

ACCESS ARRANGEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT for an Access Arrangement pursuant to section 61 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 dated 30 July 2026 between the Minister of Conservation and the Minister for Resources (hereinafter referred to as "the Ministers") and REEFTON GOLD LIMITED (hereinafter referred to as the "Permit Holder").

WHEREAS

- (a) The Land described in the First Schedule is administered by the Department of Conservation pursuant to sections 19 and 25 of the Conservation Act 1987 and the Minister is responsible for that Department;
- (b) The Minister for Resources, through the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, administers the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The purpose of the Act is to promote prospecting for, exploration for, and mining of Crown owned minerals for the benefit of New Zealand;
- (c) The Permit Holder has been granted Exploration Permit EP 60950 by the Minister for Resources pursuant to section 25 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 to undertake exploration and exploration operations in and on the Land;
- (d) Exploration Permit 60950 is classified as a Tier 1 permit pursuant to section 2B of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.
- (e) The administration of the Access Arrangement together with matters relating to the Permit Holder's access to, and use of the Land is the responsibility of the Department. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is responsible for matters relating to the exploration permit.
- (f) The Permit Holder pursuant to section 59 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 has requested from the Minister an Access Arrangement in respect of the Land described in the First Schedule to conduct exploration and exploration operations.

IT IS AGREED between the Ministers of the first part and the Permit Holder of the second part that the Permit Holder may enter the Land described in the First Schedule subject to the terms and conditions set out below and in the Second Schedule hereto:

1. **INTERPRETATION**

"Access Arrangement" means this agreement for an Access Arrangement.

"Act" means the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

"Activities" means those activities listed in Schedule 1.

"Annual Work Programme" and "Work Programme" means the Work Programme referred to in Condition 7(b).

"Department" means the Department of Conservation.

"Diameter at Breast Height", & "DBH" means the maximum diameter of a tree when measured 1.4 metres above ground level. On sloping ground, the 'above ground level' reference point is the highest point on the ground touching the trunk. If the DBH height falls on a swelling in the trunk the measurement should be taken directly below the swelling at the point where the diameter is the smallest.

"Exploration" has the same meaning as defined in section 2 of the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

"Exploration operations" means operations in connection with exploration for any Crown owned mineral and authorised under this Access Arrangement.

"Land" means the land described in the First Schedule.

"Minister" means the Minister of Conservation and includes his or her delegate, the Director-General, and his or her authorised officers (including the Operations Director, Operations Manager, Permissions and Land Director and Permissions and Land Manager), employees, agents or contractors.

"Ministers" means the Minister of Conservation and the Minister for Resources (or their respective delegates)

"Parties" means the Minister of Conservation, the Minister for Resources and the Permit Holder.

"Permit Holder" includes the Permit Holder, its servants, agents, contractors and assignees.

ASSIGNMENT

2. The Permit Holder will not assign, transfer or sublet any rights herein granted or any part thereof without the prior written consent of the Ministers and such consent will not be unreasonably withheld. Any change in the Permit holder's shareholding altering the effective control of the Permit holder shall be deemed to be a proposed assignment requiring the consent of the Ministers.

COMPENSATION

3. Pursuant to section 76 of the Act, the Permit Holder will pay the Minister:
 - (a) s9(2)(i) + GST per annum for the intrusion of an industrial operation on the Land;
 - (b) s9(2)(i) + GST per drill rig per day (whether operational on site or not)
 - (c) s9(2)(i) + GST as a one-off fee per campsite and/or helicopter landing area utilised on the Land where vegetation is damaged or cleared;
 - (d) s9(2)(i) + GST per new drill site;
 - (e) s9(2)(i) per reuse of an existing drill site where regenerating vegetation is damaged or cleared;
 - (f) s9(2)(i) + GST per drill site, per individual tree cleared/felled at that site is equal to or less than 10cm DBH;

- (g) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST per drill site, per individual tree cleared/felled at that site is equal to or greater than 10cm DBH and less than 15cm DBH; and
- (h) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST per drill site, per individual tree cleared/felled at that site is equal to or greater than 15cm DBH and less than 30cm DBH; and
- (i) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST per drill site, per individual tree cleared/felled at that site is equal to or greater than 30cm DBH and less than 40cm DBH;
- (j) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST per drill site, per individual tree cleared/felled at the site is equal to or greater than 40cm DBH and less than 50cm DBH; and
- (k) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST where Archey's frog found (prior to use of drill site, during use of the site or in the surrounding drill site extent);
- (l) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST where Hochstetter frog or at risk/threatened lizard found (prior to use of drill site, during use of site or in 20m x 20m area surrounding site);
- (m) $\$9(2)(i)$ + GST per day, or any part thereof, where helicopters are used in association with the exploration operations in the high visitor period of 23rd December to 6th February (inclusive) and during any New Zealand Statutory holiday.

The Permit Holder will survey each drill site pad prior to any tree removal including taking photographs of each tree to be removed. The results of this survey are to be recorded by the Permit Holder in a table (schedule) that clearly records the drill site location, the G.P.S location of the tree being removed, the maximum diameter of the tree stem at DBH and the species of tree removed. This schedule will be submitted as soon as practical to the Operations Manager – Hauraki District, Department of Conservation prior to, or as part of any application for the subsequent Authority to Enter and Operate.

The submitted schedule should include the following headings at a minimum:

Drill Pad #	Easting	Northing	Tree species	Number	MDBH of each individual stem to be removed	Tree GPS location of each stem removed	Photograph

All compensation amounts are to be reviewed annually for changes in the consumer price index (CPI) and adjusted accordingly. Compensation will be paid by the Permit Holder upon receiving an invoice from the Department or at the time of presentation of an Annual Work Programme, prior to commencing exploration operations with **3Error! Reference source not found.** being paid in advance and all other compensation under Condition 3 being paid in arrears. All compensation is payable into a Department of Conservation trust account for Conservation purposes in the Hauraki - Waikato - Taranaki Region.

COMPENSATION FOR ANY UNAUTHORISED DISTURBANCE

4. The Minister may require the Permit Holder to pay additional compensation for any breaches of this Access Arrangement and/or Exploration and Exploration operations carried out by the Permit Holder, its contractor, employee and/or Tributer on the Land or on other adjoining or proximate land administered by the Department outside the Land NOT authorised by this Access Arrangement. Such additional compensation will be for an amount solely determined by the Minister.

ADMINISTRATION COSTS

5. Pursuant to section 76 of the Act the Permit Holder will pay to the Minister:
 - (a) All actual and reasonable costs to cover the administrative costs of processing this Access Arrangement.
 - (b) The actual and reasonable costs of administering this Access Arrangement.
 - (c) The actual and reasonable costs of monitoring compliance of the conditions in this Access Arrangement including all associated inspections of the Land by the Department.
6. Upon receiving an invoice, the Permit Holder will pay to the Minister a Management Fee of \$250.00 + GST per annum in arrears for administration and file management associated with the management of this Access Arrangement.

PRECONDITIONS BEFORE ENTRY TO LAND FOR EXPLORATION

7. The Permit Holder will not enter in or on to the Land for the purpose of commencing exploration operations until:
 - (a) The documents referred to in Condition 9 have been supplied to the Minister; and
 - (b) The Permit Holder has submitted to the Minister an Annual Work Programme in accordance with Condition 63 in the Second Schedule; and
 - (c) Any payments referred to in Conditions 3, 5, 6, 17 and 21 which are due and owing have been paid; and
 - (d) The Minister has approved the plans required to be submitted by Condition 7(b) and has issued the Permit Holder with an Authority to Enter and Operate as provided by Condition 10.
8. The Minister may require the Permit Holder to vary the proposed Annual Work Programme to ensure the exploration operations are not inconsistent with the conditions of this Access Arrangement. Where required by the Minister the Permit Holder will amend the proposed Annual Work Programme accordingly.
9. The Permit Holder must seek an Authority to Enter and Operate from the Minister. At the time of seeking an Authority to Enter and Operate, the Permit Holder will submit to the Minister:
 - (a) A copy of the insurance policies and the premium payment receipts and guarantees or bonds as required in Conditions 20 and 21; and

- (b) A copy of the exploration permit granted pursuant to section 25 of the Act; and
 - (c) A copy of all resource consents granted under the Resource Management Act 1991, and a copy of any reports that the Permit Holder has been required to submit to the consent authority as a requirement of any resource consent relating to the exploration permit.
10. Upon the Minister being satisfied that the requirements of Conditions 7, 8 and 9 have been met, the Minister will issue the Permit Holder with a written "Authority to Enter and Operate" permitting the Permit Holder to enter in or on to the Land to commence exploration operations for a period of 12 months, provided the exploration permit continues in force for the term, or longer, of any Authority to Enter and Operate issued.
 11. A breach or failure to comply with the requirements of the documents referred to in Condition 7(d), and approved by the Minister, will be deemed to be a breach of this Access Arrangement, and will entitle the Minister or Manager to exercise any rights or powers which arise from a breach of or failure to comply with the terms of this Access Arrangement.
 12. Prior to the expiry of the first Authority to Enter and Operate, and each subsequent Authority to Enter and Operate thereafter, the Permit Holder will submit to the Minister for approval a further Annual Work Programme and any other plans or amended plans as required by Condition 7(b) and any other requirements of Conditions 7, 8 and 9 for the succeeding 12 month period (or a lesser period if considered appropriate by the Permit Holder).
 13. Except as permitted by the Minister, the Permit Holder will not, after the expiry of an Authority to Enter and Operate, undertake any work before each subsequent Authority to Enter and Operate has been issued by the Minister pursuant to Condition 10.
 14. The Minister will not unreasonably fail to grant a subsequent Authority to Enter and Operate where the Permit Holder has supplied all the required documentation and made all the payments required by Condition 12, and the further Annual Work Programme is consistent with the project description contained in the application for this Access Arrangement and the conditions of this Access Arrangement.
 15. Pending the granting of a subsequent Authority to Enter and Operate the Minister may in his or her discretion, issue an interim Authority to Enter and Operate providing the documents and payments required by Condition 12 have been submitted.

INDEMNITIES

16. The Permit Holder will indemnify and keep indemnified the Minister against all claims by any person in respect of any injury, loss or damage (including fire damage) caused or suffered as a result of or arising out of any act or omission of the Permit Holder, or otherwise caused as a result of the exploration operations on the Land.
17. If due to the Permit Holder's exploration operations the Land or any part of it is assessed as rateable land under the Local Government (Rating) Act 2002, or any amendment to that Act, or the introduction of a new Act in substitution for it, the Permit Holder is to pay any of the rates which may be struck in respect of the Land and/or the exploration

operations; but both parties expressly agree that such payment is not to constitute an acknowledgement of exclusive possession by the Permit Holder of the Land.

18. The Minister will not be liable for and does not accept any responsibility for damage or interference to the exploration operations, equipment, buildings or structures, held or erected on the Land due to any cause whatsoever including (without restriction) any acts or omissions by the Minister, their servants, agents, or contractors (other than acts or omissions arising from the wilful misconduct of the Minister, his servants, agents or contractors), natural disaster, vandalism, sabotage, fire, exposure to the elements or any other cause whatsoever.
19. The Permit Holder will take all reasonable steps to protect the safety of persons present on the Land during exploration operations and between work periods and will, when required by the Minister, erect protective fencing or erect signposts warning the public of any dangers that may be encountered as a result of the exploration operations. The Permit Holder will take all reasonable steps to mitigate any dangers to the public and will clearly mark any that remain.
 - (a) Where the Permit Holder, to ensure the safety of the public, employees, plant and equipment, requests the Minister (acting under delegated authority from the Minister) to close public access to the Land the Minister may do so if he or she considers it appropriate.
 - (b) The Permit Holder will give the Minister reasonable notice of its request so that the Minister can ensure that all reasonable steps are taken to ensure members of the public are made aware of the closure and the reasons for it.
 - (c) The Permit Holder will be responsible for the costs of ensuring that the public is made aware of the closure.

INSURANCE

20. Prior to commencing exploration operations, the Permit Holder will effect and maintain during the term of this Access Arrangement insurance cover on terms acceptable to the Minister for an amount of **\$2,000,000** for public liability and **\$500,000** for third party vehicle. The Minister may from time to time require the cover of any insurance to be increased to such an amount as considered reasonably necessary.

BONDS

21. Prior to commencing exploration operations, the Permit Holder will provide a bond to ensure compliance by the Permit Holder with the conditions of this agreement. The bond will be in a form approved by the Minister and the initial bond will not be less than s9(2)(j) .
22. Notwithstanding Condition 21 the Minister may during consideration of any Annual Work Programme or variation to any Annual Work Programme require the bond amount to be increased.
23. The bond or bonds will not be released and will remain effective until such time as all conditions of this agreement have been complied with, notwithstanding the completion of exploration operations. In the event that there is an adverse effect to the Land and its natural resources whether during or after the completion of the exploration operations which is not permitted by this agreement and could not have reasonably been foreseen,

the Permit Holder will take all action necessary to mitigate or remedy those adverse effects. If the Permit Holder fails to mitigate or remedy those adverse effects to the Minister's satisfaction, the Minister may undertake any necessary action to do so and recover the costs associated with undertaking the work by calling on the bond or bonds.

24. If the Permit Holder breaches any condition of this arrangement the Minister may call on the bond or bonds, or any portion thereof to ensure compliance with the conditions of this agreement.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

25. The Permit Holder will:

- (a) Take all reasonable precautions to ensure no fire hazard arises from the exploration operations;
- (b) Not light any fire except by permit issued by the Minister;
- (c) Not store or permit to be stored fuels or other combustible materials on the Land without the prior written permission of the Minister;
- (d) Comply with the Minister's requirements for fire safety equipment and for firefighting equipment to be kept on the Land.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

26. The Permit Holder will ensure that in respect of all exploration operations under this Access Arrangement:

- (a) Environmental disturbance is minimised and land affected by exploration operations is kept stable and free from erosion.
- (b) There is no land disturbance other than that authorised under this Access Arrangement.
- (c) All indigenous flora and fauna are protected except for disturbance authorised under this Access Arrangement.
- (d) No debris, rubbish or other dangerous or unsightly matter will be deposited in or on the Land, or any pollution will occur of any water body, except as permitted by this Access Arrangement and any resource consent granted under the Resource Management Act 1991.
- (e) There will be no destruction, damage or modification to any archaeological site in the area (as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014) without the authority of the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Board of Trustees obtained under section 48 of that Act. The Permit Holder must produce such authority to the Minister.
- (f) Any *protected New Zealand object*, or *taonga tūturu* (as defined by the Protected Objects Act 1975), or object of historic significance found in the area or on the Land will be left *in situ*, and the Minister and Secretary of Internal Affairs notified as soon as reasonably practicable.
- (g) Every person under the Permit Holder's control entering on to the Land complies with the provisions of this condition (Condition 26).

SUPPLY OF INFORMATION

27. The Permit Holder will lodge with the Minister copies of the renewal of or substitution for any insurance policies including receipts for payment of premiums, any variations to bonds and evidence that the bonds are in force.
28. The Permit Holder will provide to the Minister all information required from time to time by the Minister in respect of the use of the Land and any buildings or equipment thereon including any details concerning the exploration operations and details concerning the numbers of people employed by the Permit Holder or permitted or allowed by the Permit Holder to come onto the Land.
29. The Permit Holder will submit to the Minister a copy of any application lodged with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to vary the exploration permit covering the Land including any application to transfer the exploration permit to another person or party.
30. The Permit Holder will apply for a variation to this Access Arrangement should it wish to undertake exploration operations on any land managed or administered by the Minister within any variation to the exploration permit granted by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment that is not already covered by this Access Arrangement.
31. The Permit holder can have no expectation that any further Access Arrangement or Access Arrangement variation will be approved.

MONITORING

32. The Permit Holder will have no expectation that any further Access Arrangement or Access Arrangement variation will be approved at the Minister's discretion.
33. The Permit Holder will allow the Minister or any other person authorised by the Minister to enter in or on to the Land at any time:
 - (a) To inspect the Land or to consider approval of any Annual Work Programme or other plans, or to monitor compliance with the conditions of this Access Arrangement.
 - (b) To undertake any work necessary for the exercise of the Minister's functions and powers in respect of the Land provided that such work will not unnecessarily interfere with the Permit Holder's rights under this Access Arrangement.
34. Monitoring may include but is not limited to, the taking of soil and water samples, and the taking of a photographic record of activities occurring on the Land subject to the Access Arrangement.

BANKRUPTCY OR INSOLVENCY

35. If the Permit holder becomes bankrupt, insolvent or has a receiving order made against it or is wound up or otherwise cease to function or carries on its business under a receiver for the benefit of creditors the Ministers may either:

- (a) Terminate this Access Arrangement forthwith by notice in writing to the Permit holder or to the receiver or liquidator or to any person in whom the Access Arrangement may become vested; or
- (b) Give such receiver or liquidator or other person the option of continuing the Access Arrangement subject to the provision of a guarantee by one or more guarantors of any bond given, on terms acceptable to the Ministers for the due and faithful performance of the Access Arrangement up to an amount to be determined by the Ministers.
- (c) Any notice under Condition **Error! Reference source not found.** does not release the Permit holder from liability in respect of any breach of this Access Arrangement prior to the termination of the Access Arrangement or which survive termination.

TERM

36. The term of this Access Arrangement will be for a period of 5 years from the date of execution of this Access Arrangement, or for the term of the exploration permit EP 60950, whichever is the lesser.

BREACH OF CONDITIONS

37. Subject to Condition 355 if the Permit Holder becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or has a receiving order made against it or is wound up or otherwise ceases to function the Minister may terminate this Access Arrangement by notice in writing. Such notice will not release the Permit Holder from liability in respect of any breach of this Access Arrangement prior to the termination of the Access Arrangement.
38. If the Permit Holder is in breach or fails to observe any of the conditions contained herein or the requirements of any approved Annual Work Programme or any other approved plan, then the Minister may by notice in writing terminate this Access Arrangement.
39. Notwithstanding Conditions 377 and 38, termination of this Access Arrangement will not release the Permit Holder from liability in respect of any breach of this Access Arrangement.
40. Upon termination or expiry of this Access Arrangement the Minister will not be liable to pay any compensation whatsoever for any buildings, structures or improvements erected by the Permit Holder. If requested by the Minister the Permit Holder will remove all such buildings and structures and improvements. The Permit Holder will repair at its own expense all damage which may have been done by such removal and will leave the Land in a clean and tidy condition for restoration as set out herein. If the Permit Holder fails to remove any buildings within a reasonable time of the request of the Minister, the Minister may undertake this work and recover the costs from the Permit Holder.

MISCELLANEOUS

41. If the Permit Holder has:
- (a) Not paid any compensation payment as provided by Condition 3; or
 - (b) Not submitted an Annual Work Programme to the Minister -

Within two years of the date of execution of this Access Arrangement, this Access Arrangement will terminate and cease to have any effect.

42. Any notice required to be addressed by either party will in the absence of proof to the contrary be sent by ordinary post or by facsimile during normal business hours and will be deemed to have been received by the other party on such date and at such time upon which the ordinary post or facsimile would have been delivered.
43. The Minister's address, phone and e-mail for service will be: Department of Conservation Level 1 John Wickliffe House, 265 Princes Street, Dunedin 9016; Department of Conservation, Att: National Transaction Centre, PO Box 5244 Dunedin 9054; Ph 0800 275 362; Email: TransactionCentre@doc.govt.nz
44. The Minister for Resources' address, phone and email for service will be C/- The National Manager Petroleum, Minerals & Offshore Renewable Energy, Resource Markets Branch, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, 15 Stout Street, Wellington 6140, P O Box 1473; Ph. 0508 263 782; Email: nzpmam@mbie.govt.nz.
45. The Permit Holder's phone number and address for service will be Simon Henderson, Reefton Gold Limited, PO Box 33, Reefton 7851. Ph ^{s9(2)(a)} [REDACTED] and ^{s9(2)(a)} [REDACTED]@reeftongold.net.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

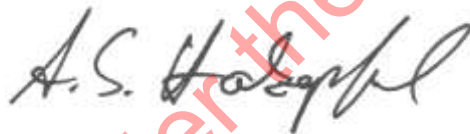
46. The parties agree to negotiate in good faith to resolve any differences which arise in connection with this Access Arrangement.
47. Failing resolution in accordance with Condition 466, any differences and disputes between the parties concerning this Access Arrangement, its interpretation, effect or implementation or any act or thing to be done in pursuance thereof (except as otherwise expressly provided) is to be referred to arbitration in New Zealand by a single arbitrator who is to be mutually agreed upon and, failing agreement, is to be appointed by the President of the New Zealand Law Society.

GENERAL

48. Except where inconsistent with this Access Arrangement, the Permit Holder will comply with the provisions of any conservation management strategy or conservation management plan pursuant to Part IIIA of the Conservation Act 1987, together with any amendment or review of any strategy or plan.
49. The Permit Holder will at all times comply with all statutes, ordinances, regulations, by-laws or other enactments affecting or relating to the Land or affecting or relating to the exploration operations including the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015, Fire and Emergency New Zealand Act 2017, the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996, and the Conservation Act 1987 and all Acts included in its First Schedule.
50. The Permit Holder must comply with all conditions contained in this Access Arrangement and within three working days of a request in writing by the Minister supply the Minister with such evidence of compliance.

51. A breach or contravention by the Permit Holder of any legislation affecting or Relating to the Land or affecting or relating to the Exploration or Exploration operations will be deemed to be a breach of this Access Arrangement.
52. The Permit Holder must only operate within the boundaries of the Land.
53. The Permit Holder will not use any Land subject to this Access Arrangement for any purposes other than those specified in this Access Arrangement. Unless otherwise authorised by this Access Arrangement, or otherwise approved by the Minister, the Permit Holder will not erect, install or operate anything on the Land other than that described in the approved Annual Work Programme or any other approved plans submitted in accordance with Condition 7(b).
54. The headings set out in this Access Arrangement have been inserted for convenience and will not in any way limit or govern the construction of this Access Arrangement.
55. Nothing in this Access Arrangement including Special Conditions in the Second Schedule will prevent the Minister from participating in any statutory process in respect to any matter relating to exploration operations in or on the Land defined in this Access Arrangement.
56. If any conditions attached to any resource consent obtained by the Permit Holder are in the opinion of the Minister inconsistent with this Access Arrangement the Minister may review the provisions of this Access Arrangement and this Access Arrangement may be varied accordingly.
57. If, in the opinion of the Minister, the exploration operations of the Permit Holder are having, or may have an adverse effect on the natural, historic or cultural values of the Land, which are not permitted by this Access Arrangement and could not have reasonably been foreseen, the Minister may:
- (a) Suspend the Access Arrangement until the Permit Holder remedies or mitigates such adverse effects to the extent satisfactory to the Minister; and/or
 - (b) Review the conditions of this Access Arrangement and impose any further conditions necessary to avoid, remedy or mitigate such adverse effects; and/or
 - (c) Call on the Bond required under Condition 21 or any portion thereof to ensure such adverse effects which have occurred are remedied or mitigated.
58. The Minister may suspend this Access Arrangement while the Minister or any other enforcement agency investigates any of the circumstances contemplated in Condition 576. The Minister may also suspend this Access Arrangement while the Minister or any other enforcement agency investigates any:
- (a) Potential breach of the terms and conditions of this Access Arrangement.
 - (b) Possible offence by the Permit Holder's directors, employees, servants, agents, contractors, assignees or Tributer under the Crown Minerals Act 1991; Conservation Act 1987, or any of the Acts listed in the First Schedule of that Act.
 - (c) Possible offence by the Permit Holder, its directors, employees, servants, agents, contractors, assignees, or Tributer under any other Act relevant to the Exploration or Exploration operations.
59. Any temporary suspension may, at the sole option of the Minister be either in whole or in part and be either immediate or after such times as the Minister allows. Advice of such suspension may be given to the Permit Holder whether verbally followed by a written confirmation as soon as is reasonably practicable or by notice in writing.

60. During any period of suspension all Exploration or Exploration operations on the Land must cease, other than activities necessary for the purpose of saving or protecting life or health or preventing serious damage to property or avoiding an actual or likely adverse effect on the environment, The Permit Holder will remain responsible for the health and safety, and the environmental protection of the Land, and will continue to have access to the Land for these purposes during the term any suspension, subject to any directions issued by the Minister. The Permit Holder will remain liable for all fees and payments required to be paid under this Access Arrangement during the term of any suspension.
61. The Minister will not be liable to the Permit Holder for any loss sustained by the Permit Holder by reason of the suspension of the Access Arrangement under Conditions 576 to 609 including loss of profits or consequential loss.
62. The Permit Holder must pay in full immediately and on demand all costs and fees (including solicitor's costs and fees of debt collection agencies engaged by the Minister) arising out of and associated with steps taken by the Minister to enforce or attempt to enforce the Minister's rights and powers under this Access Arrangement including the right to recover outstanding money owed to the Minister.
63. Any failure by the Minister to exercise any right or power under this Access Arrangement does not operate as a waiver and the single or partial exercise of any right or power by the Minister does not preclude any other or further exercise of that or any other right or power by the Minister.



Signed for and on behalf of)
the Minister of Conservation)
by **Avi Holzapfel**)
Operations Manager,)
Hauraki District,)
Department of Conservation,)
pursuant to a written delegation)
from the Minister of Conservation)
under the Crown Minerals Act 1991)

in the presence of:



Signature and Name: Lydia Gulgec

Address: 10 Sewell Street, Hokitika

Occupation: Senior Permissions Advisor

Signed for and on behalf of His Majesty the King in Right of New Zealand ("Crown") acting by and through the Minister for Resources by:



John Buick-Constable

National Manager, Petroleum, Minerals and Offshore Renewable Energy

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Pursuant to a written delegation from the Minister for Resources under the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

In the presence of:



Signature and Name: Aidan Allan

Address: 15 Stout Street, Wellington

Occupation: Principal Minerals Advisor

Signed on behalf of **Reefton Gold Limited** by:

s9(2)(a)

Signature and Name:(Director)

in the presence of:

s9(2)(a)

Signature and Name:

Address: s9(2)(a)

Occupation: Senior Geologist.....

Released under the Official Information Act

FIRST SCHEDULE

The Permit Holder, subject to the conditions contained in this Access Arrangement, will have access to approximately 0.1584 hectares of Tairua Forest Conservation Area, Coromandel Forest Park, Conservation Area - Mangaroa Stream and Waihou Forest Conservation Area, within Exploration Permit 60950, to undertake the following activities:

1. 9 drill/camp sites (12m x 12m)
2. 1 helipad (20 m x 20m)
3. 1 stage pump (12m x 12m) and pipelines

In the locations shown on the map below:

Released under the Official Information Act

s9(2)(b)(ii)



Department of
Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Access Arrangement Holder: **Reefton Gold Ltd**
Exploration Permit Number: **60950**
Permission Number: **125884-AA**
Location ID: **108205**
Access Arrangement Area: **0.1840 ha**

**Te Kāwanatanga
o Aotearoa**
New Zealand Government

This map is to inform and may be unsuitable for other purposes e.g. engineering, surveying, navigation | 1:30,000 | Basemap: LINZ CC-BY, © Crown | Service layer credits: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment | July 2026

SECOND SCHEDULE

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

ACCESS ARRANGEMENT FOR EXPLORATION PERMIT 60950

NOTE: These conditions are in addition to the conditions in the main body of the Access Arrangement and do not in any way affect the generality of those conditions.

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

1. Before undertaking any exploration operations under this Access Arrangement, the Permit Holder will submit to the Minister for approval the first Annual Work Programme and thereafter annually submit for approval a new Work Programme for the succeeding 12-month period.

The Annual Work Programme will include:

- (a) A recent aerial photograph or plan at an appropriate scale showing the Exploration permit boundary and the conservation land boundary and the location of all proposed exploration operations for the forthcoming 12 months.
 - (b) A description of all exploration related activities including operations, mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting carried out in the previous 12 months.
 - (c) A detailed description of all exploration operations, mitigation measures, monitoring and reporting intended to be carried out in the next 12 months with an approximate timetable of events.
 - (d) A description and analysis of any unexpected adverse effect on the environment that has arisen as a result of activities within the last 12 months and the steps taken to mitigate or remedy any effects that resulted.
 - (e) The type, colour and registration (if known) of all aircraft to be used for activities.
 - (f) Any other information required by other conditions of this agreement or that is required by any resource consent held by the Permit Holder relating to these exploration operations.
2. The Permit Holder will undertake all work in accordance with the approved Annual Work Programme.
 3. The Permit Holder may, at any time, submit to the Minister for approval an amended Annual Work Programme provided that no work may occur under that amended Work Programme until it is approved in writing by the Manager.

NOTE: The Manager may require the Permit holder to vary the proposed Annual Work Programme to ensure the Activities are not inconsistent with the conditions of this Access Arrangement.

4. Where required by the Manager the Permit holder must amend the proposed Annual Work Programme accordingly.

GENERAL

5. The Permit Holder will undertake all exploration operations in accordance with the Access Arrangement application lodged by the Permit Holder, this Access Arrangement approved by the Minister, and an Authority to Enter and Operate issued by the Minister in accordance with Condition 10. In the event of inconsistency, the Access Arrangement and Authority to Enter and Operate will prevail over the application for Access Arrangement.
6. The Permit Holder will ensure that all equipment and machinery is kept in good working order and is regularly serviced and maintained to minimise noise, emissions and risk of pollution.
7. The Permit Holder will carry out the activity in such a manner that dust:
 - (a) Does not cause a nuisance to other persons, and
 - (b) Is not noxious, dangerous, offensive or objectionable to such an extent that it is or is likely to have an adverse effect on the environment.
8. The Permit Holder will carry out the activity in a manner which complies with the Resource Consent issued by Thames-Coromandel District Council.
9. The Permit Holder will keep a fire extinguisher on-site at all times.
10. All trees and other flora on the Land at all times remain the property of the Minister and will be used for purposes of onsite rehabilitation unless the Minister states in writing that they are not required for rehabilitation purposes and are to be disposed of in accordance with section 28 of the Conservation Act 1987.

EXPLORATION DRILLING

11. The Permit Holder is authorised to undertake exploration drilling at up to 9 drill/camp sites, 1 helipad and 1 stage pump (plus pipelines) identified on the plans in the First Schedule of this Access Arrangement.

Aircraft

12. The Permit holder and any pilot of aircraft authorised by this Access Arrangement must hold the applicable aviation document and privileges to conduct Activities under the Civil Aviation Rules and must comply with the Civil Aviation law.
13. The Permit holder must ensure that aircraft idle times on the ground are kept to a practicable minimum.

Exclusions Conditions

14. The Permit holder must not undertake the following activities on the land:
 - a. Exploration operations at any site(s) within 400 m of any open section of the Wentworth Falls Walk, Whangamata Tramping Track and/or Old Wires Track during the high visitor period of 23rd December to 6th February (inclusive) excepting those activities required to maintain the security and safety of the site(s);

- b. Any drilling activity and helicopter activity to service drill/camp/pump sites within 400 m of the Wentworth Falls Walk, Whangamata Tramping Track and/or Old Wires Track from 1 December to 28 February (inclusive),
- c. Any exploration operations, excepting any ecological surveys required under this Access Arrangement, within a Kauri Contamination Zone until the Manager has approved the Kauri Dieback Management Plan required by special Condition 64.
- d. Disturb or hinder public use, access or enjoyment of the Land otherwise unaffected by the Activities under this Access Arrangement;
- e. Conduct onsite processing using any chemicals (excluding biodegradable drilling fluids and muds), other than chemicals required for the safe use of portable toilets as long as any chemicals required for portable toilets are not separately stored, or discharged on the Land or any other public conservation land;
- f. Use permanent paint on vegetation or rock for marking purposes;
- g. Construct any new tracks involving vegetation clearance without the prior approval of the Manager;
- h. Other than as may be approved under (g), clear any vegetation outside of drill/camp/pump sites and helicopter landing areas specified in the First Schedule of this Access Arrangement or outside of sites authorised under any land use consent;

Management Plan and Certification Process

15. Where any condition requires the Permit holder to submit a management plan or any other document to the Manager for 'certification' or 'recertification', the process set out in clauses (a) and (b) must be followed by the Permit holder;

- a) The Permit holder must supply a management plan or any other document to the Manager;

NOTES: The certification (or withholding certification) of a management plan or any other document by the Manager must be based on the Manager's assessment as to whether the document adequately addresses its objectives or requirements as set out in the relevant condition requiring the document's certification.

- i. Should the management plan or any other document supplied in accordance with clause a) of this condition, in the opinion of the Manager, achieve the requirements of the relevant condition(s) requiring the document's certification, the Manager will issue a written confirmation (which will constitute 'the certificate') to the Permit holder that the requirements of the relevant condition(s) have been satisfied;
- ii. Where the management plan or other document supplied in accordance with clause a) of this condition, in the opinion of the Manager does not achieve the requirements of the relevant condition(s) requiring the document's certification, the Manager will advise the Permit holder in writing of the shortcomings, including additional information or measures it considers necessary to meet the requirements of the relevant condition(s), and ask that the management plan(s) or document(s) be modified to address the concerns, and then

be resubmitted;

iii. Certification will not be unreasonably withheld or delayed, and certification or a response is expected to take no longer than 30 working days.

b) The Permit holder must address any written response provided by the Manager and resubmit an amended management plan or any other document to the Manager for certification.

