

## Introduction

### Name:

Dan Smith

### 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?

Neither agree nor disagree

### Why?

This statement is impossible to evaluate, given that it provides no context about how the sector plans to “deliver value for New Zealanders” (for example, they could deliver real value by leaving all minerals and oil reserves in the ground). Therefore my only comment is that it is only focussed on New Zealanders, and does not take the rest of the world (or its pressing issues) into consideration.

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

Minerals and petroleum are finite resources - i.e. they are not renewable on a meaningful timescale. As such these industries are not sustainable and their related sectors cannot operate indefinitely. With a growing need for energy and products, we must look beyond traditional sectors like this one. With limited means, this means reinvesting this sector’s budget into sustainable industries. Through research and (re-)education, we can support the livelihood of the next generation of workers and citizens (both young and old).

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

It cannot. We have learned the hard way what exploiting these resources does to our environment. We must learn from our mistakes, rather than pretend that we can continue to thrive by maintaining our present course.

### 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 hesitate to 'Strongly Agree' because this is difficult to answer in context of the minerals and petroleum sector. Yes, (a) and (b) are critical for New Zealand - as with all nation's economies. But, we have other existing, renewable industries, which can power us through this transition. I am unsure as to why this "Resource strategy consultation questionnaire" is focussed on finite resources only.

### Objective for a sector that: "Is productive and innovative".

Agree

### Why?

I hesitate to 'Strongly agree' as we need to justify the amounts that we produce (of anything). Producing excessive amounts leads to profit and ignores hidden costs.

### Objective for a sector that: "Is effectively regulated".

Strongly agree

### Why?

The key term here is "effectively". Transparent regulation is key to ensuring that the regulation is effective, rather than just wordsmithing to allow for legal loopholes. New Zealanders need to be educated and consulted before regulations become law.

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

A key objective should be to retain our existing skill base. There is no point in 'throwing the baby out with the bathwater'. We need to transition this sector's mental model to a sustainable one. Existing workforces must be incentivised to retrain, as they will become the backbone and leaders of our new industry, before future generations can step into this role. New Zealanders are smart and creative and, faced with a fresh set of challenges, I have confidence that those in the affected sector will prevail given sufficient encouragement.

### Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

### Why?

We are but one small part of nature's ecosystem. It is our responsibility as the dominant species to ensure that the existing ecosystem remains intact. We are not evolved enough to understand how to reengineer our own ecosystem or any other.

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

Strongly agree

### Why?

European settlers have thrived in New Zealand, but only at great cost to our natural environment. In contrast, Māori settlers lived far more harmoniously with the environment, taking on a role of stewardship. Going forward, we need to respect and

learn from the best parts of all cultures that now call New Zealand home, including Māori.

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

Agree

**Why?**

I hesitate to 'Strongly Agree', as we need to take steps urgently and immediately. Putting a 'due date' on our efforts leaves too much room for procrastination and reinterpretation by successive peoples and governments. If we feel that this is an urgent issue, NOW, then we need to urgently act, NOW.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Dismantling our traditional industries will have wide reaching implications for people, their communities, and the regions they live in. It may be that people need to resettle in the coming years in order to move closer to newer, sustainable industries. Keeping communities intact through this kind of change is a major hurdle and one that requires heavy investment and consultation.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Yes, and we need to invest in the technologies required to recycle on our own shores. Off-shore recycling/dumping and landfills just hide the problem for a future generation to deal with.

**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?**

As with the first question, this one is difficult to judge as you have not stated the strategic direction of any other related sectors or of Government in general. There are many voices and competing agendas in Government and, if we have an opportunity to make sustainable progress in one sector, we must not let this be undermined or held back by lethargy in any of the other sectors.

**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?**

So we can build trust and move forward as equals.

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

Strongly disagree

**Why?**

Again this can be interpreted in a number of ways, but if the question is whether the Crown should sell 'its' assets just because it 'owns' them, then the answer is an unequivocal No. The Crown must recognise that in the current climate, holding on to things has an equal or greater value than liquidating them for profit. On the other hand, if the Crown is asking whether offshore companies should pay a fair price for our resources, then yes they should, but no - we shouldn't be trying to sell them, we should leave them in situ.

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

Agree

**Why?**

I agree on the first two points. The second two are historically grey areas where these terms can be manipulated to favour one group over another.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

Given the global climate crisis, I think the Crown can point to this as justification for cancelling permits. Those companies must be compensated though, it's only fair.

**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?**

Any action must be based on evidence. Foreseeable needs, however, are a grey area - the Crown can influence demand by changing the law or incentivising people and companies to switch energy sources. Therefore policy decisions need to factor in the ability to change behaviour - if the will is there to do this.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Issues like energy affect everyone.

**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 are key to a sustainable workforce.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Some industries have better practice than others, so sometimes guidance is required.

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

Agree

**Why?**

I'm confused. This question is about the principles proposed for Industry. We have industries in New Zealand who do not extract resources. Do you extract water to power a dam? Do you extract cattle to make wool? Yes, if you extract something you should do it as efficiently as possible. No, I don't think we should be extracting minerals and petroleum at all.

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

Agree

**Why?**

This question needs to define who the stakeholders are. Yes, Crown and Industry need to engage with New Zealanders so that their business and profitability are transparent and ethical. No, we don't need companies to be motivated by only investor stakeholders. Redress occurs after a mistake has been made, we need to avoid making these in the first place.

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

No.

**Action areas intro**

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

I am not familiar with the act, but laws and acts should keep pace with the times.

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

Educate people and organisations about the current system and ask for their suggestions to improve it.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

**Why?**

Yes, the Crown should try to get the best deal when it purchases on behalf of its taxpayers. No, we should not be buying finite resources from other countries, as it undermines global efforts to contain the climate crisis. Yes, we have energy needs, but these can also be shaped by law and investment.

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

Invest money in the technology and development of local energy sources. 'Local' can include our Pacific neighbours as well.

**Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

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

Supporting Māori industry. Much more Māori representation in Government.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

It's critical that citizens are consulted on issues that matter to them.

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

Mainstream media and e.g. YouTube advertising should be used to target people who do not belong to lobby groups. Surveys such as this one should be fleshed out with explanations, so that people really understand what they are being asked, and can respond accordingly.

**Action Area: Improving industry compliance**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Laws and penalties teach compliance.

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

Random auditing, severe penalties for breaking the law, no loopholes, no self-evaluations.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

All resources should be used as efficiently as possible. Research and investment should only go into sustainable energy resources.

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

Consult with industry experts to determine undeveloped opportunities for sustainable energy creation within New Zealand and in neighbouring countries.

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

Make climate change history/causes part of the school curriculum. Work with universities to set up training opportunities, to equip the next generation to develop and service sustainable power systems here and around the world.

**Other**

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

I'm really confused. The “Resource strategy consultation questionnaire” makes no mention of being solely about the “Minerals and Petroleum Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand: 2019-2029”. This is only mentioned at the bottom of the questionnaire. <br />

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Surely any consultation around mining our finite resources should acknowledge the fact that we have other existing sustainable power sources as viable alternatives? The way this questionnaire is worded, it is difficult to respond without silently endorsing the current status quo. <br />

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Given the potential for transparency and change in the current Government, I'm really disappointed.

**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?**

Yes

**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:**

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