

## 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?**

General public

**Please specify the group that you most identify with**

**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?**

Disagree

**Why?**

For me, an "environmentally and socially responsible way" means eliminating emissions from fossil fuels as soon as possible. That is absolutely essential to avoid catastrophic climate change. The effect on our society of several degrees of warming and several metres of sea level rise will be staggering. In that sense, I agree with the statement, but I suspect that the "minerals and petroleum sector" defines environmental and social responsibility differently, and therefore I disagree with how the statement will presumably be interpreted.

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

Minerals in general can be important raw materials in valuable goods and services. Petroleum and other fossil fuels must be cut back to zero as fast as possible. In order to reach the objectives set by the Zero Carbon Act, we should set more ambitious targets. Internal combustion engine vehicles should be drastically reduced, so that no more enter the country after 2030.

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

As noted above, I believe sustainable value creation is not compatible with petroleum. Besides its use as a fossil fuel, petroleum is a raw ingredient in plastics. Plastics are another major hazard for our environment, since they do not biodegrade and their decay timescales are extremely long.

**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".**

Agree

**Why?**

I would emphasise the transition to carbon neutrality by putting it first, because I believe it to be more challenging. Otherwise I agree with the statement.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Who wouldn't want to be productive and innovative?

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

The potential for environmental damage by the minerals and petroleum sector is enormous. Strong regulation is our best tool to prevent damage. If damage can not be prevented, strong regulation will help to ensure that those who cause the damage take responsibility for restoring our environment.

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

Recycling should be encouraged so that less raw minerals are needed.

**Guiding principles**

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Humans often think of themselves as separate from the environment, but without a healthy and robust ecosystem we would be doomed.

**Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.**

Agree

**Why?**

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

The choice has to be made. The world must either reduce its greenhouse gas emissions to levels that natural ecosystems can absorb. Or, we choose to live in a world that is several degrees warmer. With sea levels several metres higher. Where many ecosystems will be damaged. With perhaps many other consequences which are impossible to foresee because our planet has never experienced such rapid warming before.

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

Agree

**Why?**

I am sure that all New Zealander agree with this principle. I have not put "strongly agree" because I believe our environment is under greater threat from the mineral and petroleum sector than our people, communities and regions are.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

Neither agree nor disagree

**Why?**

The sector is largely privately owned, and hence the government's ability to ensure strategic alignment is limited.

**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.**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

Agree

**Why?**

Companies extracting minerals from our country should absolutely pay the government for that right. I have not chosen "strongly agree" because the financial return should not be the primary objective. For example, we actually have to leave petroleum resources in the ground in order to avoid catastrophic climate change, even though the short term financial return would be higher if we allowed mining to go ahead.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

Disagree

**Why?**

In general, as a society governed by a code of laws, existing contracts and agreements should be honoured. However, I believe it is accurate to refer to climate change as a "crisis". Because of the impending crisis, I believe it is appropriate to reassess

existing permits. It may be necessary to modify legislation or renegotiate permits. Given that existing fossil fuel reserves already contain enough carbon to trigger catastrophic climate change, exploring for new resources does not seem rational. It can only lead to stranded assets.

**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.**

Agree

**Why?**

The sentence makes sense. However, I would encourage The Crown to use its power to influence the need for minerals and petroleum. For example, by encouraging recycling and the uptake of electric vehicles.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

**Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

**Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

Agree

**Why?**

In many cases, the best way to minimise the negative impacts of these operations will be to stop them.

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

Agree

**Why?**

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

I would like the government to ensure that all externalities created by the minerals and petroleum industry and paid for by that industry. It is unfair for the rest of society to have to cover costs.

**Action areas intro**

**Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act**

Agree

**Why?**

It should be explicitly tied into the Zero Carbon Act

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

Perhaps permits should be limited to a period of 5 years, to align with the time periods for reassessment under the Zero Carbon Act.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Renewable energy production and storage will need to be expanded in order to replace fossil fuels for heating, vehicles etc.

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

Internalise externalities by increasing the cost of carbon under the Emissions Trading Scheme. Provide clear descriptions of future plans. For example, if the price of fossil fuels will increase and/or their availability will decrease then people might reconsider installing gas heating or stoves. They might be more willing to install rooftop solar power instead.

**Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership**

Agree

**Why?**

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

**Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement**

Neither agree nor disagree

**Why?**

New Zealand already has world leading engagement via the RMA and the select committee process. The level of transparency is relatively high, which helps to mitigate special access for lobbyists.

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

**Action Area: Improving industry compliance**

Agree

**Why?**

I believe that industry compliance in NZ is relatively high. Of course, it could always be better.

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

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

Neither agree nor disagree

**Why?**

For some resources this might be worthwhile. For petroleum and fossil fuels, there is a huge risk that any investment will become a stranded asset.

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

It would be preferable to research and invest in recycling. Recycling not only reduces the amount of raw resources required, it also reduces the amounts that have to be imported or exported.

**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”?**

**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](http://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:**

**OIA publishing warning**

**If there is information in your submission that you wish to remain confidential, please note them below:**