16. No later than the submission date referred to for the relevant document, the following documents must be submitted by the Permit holder to the Manager for certification:

To be certified by the Department of Conservation

Document	Submission Date
1. Kauri Dieback Management Plan (KDMP)	At least 30 working days prior to vegetation clearance occurring on the Land.
2. Rehabilitation and Closure Plan	At least 30 working days prior to the commencement of activities.
3. Frog Fencing Plan	At least 30 working days prior to vegetation clearance occurring on the Land.

17. The Permit holder must implement the certified management plans and other certified documents, and all Activities must be carried out in accordance with the certified management plans or other certified documents.

18. In the event of any conflict or inconsistency between the conditions of this Access Arrangement and the provisions of a certified version of a management plan, or any other document submitted to the Manager for certification, the conditions of this Access Arrangement must prevail.

19. The Permit holder must ensure that a copy of each management plan including any certified amendments, is available onsite at all times and that each copy is updated within 5 working days of any amendments being certified.

Amendments to Plans

20. The Permit holder may make amendments to any of the plans referred to in Condition 16 at any time. Any amendment to any plan must be submitted for recertification to the Manager and any works associated with the amendment must not commence until recertification has occurred in accordance with Condition 15.

Location of Drill/Camp/Pump Sites

21. In a situation where the exact site locations delineated on the plans attached to the First Schedule of this Access Arrangement prove unsuitable for the proposed exploration drilling operations due to unforeseen circumstances, new information or

specific matters in these Special Conditions, the Permit Holder must prepare a site assessment that identifies the conservation values at site and any ecological survey findings undertaken in accordance with Conditions 25-34 for the alternative drill/camp/pump site location. The site assessment must be provided to the Department, and alternative sites must be approved by the Hauraki District - Operations Manager. This may require a site visit by the Operations Manager or representative. Alternative sites must be in as close proximity to the originally approved site as possible.

22. The Permit holder must ensure that a minimum buffer of 30 m is maintained between the location of any drill/camp/pump site and any part of the Wentworth Falls Walk, Whangamata Tramping Track and/or Old Wires Track. No Drill Sites can be located within this buffer.

Vegetation Clearance and Site Disturbance Associated with Drill/Camp/Pump Site Locations

23. Vegetation clearance at each drill/camp/pump site in the Access Arrangement area must:
- a) not exceed 144 m² per drill/camp/pump Site; and
 - b) limit ground disturbance and vegetation clearance only to that necessary to accommodate the required equipment;

Advice Note: Vegetation clearance associated with drill/camp/pump Sites will comprise the clearance of any / all vegetation in the identified areas.

24. The Permit Holder must not fell any trees with a 50 cm or greater diameter at breast height at drill/camp/pump sites. Trimming of branches is permitted if the vegetation is likely to impair the function of frog fencing or is causing a safety risk to staff and contractors.
25. Prior to undertaking vegetation removal at any proposed drill/camp/pump Site, the Permit Holder must ensure that an ecological survey is undertaken by one or more suitably qualified ecologist(s) (including a suitably qualified herpetologist). The survey(s) must be undertaken over a 22 m x 22 m area(s) centred on the location of the 12 m x 12 m drill site footprint(s) as shown on map in the First Schedule.

Advice Note: The purpose of the ecological survey(s) is to provide a description of the wildlife and vegetation, including all species of flora and fauna detected, and the number, size (height and diameter at breast height) and estimated age of mature canopy and emergent trees.

26. If a frog nest, or a frog brooding eggs or froglets (i.e. small, tailed frogs) are observed during ecological surveys, or during vegetation clearance, all activities at that site must cease and an alternative site(s) must be selected, and Condition 21 applies.
27. Surveys undertaken under Condition 25 must be undertaken at least 3 times at night for frogs (i.e. over 3 separate nights) and at least 3 times at night and 3 times during the day for lizards, during climatic conditions that maximise the chance of native frog emergence (warm – at least 12 degrees C, after rain – i.e. ground and understory vegetation must be wet or moist, and little or no wind) and lizards (at least 12 degrees C and settled weather).
28. Surveys undertaken under Condition 25 must include the use of automatic bat detectors, which must be in place for a minimum of 2 weeks when weather is forecast to be fine, with relatively warm nights (e.g. when dusk temperature is $\geq 7^{\circ}\text{C}$) between October and March (when bats are most active).

29. Applicable to drill/camp sites 4,5 and 6. If surveys are undertaken during the Archey's frog breeding season (October to February inclusive) when male frogs are not emerging and are thus undetectable and highly vulnerable to disturbance (as are eggs / froglets), and if 1-4 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs are found, the site must be resurveyed as per the methodology and climate conditions detailed in Condition 27 outside of the breeding season (March to September inclusive) as per the methodology and climatic conditions detailed in Condition 27 to confirm the minimum number of native frogs present. If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs are found, then Condition 32 applies. If survey(s) are undertaken outside of the breeding season (March to September inclusive) as per the methodology and climatic conditions detailed in Condition 27 and if 1-4 frogs (inclusive) 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs are found, then Condition 33 applies. Best practice survey methods must be employed by the suitably qualified ecologist(s).
30. If any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs are found within drill/camp sites 1,2,3, 7, 8 and 9 during surveys required by condition 27 then condition 29 applies to the sites where frogs have been found. If any Archey's frogs are found during vegetation clearance at any of these sites, then condition 29 will apply at that site.
31. The Permit Holder must erect an exclusion fence around the 12 m x 12 m drill/camp site within 5 days after the final frog survey (i.e. after the 3rd night). Exclusion fences must be regularly inspected and maintained. If an exclusion fence cannot be erected within 5 days of the final survey, then the site must be resurveyed for an additional night (under environmental conditions outlined in Condition 27). Once constructed, the integrity of fences must be maintained at all times, and a final fence inspection must be completed by the Permit Holder no earlier than 2 days before site clearance works commence. If the integrity of the exclusion fence is not continuously maintained, the fence must be repaired, and the site must be resurveyed for frogs for an additional night (as outlined in Condition 29). Sites with exclusion fences in place for more than 6 months must also be resurveyed for frogs for an additional night (under environmental conditions outlined in Condition 27) to determine if any frogs have accessed the site during this period. If any resurvey occurs when climatic conditions do not maximise the chance for native frog emergence, the Permit Holder must seek advice from the Department of Conservation on how to proceed. This may include delaying works until surveys can be completed in suitable conditions. Fenced sites with camps and/or rigs on them are exempt from the 6-month re-survey requirement.
32. If five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found during the ecological surveys, or one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku inexpectatus*) are found in a survey undertaken under Condition 25, or during any subsequent ecological survey(s), then all activities at that site must immediately cease and the Permit Holder must determine if there is an alternative survey area where a 12 m x 12 m drill/camp/pump site could be located and Condition 21 applies.
33. If four or less 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs are found during the ecological surveys, the Permit Holder must mark and record each location with biodegradable flagging tape and GPS to give an error of no more than + 20.0 m.
34. The Permit Holder must impose a minimum buffer of 6 metres around any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frog found during the ecological survey(s) and position the drill/camp/pump Site outside of the buffer area.
35. Within 20 working days of the ecological survey(s) being undertaken, the Permit Holder must provide the Department of Conservation with written report(s) that include:
- a) The findings of the full ecological survey(s) required by Condition 25, including the GPS information and / or NZTM coordinates of any Archey's frog (*Leiopelma*

archeyi) and/or Hochstetter's frog (*Leiopelma hochstetteri*), and / or Northern striped gecko (*Toropuku inexpectatus*) found;

