

Introduction

Name:

Charles Drace

Email:

charles@cdrace.co.nz

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?

Environmental

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?

Strongly disagree

Why?

A world-leading minerals and petroleum sector means death to future generations because of all the CO2 and methane produced

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

No fossil fuel production beyond 2030

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

It's impossible to derive value from petroleum resources sustainably

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?

It's impossible to 'responsibly' deliver value from oil, gas and coal. Unless all three are eliminated by 2030 there will be no transition to a carbon neutral economy.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Being productive and innovative in the oil, gas and coal industries is death to future generations and the opposite of what the Carbon Neutral Bill is trying to achieve.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Effectively regulated by standards set by law. Any volunteer standards will fail to protect us or meet our human rights obligations to eliminate fossil fuels productions.

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

A legally binding plan of policies to eliminate fossil fuels production by 2030.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

They are certainly not respected now and this strategy makes sure they will not be respected in the future.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

'Support' doesn't mean anything. The transition requires eliminating fossil fuels productions b

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

'Management' has always failed. Just look at our rivers and lakes. The protection of people, communities and regions must be controlled by laws that the polluting fossil fuels industries must legally obey.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

'Support' means nothing. Where's the distinct plan.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Not with the RMA in its current form and other laws/policies that allow fossil fuels production.

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.

Strongly disagree

Why?

If the Crown is continuing to look towards the fossil fuels industries for a financial return we can kiss any progress on global warming goodbye.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The Crown must regulate in accordance with its Paris agreement to limit heating to 1.5° and in accordance with its human rights obligations not to cook the world.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The existing permits and any further exploration means the government will continue with its current goal of limiting global heating to 3.75°, not the 1.5° it's obliged under the Paris agreement to meet.

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 disagree

Why?

Because these decisions, as in the part, will be based on information provided by the fossil fuels industries.

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.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Industry best practices means more global heating.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Any extraction creates more global heating which the world cannot deal with.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Industry lobby groups should not be stakeholders as their goals are to create a world that future generations cannot live in.

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

Eliminate fossil fuels productions in New Zealand by 2030.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Agree

Why?

To Eliminate fossil fuels productions in New Zealand by 2030.

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

To Eliminate fossil fuels productions in New Zealand by 2030.

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

Stiongly disagree

Why?

"Affordable' means more greenhouse gas emissions.

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

Switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

The fossil fuels industries cannot be accepted as stakeholders because their goals are to increase greenhouse gas emissions.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

But don't hold your breath expecting industry to improve compliance

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

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Better mining means more environmental degradation

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

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”?

There is no distinction made between fossil fuels, which must go to zero as fast as possible because they are driving climate change, and other minerals which should be assessed on their environmental impact. There is no distinction made between aggregates, rock used for roading and concrete which are abundant and can be mined with very low impact, and minerals like gold which cause major environmental disruption. Metals essential for the transition to a zero carbon economy (eg lithium, cobalt) should be given priority over those which are merely “nice to have” (eg gold – there is enough gold already above ground for essential industrial uses.)

The draft Strategy is not consistent with the Government’s policy on climate change, which is to achieve zero carbon by 2050 under the Paris Accord. Everything in the Strategy must fit within the framework of the climate emergency, and the need to change the ways we do things. BAU is not an option anymore. Reference this to recent science if you can.

It is not good enough to say (Principle 1) that ecosystems and biodiversity must be “respected”. So we say a little prayer and carry on as in the past? We should insist on the word “protected”.

Principle 10 (continuing production and exploration under current permits) puts the property rights of miners ahead of the transition to zero carbon. It means renewal and expansion of existing oil drilling licences even when there is a ban on new oil drilling. We should not accept any form of Principle 10 for fossil fuels, and for other resources it should be dependent on environmental impact.

Gas is NOT a sustainable bridge to a low carbon (let alone zero carbon) economy. It's carbon dioxide emissions are more like 60% of coal rather than the 50% often quoted by industry, and we have to add to that significant methane releases from all parts of the production and use cycle. (They know this!) Particularly, any new gas wells or infrastructure will be used for decades and take us backwards from the zero carbon future. It should be phased out in the same way as coal and oil.

The Strategy should set a timeframe for the phase out of fossil fuels, starting with no new coal mines or oil and gas wells, and protecting essential uses of these fuels (eg steel making) for as long as possible, while closing down uses for which there are good substitutes, like electricity generation, promptly.

There is lip service paid to a circular economy, which is good, but no steps to take to start the difficult journey to get there. This needs a strategy on its own.

The diagrams beginning on page 17 are very useful for people who have not previously engaged with the process; but the section on mining techniques doesn't even mention fracking! This is the most destructive of techniques and needs to stop as part of the phase out. It is only used for oil and gas.

The Strategy proposes "balancing impacts across all 4 capitals". This is not OK! Climate and environmental protection must take precedence over revenue to the Crown, for example.

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?

Yes

Can we include your email address?

Yes

Can we include your business name or organisation?

Can we include your position title?

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: