

Introduction

Name:

Privacy of natural persons

Email:

Privacy of natural persons

Business name or organisation (if applicable):

Position title (if applicable):

Is this an individual submission or on behalf of a group or organisation?

Individual

Please indicate which group you most identify with or are involved in?

Other group most identified with (individual submission)

Please specify the group that you most identify with

Marine scientist and member of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, although contributing in a private capacity herein.

Please indicate which type of group your submission represents.

Please specify the group or organisation that your submission is on behalf of.

Vision

Do you agree or disagree with the overall vision for the minerals and petroleum sector in New Zealand?

Strongly disagree

Why?

Mining petroleum (oil, gas, coal or hydrates) has no place in a vision statement at this point.

What is your vision for the minerals and petroleum sector in New Zealand?

The CMA should be repealed and the sector's governance should be incorporated into a revised RMA and EEZ-CS Act and regulated according to ecologically sustainable principles in accord with the necessary amendments to those Acts and the forthcoming Zero Carbon Act, thereby making the CMA redundant.

How can New Zealand sustainably derive value from its petroleum and minerals resources?

It cannot sustainably drive value from finite resources. The notion is a non-sequitur. There are, nevertheless, opportunities for cycling of some existing mined resources.

Objectives for the minerals and petroleum sector

Objective for a sector that: "Responsibly delivers value for New Zealand (a) Supporting a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy (b) Supporting New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy".

Strongly disagree

Why?

The objective appears to be predicated on the demonstrably false notion of using gas as a bridge fuel.

Objective for a sector that: “Is productive and innovative”.

Strongly disagree

Why?

The objective appears to be predicated on the demonstrably flawed notion of CCS.

Objective for a sector that: “Is effectively regulated”.

Disagree

Why?

The industry has been largely self-regulated here and elsewhere, with massive continuing environmental and societal harm - climate disruption, ocean acidification and deoxygenation, plastic pollution and growing inequality.

Are there any other objectives for the minerals and petroleum sector that you would like us to consider in the strategy?

Objective to cease all exploration for petroleum - the costs far outweigh the benefits.

Guiding principles

Principle: The environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity are respected now and in the long term.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

What does 'respected' mean?

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Agree

Why?

I am not of Maori heritage so cannot comment further.

Principle: Support the transition to a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

Strongly disagree

Why?

As above, this principle appears to be predicated on the false notion that gas is a bridge fuel.

Principle: The impact on people, communities and regions are managed in a just and inclusive way.

Agree

Why?

The University of Otago deprivation index clearly indicated that communities closest to fossil fuel operations were heavily deprived.

Principle: Support a circular economy by meeting resource needs through resource efficiency, recycling and reuse.

Strongly agree

Why?

This has to be the economy of the future. We cannot continue to exploit earth's finite resources, nor use our biosphere as a dumping ground..

Principle: Actions taken within the mineral and petroleum sector should align with the strategic direction of other related sectors and Government strategies.

Strongly agree

Why?

Under the previous government, NZ was expected to be a major net exporter of petroleum by 2030 - a deeply flawed strategy consistent with denial of the major impacts. The present government is trying to address this, but will face significant challenges from powerful vested interests, including some within the bureaucracy. Our overarching strategy needs to be focused on inter-generational equity and a life-sustaining biosphere. These are major challenges.

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following principles for the Crown?

Principle: The Crown honours its duty towards Māori as a Treaty partner, adheres to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and its duty to meet settlement commitments.

Disagree

Why?

Honour the treaty, not the principles.

Principle: The Crown receives a fair financial return for its minerals and petroleum.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

What is meant by 'fair financial return'? Does this include costs for decommissioning of infrastructure, or for coping with climate disruption and ocean impacts all directly attributable to the petroleum industry? To date, NZ has squandered these resources, with very low, by world standards) royalties, and large decommissioning costs ahead.

Principle: The Crown regulates in a way that is fair, transparent, reasonable and proportionate.

Agree

Why?

This will be best achieved by incorporating the sector's governance into other Acts, following necessary amendments to reflect reality (eg. including considerations of GHG emissions on climate change), repealing the CMA, and also including better resourcing and guidance of regional and district councils, notably in Taranaki.

Principle: The Crown honours the rights of current permit holders to continue production or exploration activities under existing permits.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Time is of the essence, here and globally. We need to be setting examples of rapid transition and are in a better position to do this than most other nations.

Principle: The Crown makes policy decisions based on the best evidence, and accounting for the foreseeable need for minerals and petroleum, both now and for future generations.

Strongly agree

Why?

The best evidence (eg. peer-reviewed scientific journals) has warned of the need to stop combusting fossil fuels for decades. Those warnings continue to become increasingly strident, as the 'window' of opportunity to avoid run-away climate disruption and massive changes to ocean chemistry rapidly closes. Positive climate feedbacks are now in train (polar albedo loss, permafrost melt, hydrate release off continental shelves, among others), and tipping points are perilously close. We cannot continue with 'business as usual', hard as that will be for those promoting the industry.

Principle: The Crown proactively engages and consults with relevant stakeholders and decisions are communicated in a clear and transparent way.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Who are 'relevant stakeholders'? Surely the government needs to act in the best interests of the public, now and for future generations.

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following principles for Industry?

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Health and safety of the public must be paramount.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly disagree

Why?

This is a meaningless term that industry has used recklessly, without clear definitions or examples, as demonstrated in the recent Taranaki Energy Watch case against South Taranaki District Council.

Principle: Seek innovative ways to improve the resource efficiency of extraction operations; and minimise the negative impacts of these operations.

Disagree

Why?

In respect of petroleum, this principle appears to be predicated on the false notion of a role for CCS.

Principle: Engage with stakeholders and implement management systems to understand and manage impacts, and realise opportunities for redress where needed.

Disagree

Why?

This sounds reassuring but the major impacts are beyond management.

Are there any other principles you would like us to consider in the strategy?

Principle to rapidly end exploration and mining of petroleum.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly disagree

Why?

The CMA should be repealed and these resources regulated under a revised RMA, EEZ-CS Act, Zero Carbon Act and other relevant legislation.

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

See above.

Action Area: Securing affordable resources to meet our minerals and energy needs

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

'affordable' in what sense? Affordable in short-term economics that takes no account of 'externalities' or affordable in terms of trying to minimize impacts of disruption to climate and ocean chemistry, agriculture and the future of humanity and our biosphere?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

See above.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Agree

Why?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Read, understand and act in a precautionary way on the climate science.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Agree

Why?

See above.

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Action Area: Research and investment in better mining and resource use

Disagree

Why?

We need investment in truly renewable forms of energy and cycling of minerals, not further extraction.

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

See above.

Are there any other action areas you would like us to consider as part of advancing this Strategy?

Other

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the “Minerals and Petroleum Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand: 2019-2029”?

The strategy appears predicated on continuing with some form of 'business as usual' for the minerals and petroleum sector. That time is gone. Gas is not a bridge fuel, CCS is not a valid excuse to continue producing more GHG. The CMA should be repealed and the sector managed under other relevant resource legislation consistent with inter-generational equity and the precautionary principle.

If you wish to, attach a document to this submission.

Use and release of information

We intend to upload submissions to our website at www.mbie.govt.nz. Can we include your submission on the website?

Yes

Can we include your name?

No

Can we include your email address?

No

Can we include your business name or organisation?

No

Can we include your position title?

No

Can we include the group you most identify with (if submitting as an individual)?

Yes

Can we include the group your submission represents (if submitting on behalf of a group or organisation)?

If there are any other parts to your submission that you do not want public on the website please note them below:

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