- b) A description of systematic search methods used, survey timing (date and time of day) and effort (number of person hours/site and site area in ha), the number of frogs and lizards observed and all biometric data collected (SVL, weight, habitat used etc), weather conditions prior to and at time of survey (at a minimum; mm of rain in the previous 24 hours, mm of rain during time of survey, air temperature, moisture on ground and vegetation (wet, damp or dry) and relative humidity) and a discussion of the results and any limitations to the data; and
 - c) The details of the species and individuals found and the NZTM coordinates of the ecological survey site(s) in any situation where 10 or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' lizards are found during any ecological survey(s) required by Condition 25 and / or found at any drill/camp/pump site.
- 36. All topsoil, felled trees, slash and other leafy materials removed at any Drill/Camp Site must be kept on or adjacent to the site and stockpiled in such a manner that they can be replaced on/restored at the site on completion of operations.
 - 37. On completion of all operations at each drill/camp/pump site, all equipment and materials must be removed, the stockpiled topsoil and other leafy materials replaced in their correct order as per the survey required in Condition 25.
 - 38. Vegetation removal must be undertaken in a manner that minimises the impacts on the surrounding vegetation and uses best practice tree felling techniques, including avoidance of felling of trees into waterways. The use of motorised chainsaws is only permitted for felling of trees where a hand tool cannot be used, and where a qualified Herpetologist is on site during vegetation clearance. All other vegetation shall be removed using non-motorised hand tools only. The Herpetologist must indicate which trees, or vegetation would be appropriate or not to remove, to avoid harm or mortality to any hidden frogs or other animals.
 - 39. During vegetation removal, rehabilitation resources including topsoil, subsoil, vegetation, wood, and rocks must be identified and salvaged where possible to be re-used during rehabilitation.
 - 40. A suitably qualified and experienced ecologist (including a suitably qualified herpetologist) must be present onsite during any vegetation clearance to survey habitat refugia and undertake any capture, handling and salvage for native lizards and frogs.
 - 41. If one or more northern striped gecko (*Toropuku* "Coromandel") or five or more 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found on the proposed drill/camp/p site(s) immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then all vegetation clearance and exploration operations at the Drill/Camp/pump Site(s) must immediately cease. The Permit holder must determine if there is an alternative survey area where a 12 m x12 m drill/camp site could be located and Condition 21 applies.
 - 42. If 1-4 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards are found on the proposed Drill/Camp Site(s) immediately prior to, or during vegetation clearance then they must be salvaged and moved to suitable habitat as assessed by the onsite herpetologist. The release site(s) will be at least 100 m away (but not more than 200 m) from the camp site and/or drill site to prevent herpetofauna from returning to the site(s).
 - 43. The Permit Holder must adhere to the national Frog Hygiene Protocol annexed as Appendix A to this Access Arrangement.
 - 44. The Permit Holder must provide the Department of Conservation with the following details of any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frogs or lizards found and relocated within 20 working days of the relocation:

- a) Description of systematic search methods used, survey timing (date and time of day) and effort (number of person hours/site and site area in ha), weather conditions prior to and at time of survey (at a minimum; mm of rain in the previous 24 hours, mm of rain during time of survey, air temperature, moisture on ground and vegetation (wet, damp or dry) and relative humidity) and a discussion of the results and any limitations to the data.
 - b) The number of frogs and lizards observed / relocated from each Site;
 - c) The NZTM coordinates of the release site(s) for each frog/lizard;
 - d) A clear dorsal photograph of the frog/lizard;
 - e) Weight and length of each frog/lizard;
 - f) Description of the habitat each frog/lizard was collected from and released into;
 - g) Length of time between the collection and release of each frog/lizard; and
 - h) Site map showing the release point of each frog.
45. The Permit Holder must ensure the buffer applied around each location where any 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' frog(s) are found during ecological surveys is at least 50% connected to surrounding suitable, undisturbed habitat.
46. The Permit Holder must erect sheer polythene fence(s) around any sump(s) or site(s) containing sump(s). The sheer polythene fence(s) must remain erected until the sump(s) have been removed, and the sump site(s) rehabilitated. Boardwalks must be placed on high use routes where frogs are present, and boardwalks regularly cleared of vegetation and leaf litter to prevent frogs accessing and/or sheltering on boardwalks.
47. The Permit Holder must mark out access routes for access to, and between drill/camp/pump sites and thereafter only access sites using the marked routes to access these sites. Boardwalks must be placed on high use routes where frogs are present, and boardwalks regularly cleared of vegetation and leaf litter to prevent frogs accessing and/or sheltering on boardwalks.

Management of "At Risk" and/or 'Threatened' Flora

48. Any *Pterostylis puberula*, *Pterostylis tasmanica* or king fern *Ptisana salicina* individuals found when establishing any Drill/Camp Site must be translocated to a suitable alternative site containing similar light, soil and vegetation community characteristics as determined by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist. The Department of Conservation must be notified of GPS information and/or NZTM coordinates of the transfer location within 20 working days of the transfer having occurred.
49. The transfer of any *Pterostylis puberula* and/or *Pterostylis tasmanica* must include a minimum 30cm diameter 'clump' of soil around the roots (to protect root structure and to retain any mycorrhizal associations).

Management of Avifauna Associated with Drill/Camp Sites

50. If vegetation clearance is undertaken between 1 August to 31 March, trees within the clearance area must be surveyed by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist for active bird nests within the 24 hours preceding the planned felling. If active native bird nests are detected, a setback must be established and clearly demarcated wherein no tree, or ground clearance can be undertaken until the nest is vacated or the chicks have fledged.
51. The setbacks required are:

- a. 20 m for a non-threatened native bird species; or
 - b. 30 m for a "Threatened" or "At Risk" bird species.
52. Prior to undertaking exploration operations during the falcon breeding season (September to December inclusive) drill sites and the surrounding habitat will be surveyed by a suitably qualified ecologist, approved by the Operations Manager – Hauraki for the presence of falcon nests or nesting pairs of falcons. Should a nesting pair be located, the drill site will not be drilled until after the nesting has been completed or moved to a site that is outside the falcon nesting territory.

Management of Bats Associated with Drill/Camp/Pump Sites

53. All vegetation clearance on the Land must be undertaken in accordance with the methodology specified in: Protocols for minimising the risk of felling bat roosts (Bat Roost Protocols) (BRP)) Version 4: October 2024 approved by the New Zealand Department of Conservation's Bat Recovery Group, or equivalent method agreed to in writing by the Manager.

Management of Terrestrial Invertebrates Associated with Drill/Camp Sites

54. If any Paua slug (*Schizoglossa novoseelandica*) and/or 'At Risk' or 'Threatened' invertebrates listed in the Department of Conservation's Threat Classification Lists (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/nztcs>) are discovered during any ecological survey(s) required by special condition 25 or during any vegetation clearance, then they will be salvaged prior to and/or during any vegetation clearance and released into similar habitat assessed by a suitably qualified ecologist at a distance no less than 50 m beyond the site.
55. The Permit holder must record the number and species of any translocated invertebrates.

Reporting

56. Within 20 working days of the completion of vegetation clearance at any drill/camp/pump site, the Permit Holder must provide a report prepared by a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist to the Department of Conservation which documents how the requirements of Conditions 23-55, to the extent they are relevant, have been addressed.

Fencing Plan

57. The Permit holder must submit a Fencing Plan to the Manager for written certification in accordance with Condition 16. Written certification is required to verify that the plan achieves the requirements of Conditions 58 and 59.
58. The objective of the Fencing Plan is to set out the procedures to be used to ensure that exclusion fences are constructed and maintained to prevent frogs (and help prevent lizards) from entering drill sites or exiting buffer zones.
59. The Fencing Plan must:
- a. Be prepared in consultation with the Manager
 - b. Describe the construction standard and methods that will be used for the

construction and maintenance of exclusion fences

- c. Describe how the exclusion fences will prevent frogs / lizards entering the sites and or sumps
 - d. Describe a maintenance schedule for the exclusion fences
 - e. Describe the procedures to be used to protect herpetofauna if there are any significant breaches of exclusion fences (e.g. tree fall across/through a fence)
60. The Permit holder must implement and comply with the Fencing Plan certified by the Manager at all times.
61. The Manager may request a review of the Fencing Plan and may require the Permit holder to amend the Fencing Plan at any time. The Permit holder must implement and comply with any amendments to the Fencing Plan certified by the Manager.
62. The Permit holder may, at any time, submit to the Manager for written certification an amended Fencing Plan provided that until a variation is certified, activities must be in accordance with the existing Fencing Plan.
63. The Permit holder must erect the frog / lizard exclusion fence (in accordance with the Fencing Plan requirements of Condition 59) around the perimeter of the site within 5 days after the final survey or native species translocation (whichever is the latter).

Kauri Dieback Management Plan

64. The Permit holder must submit a Kauri Dieback Management Plan to the Manager for written certification under Condition 16. Written certification is required to verify that the plan achieves the requirements of Conditions 65 and 66.
65. The objective of the Kauri Dieback Management Plan is to provide particular methods to:
- a. Minimise the risk of PA spreading into and (if present) within the Access Arrangement area by reducing movement of soils;
 - b. Monitor the health of kauri within the Access Arrangement area along walking tracks and within sites;
 - c. Facilitate controlled access to kauri forests where it does not compromise the future or protection of kauri.
66. The Kauri Dieback Management Plan must as a minimum:
- a. Include maps for visual tools which identify the location and extent of any proposed management and mitigation measures, including identification of which specific Areas within which these measures will occur;
 - b. Include details of monitoring and reporting to the Manager prior to, during and post exploration activities to determine if the Kauri Dieback Management Plan's objective is being met; and
 - c. Include details of the roles and responsibilities of key staff responsible for implementing the Kauri Dieback Management Plan and procedures for training of contractors and other Reefton Gold staff regarding the Kauri Dieback Management Plan.

