing.
- Phase three (post-closure) commences once all rehabilitation activities are complete in accordance with an agreed closure plan.

The Project comprises the following activities:

- establishing a new process plant, Integrated Waste Facility (IWF) and associated infrastructure to facilitate the development and operation of an underground mine including a haul road network.
- the construction of mine portals and development of twin tunnels to access the ore body
- continued mineral investigation and exploration at the Auld Creek deposit.
- operation, maintenance and rehabilitation of the Auld Creek Underground Mine.
- the facilitation of safe Project Site access, involving the partial closure of Soldiers Big River Road and the widening and extension of Quigleys Road.
- activities over and within waterways, including the diversion and construction of structures in waterways (including culverts).
- the take and use of surface water from Devils Creek and the take and use of groundwater.
- the discharge of contaminants to land, air and water.
- low impact surface and groundwater, ecological, meteorological, noise and vibration monitoring activities.
- new network utility and service connections and upgrading public infrastructure including the Quigleys Road and State Highway 7 (SH7) intersection.

For further information:

Rua Gold website – www.ruagold.com

Fast-track website – https://www.fasttrack.govt.nz/projects/auld-creek-project

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