

Introduction

Name:

David MacClement

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?

- Both petroleum and minerals mining sectors must shrink, petroleum to near zero (with some facilities mothballed) as soon as possible because it is driving climate change, while other minerals should be assessed on their environmental impact, for example gold mining causes major environmental disruption.

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

- We should have a minerals mining sector, see next, but petroleum mining should be reduced to just enough to provide lubricating-oil for NZ's use, plus a few more land-based oil production facilities mothballed in case of sudden loss of supply from the East Timor crude-oil field (the Marsden Point refinery needs to be kept running, perhaps intermittently). About the mothballing: the total production over a 5-to-10 year period should supply, for that period, 3 times the coastal shipping plus four times the rail diesel engines plus a quarter of 3-tons-and-above trucking plus the current sea-shipping demand; the base period for those calculations being 10 years hence, at the most-optimistic forecast of the take-up of electric cars, trucks and trains.

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

- "Sustainably" refers only to environmental sustainability, not economic. Minerals mining must be reduced to (a) aggregates, which are plentiful and with minor environmental impact, plus (b) 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.)

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”.

Disagree

Why?

· Those who included "Productive" envisioned increasing production from the mining sector; this is incompatible with a carbon-neutral economy. "Responsibly" is greenwashing, and has no effect within MBIE and the mining sector.

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

Disagree

Why?

· "Innovative" certainly, but "productive": there are only quite restricted areas where that applies, all the rest need reducing or zero production, if NZ is to live sustainably.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

· Government regulation is essential in requiring that all transition to sustainable living. · 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.

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

· The laws and regulations must be monitored for compliance, and reviewed every five to ten years to see how much opportunity there is to reduce mining (and the number of mothballed petroleum production facilities). · 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.

Guiding principles

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

Disagree

Why?

"Respected is nowhere near enough; ecosystems and biodiversity must be "protected".

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

- Maori have the right attitude to land and resources, kaitiaki, while the Crown and its agencies use exploitation as their guide.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

- This, plus the NZ people living sustainably, are the top priorities. Note that gas is NOT a sustainable bridge to a low carbon (let alone zero carbon) economy. Its 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.

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

Agree

Why?

- The overall goal is that all NZers and the country as a whole, live sustainably.

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

Agree

Why?

- Lip service is 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.

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

Agree

Why?

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.

Disagree

Why?

- The assumptions are (1) that the Crown can do what it likes with the minerals and petroleum under the surface of NZ, and (2) that economics should be the sole determinant of what should be done with them; I do not agree with either assertion, though the first is arguable, while _ethics_, not economics, should guide the second.

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

Agree

Why?

- Those are typical "general treaty" words, interpretable differently by different parties. I do not agree with the interpretation the mining sector will use.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

- Continued production or exploration activities under existing 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. It must not be allowed for fossil fuels, and for other resources it should be dependent on environmental impact.

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?

- Leaving the stuff in the ground, with small non-petroleum mineral extraction, will take care of future generations' actual needs.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

- That's obvious.

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?

- This Principle applies to whatever extraction operations are left.

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

Agree

Why?

- Let the courts decide on redress, after the law has been passed.

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

- Sustainable living for all in NZ, with minimal imports commensurate with minimising worldwide impacts of NZers' consumption, should be the _basic_ principle.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Agree

Why?

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

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

Disagree

Why?

- "Affordable" means "cheap" so lots will be used, and this is unsustainable.

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

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

- The Crown's Treaty partner Maori should co-govern resource extraction.

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?

- This questionnaire is good and sufficient; making sure it gets to all stakeholders and that it is publicised, is sufficient.

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

- The government must govern, since it has the voters' mandate.

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

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

Agree

Why?

- Reducing mining and resource use should be the goal of this Strategy, and research followed by investment in improvements may help with that.

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”?

- Thank you for the opportunity.
- If it's not difficult, please send a copy of this submission to me and to:

Privacy of natural persons

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

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Can we include your position title?

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

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