

## Introduction

### Name:

Dr Derek Melser

### 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?

We must aim at eventually doing without a petroleum sector.

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

Some mineral mining is fine but the whole petroleum industry must be viewed as 'on the way out'.

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

By gradually phasing out the petroleum industry.

### 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?

The petroleum industry can help find, and help fund, alternative energy sources.

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

Agree

### Why?

Every industry should be productive and innovative.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Every industry should be subject to reasonable regulation by Government.

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

Help with finding sustainable alternatives.

**Guiding principles**

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Because otherwise our entire environment will eventually become man-made and factitious. There will be no nature. People's mental health will suffer.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Maori are well aware of the importance (for the economy and for morale) of a thriving natural environment.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

By 2050, any plans we make now will be out the window.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

The problem is no longer that of sustaining capitalism but of sustaining civilisation.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

For the sake of morale, we have to make some moves in the right direction.

**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?**

Eventually phasing out the petroleum sector is the most important priority.

**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?**

When climate change starts biting, we want Maori on our side.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

The prime concern is emissions control, not financial return

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

That is the whole idea of having a Government.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

If permit-holders' activities are eventually going to destroy New Zealand's climate, and hence its economy, it is foolish and irresponsible to allow them to 'continue production or exploration'. They need to start winding down their operations right away.

**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?**

Yes, let's start doing this.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Again, this is what 'democratic governance' means.

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

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

It's good to be alive.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

That's what being a principled, law-abiding business requires.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

It is stupid to kill the golden goose, no matter how slowly it dies.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

In a few decades, 'managing impacts' is what Government will be about.

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

Let's start repairing the climate situation now. It is better late than never. It is even better too late than never.

**Action areas intro**

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

Agree

**Why?**

The adverse environmental impacts of non-petroleum minerals extraction should be strictly monitored.

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

The phasing out of the petroleum industry within two or three decades.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Of course, the resources we purchase should be affordable. And we should attempt to greatly reduce our 'minerals and energy needs' first.

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

Find ways to financially penalise wasteful energy-use.

**Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

As above: Maori are part of us. We need them and they need us.

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

Ensure better education and employment outcomes for Maori.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

Again, that is what democratic government is all about.

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

Find someone who can explain to the public -- so the majority start believing it -- where climate change is currently heading.

**Action Area: Improving industry compliance**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

The wellbeing of the people and the environment are more important than shareholder returns.

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

Find someone who can explain to business people that they really should start putting New Zealand's welfare above their bottom line.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

We need to get much more efficient and non-invasive in both extraction and use areas.

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

Fund new research into minimising, rather than maximising, 'mining and resource use'.

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

Find someone in the party who can explain the seriousness of our future, hence our current, predicament.

**Other**

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

If bold moves in this area don't happen soon, the effects of climate change will impact us even sooner.

**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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