67. All suspected sightings of Kauri Dieback Disease must be reported to the Manager, the Ministry for Primary Industries and Tiakina Kauri.
68. By 30 June each year the Permit holder must engage a suitably qualified and experienced ecologist to prepare an annual Kauri Dieback Monitoring Report that covers activities addressed in the Kauri Dieback Management Plan for the previous year.
69. The Kauri Dieback Monitoring Report required by Condition 68 must include:
- a. A description of any works and other actions envisaged by the Kauri Dieback Management Plan completed by the Permit holder in the previous twelve months;
 - b. Where aspects of the Kauri Dieback Management Plan have not been implemented, the reasons why, and the measures that have been taken by the Permit holder to address this;
 - c. An assessment of the effectiveness of the actions taken to implement the Kauri Dieback Management Plan in achieving its objective
 - d. Details of any amendments needed to the Kauri Dieback Management Plan to better ensure that the objective will be met.
70. If the Department is not satisfied that the actions taken by the Permit holder are achieving the objective of the Kauri Dieback Management Plan, the Manager may request a review of the Kauri Dieback Management Plan and may require the Permit holder to amend the Kauri Dieback Management Plan at any time. The Permit holder must implement and comply with any amendments to the Kauri Dieback Management Plan certified by the Manager.

Biosecurity Management

71. The Permit holder must ensure that all equipment to be used for the Activities are clean and free of any exotic weed and seed material prior to entry onto public conservation lands.
72. The Permit holder must avoid additional planting where possible to facilitate natural regeneration and to avoid introduction of pests and pathogens.
73. The Permit holder must take all practicable steps to minimise the establishment and spread of woody non-native species, dense lotus and large pasture grasses. The Permit holder must know the plants that are affected by myrtle rust and what the rust symptoms look like. This serious fungal disease only affects plants in the myrtle (myrtaceae) family which includes pōhutukawa, mānuka, kānuka and ramarama. See <https://myrtlerust.org.nz/>. If the Permit holder encounters suspected symptoms of myrtle rust, the Permit holder must not touch it and must take the following steps:
- a. Follow the most up to date advice from the Ministry for Primary Industries regarding exotic pest and disease protocols;
 - b. Take clear photos, including the whole plant, the whole affected leaf, and a close-up of the spores/affected areas of the plant;
 - c. Do not touch or try to collect samples as this may increase the spread of the disease;
 - d. If accidental contact with the affected plant or rust occurs, bag clothing

and wash clothes, bags and shoes as soon as possible.

74. The Permit holder must comply with the Ministry for Primary Industries' "Check, Clean, Dry" cleaning method to prevent the spread of didymo (*Didymosphenia geminata*) and other freshwater pests when moving between waterways. "Check, Clean, Dry" cleaning methods can be found at <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/cleaning>. The Permit holder must regularly check this website and update their precautions accordingly.

Chytrid fungus

75. The Permit holder must adhere to the national Frog Hygiene and Handling Protocol annexed as Appendix A of this Access Arrangement.

Wildlife Act Authority

76. The Permit holder must hold a Wildlife Act Authority for any activities associated with this Access Arrangement which involve the catching, holding, or release of wildlife.

Water Management

77. The Permit holder must ensure that all water used for drilling operations is filtered to remove drill cuttings prior to any discharge to the Land.
78. The Permit holder must ensure that all drill cuttings filtered from water are buried, pumped down the drill hole or removed from the Land.
79. The Permit holder must ensure that any water discharge from exploration or investigative drilling operations is monitored to ensure it does not enter any waterways.
80. The Permit holder must ensure that all sewage is collected and stored in containers and removed from the Land.

Rehabilitation

81. All buildings and fixed structures within the Access Arrangement area must be finished in recessive, natural colours and/or cladding materials that minimise their visual prominence and enable them to blend with the surrounding landscape. Colours from Groups A and B of BS 5252 Colour Range, that do not exceed a Light Reflectance Value (LRV) of 32 are suitable.
82. During vegetation removal, rehabilitation resources including topsoil, subsoil, vegetation, wood, and rocks must be identified and salvaged where possible to be re-used during rehabilitation.
83. The Permit holder must provide a Rehabilitation and Closure Plan for the Land to the Manager for written certification under Condition 16. Certification is required to verify that the plan meets the following objectives:
- a) The Access Arrangement area will remain stable, self- sustaining, and in a rehabilitated state;
 - b) Any water discharge will be of a quality such that it will not adversely affect aquatic life, or other users of the water resource;

84. The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan must describe the programme of rehabilitation (including re-vegetation and backfilling) that is proposed for the next twelve months.
85. The Rehabilitation and Closure Plan must be reviewed and updated annually.
86. All rehabilitation on the Land must be completed to the satisfaction of the Manager.
87. The Permit holder must record the rehabilitation undertaken under Condition 83 and weed control under Condition 89. These records must include the location and the date of the rehabilitation activity and the taking of a photographic record.
88. All trees, at all times, remain the property of the Manager. No trees may be removed from the Land. All drill core samples and core sample materials must be removed from the Land in their entirety.

WEED MANAGEMENT

89. The Permit holder must control any exotic weeds present within any drill/camp/pump site and/or helicopter site to the satisfaction of the Manager, during the term of this Access Arrangement and for a period of two years following the completion of exploration operations under this Access Arrangement.

STRUCTURES AND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

90. Except for the structures approved under this Access Arrangement, or subsequent AWP, the Permit Holder must not erect/place on the Land any additional sheds, containers or similar structures without further prior written approval from the Minister.
91. The Permit holder must provide self-contained toilets / “portaloos” for its staff and contractors at all times to ensure the containment of human waste.
92. All waste and effluent must be removed from the Land and disposed of at an appropriate facility during and upon the completion of the Activities.
93. The Permit Holder will comply with all Hazardous Substances and New Zealand Organisms Act 1996 (HSNO) regulations and requirements for the storage of hazardous substances, including fuel: <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/topic-and-industry/hazardous-substances/>
94. The Permit Holder will ensure that appropriate equipment is kept on site to deal with any fuel spills. All spills will be cleared up as soon as practicable.
95. All fuel or lubricant spills greater than approximately 1 litre, will be reported to the Minister at the earliest opportunity including the amount spilled, remedial action undertaken and any further actions required to fully remediate the site.
96. The Permit Holder will ensure that any refuelling, lubrication and/or maintenance and mechanical repairs on machinery are undertaken in an appropriate area where any spillages can be contained. No refuelling is to take place within 10 metres of any waterway.

PUBLIC ACCESS, AWARENESS AND SAFETY

97. The Permit holder must not prevent public access to the Land or parts of the Land unless that land has been closed to the public under the Conservation Act, or with the approval of the Manager. Where public closure has occurred, the Permit holder is deemed to have been given approval to trespass the public for unlawful entry.
98. Prior to the commencement of activities authorised by this Access Arrangement at each drill/camp/pump site, clear signage and/or markers must be erected around the Drill/Camp Site to prevent members of the public accidentally accessing the drill/camp/pump site while construction activities are occurring.
99. The Permit Holder must place signs approved by the Operations Manager - Hauraki at the entrance to the Old Wires Track, Wentworth Falls Track and at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre at least two days prior to the commencement of activities authorised by this Access Arrangement, to alert visitors to the Old Wires Track and Wentworth Falls Track of the hazards associated with the exploration operations.
100. The Permit Holder must ensure that the authorised helicopter landing site is maintained to ensure public safety and post notices at the site advising the public of the hazards associated with the helicopter landings.

DOGS

101. The Permit Holder will not take any dog or other domestic animal on to the Land unless written approval to do so has been obtained from the Minister.

REMOVAL OF MATERIAL

102. At the completion of the exploration operations the Permit Holder will remove from the site all materials, including rubbish, structures, equipment and pipelines associated with the exploration operations, unless the Minister has given prior written approval for the item(s) to remain.

IN RESPECT OF HAURAKI IWI

103. The Permit Holder shall ensure that authorised representatives of Hauraki iwi are permitted reasonable access to the AA area at any time during the Term of this Access Arrangement for the purposes of site visits, monitoring, inspection, cultural oversight, or any other matter relating to the exploration works.
104. The Permit Holder shall cooperate with Hauraki iwi to facilitate such visits and shall not unreasonably withhold, delay, or restrict access, provided that visitors comply with all applicable health, safety, security, and operational requirements while on site.

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SITES

105. If any unidentified archaeological site is located when exercising this consent, the following procedures must be undertaken by the Permit holder:
- a) All work must cease, and where practicable machinery within 20 m of the discovery shut down;
 - b) The Permit holder must notify the Heritage New Zealand Regional Archaeologist and DOC Operations Manager - Hauraki;

- c) If the site appears to be of Māori origin, the Permit holder must also notify the tangata whenua entities listed in d. of the discovery and ensure site access to enable appropriate cultural procedures and tikanga to be undertaken (as long as all statutory requirements under the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014 and the Protected Objects Act 1975 have been met);
- d) The tangata whenua entities referred to in c. are:
- i. Ngāti Hako
 - ii. Ngāti Maru
 - iii. Ngāti Porou ki Hauraki
 - iv. Ngāti Pū
 - v. Ngāti Hei
 - vi. Ngāti Tamaterā
 - vii. Ngāti Tara Tokanui / Ngāti Koi
 - viii. Ngaati Whanaunga
 - viii. Any other group invited by the iwi listed above.
- e) If human remains (koiwi tangata) are discovered, the Permit holder must also advise the New Zealand Police; and
- f) Works affecting the discovery must not recommence until Heritage New Zealand provides written approval or an archaeological authority has been obtained. Such authorisations must be provided to the Department of Conservation.

Department of Conservation staff engagement

106. The Manager may require the Permit holder to have a Department of Conservation employee, liaison person, agent or contractor appointed by the Manager to oversee any operation or activity on the Land the Manager considers appropriate. The costs of any such person appointed must be met by the Permit holder.
107. The Permit holder may request the Department in writing to remove and replace any person appointed under Condition 106 if the Permit holder can show reasonable grounds for such removal. The Department will make the final decision in respect of the removal of such person or persons.

APPENDIX A

Generic Frog Hygiene and Handling Protocol

Background/aims:

- To minimise any possible spread of chytrid fungus and other pathogens to, within and/or between monitoring sites
- To avoid artificially increasing contact between frogs
- To implement the highest level of hygiene protocol that is effective and practicable in the field

Principles:

- Contamination can be managed/reduced through hygiene.
- New or disposable equipment is not a source of infection.
- Use of disinfectants will kill zoospores on equipment and clothing.
- Use of disinfectants will kill zoospores on footwear which has been first scrubbed clean to remove dirt.
- New or disinfected equipment/clothing/footwear should be used at every new site.
- New or disinfected equipment should be used for each frog, where practicable.
- When working in areas in or near where there are native frogs, hygiene protocols should be followed as if chytrid fungus and ranavirus are present and novel pathogenic organisms may be present

Protocol:

Site hygiene:

- Clean between sites by ensuring that soil and other organic matter is removed from all gear including footwear, gaiters, rainwear, clothing, packs, frog handling/measuring equipment and any other equipment used in the area including storage bins.
- Disinfect between sites including footwear, gaiters, rainwear, clothing, packs, frog handling/measuring equipment and any other equipment used in the area including storage bins (Table 1)
 - All clothing must be freshly laundered using hot water, Sterigene, F10 Veterinary disinfectant or Virkon S (including outer clothing).
 - Apply disinfectant solution either via a soaking spray, a very wet wipe-down solution or submersion to achieve good coverage and the correct contact time.
 - Due to rapid evaporation, alcohol sprays will need to be repeatedly reapplied to ensure the full 2 minute contact time before air drying.
 - Wherever a chemical disinfectant is used (e.g. Sterigene, bleach, F10) this must be rinsed off in clean (tap) water after the appropriate contact time.
 - Plan ahead to allow drying times

- Footwear and gaiters must be cleaned and disinfected at the point of entry to a frog field site.
- Dogs: Clean all soil from within the recesses of the dog's paws and from their coat before entering a site and after leaving. At home, use clean water and a dog-friendly soap or shampoo to thoroughly wash all soil off the dog's paws and coat. Dermcare Malaseb shampoo (antifungal and antibacterial dog shampoo, available from vets) can be used prior to entering high conservation value sites. Follow product label directions for use.

Frog handling hygiene:

- A new glove(s) must be used for catching and handling each frog (the same glove can be re-used on the same frog if that glove remains isolated from other frogs and/or their body fluid).
- Each frog must be held in a separate plastic bag (one plastic bag is used per capture and then disposed of).
- Each frog must be weighed and measured in the plastic bag.
- If frogs are too small to be measured in a plastic bag then callipers should be disinfected between frogs using alcohol wipes.
- A new stage platform cover must be used for photographing each frog.
- All stage platform covers must be soaked in 70% ethanol for 2 minutes and air dried between frogs.
 - covers are disinfected daily, sufficient covers must be available for each night so that a clean one can be used for each frog
 - if there are not sufficient covers then they must be cleaned with alcohol wipes.
- The mirror stage must be disinfected with either 70% ethanol (contact time at least 2 minutes, then air dried) or Sterigene or similar product (rinsed thoroughly and air dried) between sites and wiped with alcohol wipes or 70 % ethanol between successive nights at the same site.
- Alcohol wipes must contain 70% alcohol (either ethanol or isopropyl alcohol) and 30% water. Wipe surface for 2 minutes (more than one alcohol wipe may be needed if the first dries). Some alcohol wipes have other additives which will remain when the surface is dried and which are toxic to frogs - these must not be used.
- Minimise handling time to reduce stress and to avoid side effects of stress.
- Sick or dead frogs should be collected and held separately from all other frogs until delivered to the appropriate recipient. All equipment should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Wherever a chemical disinfectant is used (e.g. sterigene, bleach, F10) this must be rinsed off after the disinfection time. Ethanol can be air dried.

Table 1: Disinfection strategies for frog field studies (minimum times and concentrations) that will kill chytrid fungus and ranavirus

Purpose	Disinfectant	Concentration	Mix	Time	Rinse required	References
Disinfecting cloth (e.g. clothing, cloth bags)	Sterigene	50mL per 4 kg laundry load (do not use detergent, do not overfill)		Normal wash time	Yes	6 (Product label)
	Hot Wash and complete drying	60°C or greater		15 minutes	No	3
Disinfecting footwear	Sodium hypochlorite (household bleach, 4% concentration)	0.5%	5ml bleach in 1 litre water	1minute	Yes	2,3,4
	Sterigene (Trigene)	1%	10ml in 1 litre water (1:100)	1 minute	Yes	3,5, Product label
	F10 Veterinary disinfectant	1%	10ml in 1 litre water (1:100)	1 minute	Yes	3,5, Product label
	Virkon S ¹	1%	10g virkon in 1 litre water	1 minute	Yes	2,3,4, Product label
Disinfecting collection equipment, instruments and containers	Sodium hypochlorite (household bleach, 4% concentration)	0.5%	5ml bleach in 1 litre water	1minute	Yes	2,3,4
	Sterigene (Trigene)	1%	10ml in 1 litre water (1:100)	1 minute	Yes	3,5, Product label
	F10 Veterinary disinfectant	1%	10ml in 1 litre water (1:100)	1 minute	Yes	3,5, Product label
	Virkon S ¹	1%	10g virkon in 1 litre water	1 minute	Yes	2,3,4, Product label
	Ethanol (including alcohol wipes)	70%	Apply liberally	2 minutes	Air dry	1,3,4
	Isopropyl alcohol (including alcohol wipes)	70%	Apply liberally	2 minutes	Air dry	1
	Heat	60°C or greater		15 minutes	No	7

¹ WARNING – Virkon is a corrosive substance which will corrode gear over time!

Notes

- Salt solution is not effective on either chytrid fungus or ranavirus
- Leaving gear to dry is only effective against chytrid fungus not ranavirus
- Give everything a good spray, not just a sprinkle
- Items can be rinsed in clean (tap) water after the appropriate contact time, but it is important that they are left to dry thoroughly
- The activity of household bleach begins to reduce once diluted, so this solution must be made fresh each day. Other solutions will last longer after dilution; refer to the manufacturer's instructions. Use alcohol from a small, sealed container and replace regularly. Check expiry dates on the concentrated products and don't use expired disinfectants
- Concentration is important. Diluting products to the correct concentration is key to its efficacy.

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