

31 August 2026

info@doc.govt.nz

Ref.: OIAD-9475

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 20 July 2026, for the following information regarding Rua Gold's Access Arrangement application (125884-AA) for the Glamorgan project, Coromandel:

"Would staff please advise what information DOC holds on the Rua Gold Glamorgan / Wires Ridge access arrangement, including any maps, status updates, and iwi consultation details?"

On 7 August 2026, following the announcement that DOC had approved 125884-AA, DOC contacted you to clarify what information you sought. On 8 August 2026 you clarified your request was for the following:

"How does DOC envisage protecting the kauri forests, water systems, historic and cultural heritage, and recreational values of the area it identifies in its Conservation Management Strategy as Maratoto, Wentworth and Wharekirauponga, while allowing exploration activities and potentially future underground mining?"

I am particularly interested in what DOC sees as the long-term protection and management approach for this landscape, and how the risks associated with exploration and any future mining fit within that approach?

I am seeking information held by DOC about Rua Gold's exploration activities, including drilling and access, in the area DOC identifies in its Conservation Management Strategy as Maratoto, Wentworth and Wharekirauponga.

I would like a clear understanding of what DOC considered when making its decisions about Rua Gold's permissions, what it did not consider, and why. Where the information can reasonably be provided by way of a summary or explanation based on information DOC already holds, that is my preferred form of response. Thank you.

I would like to understand how DOC considered:

- the conservation, ecological, landscape and recreational values of Maratoto, Wentworth and Wharekirauponga;
- the historic heritage and cultural heritage values of the area;
- Kaitiakitanga and DOC's responsibilities for the care and protection of this landscape;

- risks to the Ngahere as the Kauri forest that it is, including the potential pathways for the spread of *Phytophthora agathidicida* to spread through soil, sediment, water, machinery, vehicles or personnel;
- risks to water systems, including streams, wetlands, groundwater and catchments, and potential effects from sediment, contamination, drainage or changes to water flow;
- the environmental, heritage and other risks associated with drilling, access and ground disturbance;
- the safeguards, conditions, mitigation and monitoring DOC required or considered necessary to manage those risks; and
- whether the possibility of future underground mining was considered, including any longer-term implications for the conservation, historic and cultural heritage, water and recreational values of the area.

I would also like to know which DOC staff or decision-makers were responsible for assessing, recommending, reviewing and approving the permissions, and whether there is an existing assessment, briefing, decision record or other document that explains the decision-making process.

Specifically, if DOC did not assess or consider the above matters, please state this. A clear answer about what was and not considered is sufficient over receiving documents that do not answer my query. Appreciated.

*Were the potential pathways for the spread of *Phytophthora agathidicida* associated with exploration, and potentially future underground mining, assessed - including through soil, sediment, water, machinery, vehicles, equipment and personnel?*

If it was, I would like to know what DOC concluded, and what information or advice was relied upon, including whether relevant experience from elsewhere in New Zealand, or overseas was considered. If it was not assessed, I would like to know that too, and whether the risk was considered or otherwise in the decision-making. Thank you.

I am trying to understand what DOC considered, what it did not consider, what risks it identified, and why it determined that the activities were appropriate in this significant conservation, historic and cultural heritage landscape.

I would prefer to receive the OIA material on a memory stick for collection from the DOC Kopu office, Thames, rather than by email or postal delivery. Please let me know when the information is available for collection.

I would also appreciate acknowledgement of this email, the current status of Rua Gold's DOC permissions, and whether any further Access Arrangement application is currently before DOC.

[...] please also provide any records showing whether DOC considered the existing Waikato CMS outcomes for Maratoto, Wentworth and Wharekirauponga alongside the proposed Conservation Amendment Bill, and changes to the conservation management framework?

Specifically, did DOC consider whether these proposed changes could affect how Rua Gold's activities were assessed against the conservation, ecological, landscape, heritage and recreation values identified for this area?"

On 14 August 2026 we extended the timeframe to respond to your request to 31 August 2026 to allow us to undertake the necessary consultations required for us to make a decision on the release of material.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

DOC's Response

In response to your request, I have decided to release the Access Arrangement Report (the report) for Access Arrangement 125884-AA to you as **Attachment One**.

The report is a summary of all considerations provided to decision-makers to make a decision on the application, including the relevant Conservation Management Strategies and technical advice regarding heritage, frogs, and lizards from internal technical advisors. The release of this report should satisfy your request.

This document is released to you subject to information being withheld under one or more of the following sections of the OIA, as applicable:

- locations of protected wildlife and drill sites, under section 6(c) – to prevent prejudice to the maintenance of law including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences,
- personal contact details, under section 9(2)(a) – to protect the privacy of natural persons,
- commercially sensitive information, under section 9(2)(b)(ii) – to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information, and
- information, under section 9(2)(j) – to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice.

Rua Gold does not have any current pending concession applications. You can search for active concessions held by Rua Gold under its parent company name, Reefton Gold, which are available on our website at www.doc.govt.nz/get-involved/apply-for-permits/active-concessions.

You asked if we considered the proposed Conservation Amendment Bill for this application. We did not consider the proposed Conservation Amendment Bill or any future framework changes, as they are not yet law. No records exist showing a comparison with the Bill because it would be unlawful to use it in our decision-making.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Nāku noa, nā



Anita Murrell
Principal Advisor, Director Regulatory Authorisations
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai