

Introduction

Name:

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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?

There is strong agreement among climate scientists that the only way to prevent climate catastrophe is to halve carbon emissions by 2030. This can only happen if we leave remaining fossil fuels in the ground.

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

That we embark on a true just transition for Kiwi petroleum workers to help re-employ them in the renewable energy sector.

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

It can't without bringing about catastrophic climate change

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?

After more than 10 years of dealing with the petroleum sector here in Taranaki, it's really obvious to me that their only concern is profits. They could care less about transitioning to a carbon neutral economy.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

We can only prevent catastrophic climate change by leaving the fossil fuels that remain in the ground.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

As a member of Taranaki Energy Watch, I have been part of a long process trying to get local councils to enforce appropriate health and safety regulations under the Resource Management Act. It has been a long and costly process that eventually wound up in Environment Court. Local councils simply don't have the resources to fight the immense wealth and power of overseas petroleum companies. Even with an unfavourable interim decision from Environment Court, local planners still refuse to incorporate health and safety issues (for example separation distances) into the land use consent process.

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

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Fighting climate change isn't simply a matter of reducing carbon emissions. Soil health (which depends on the health of many plant and animal species) and appropriate water management have a big role to play in helping us survive adverse climate events.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Health soil, water and ecosystems are a taonga in Maori culture and thus need to be respected

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

2050 is too late. We need to commit to carbon neutral by 2030 - <https://www.medact.org/2019/blogs/net-zero-by-2050-is-too-little-too-late-some-reaction-to-the-committee-on-climate-change-net-zero-report/>

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

Strongly agree

Why?

For the last 20 years, Taranaki has been treated as a sacrifice zone, with pristine natural and agricultural landscapes being transformed into an industrial wasteland. The people of Taranaki have had no say in this.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

With a well functioning circular economy, there would be no need to mine new fossil fuels.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

They specifically need to align with the Zero Carbon Act and UN IPCC recommendations

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?

The Treaty of Waitangi is essentially a binding contract. Upholding contract law is essential to all liberal democratic functioning

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Royalties are far too low compared to other jurisdictions - one of the features (besides) lax regulation that draws foreign petroleum companies to our shores.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Under the RMA, it is left totally up to regional and district councils to regulate petroleum companies. And because local councils lack the resources or expertise to do so, they essentially allow petroleum companies to regulate themselves. In other words, they are totally captured by the petroleum industry.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The principle isn't consistent with preventing catastrophic climate change

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?

Up until now, the Crown has made policy decisions that have totally ignored UN IPCC recommendations regarding climate change.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Here in Taranaki land use consent decisions are made without notifying adjacent landowners. In many case landowners adjacement to case and oil wells aren't even notified they're on a list to be evacuated in case of gas leaks or explosions.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

There hasn't been a single study in New Zealand of the health effects of living adjacent to fracking wells, despite a wealth of studies indicate that nearby landowners are at higher risk of cancer, headaches, birth defects, neurodevelopmental problems, skin rashes and respiratory problems.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly agree

Why?

Landfarming (spreading of fracking waste on pasture) continues in Taranaki despite a strong recommendation against it from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the environment, as does open flaring (known to disseminate the carcinogen benzene).

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This focus is misplaced - the focus should be on transitioning as quickly as possible to renewable energy.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

I agree with this principle but it's not happening now.

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

This strategy should be considered in conjunction with the Crown energy strategy. Todd Energy currently possesses a permit to develop tidal energy in Taranaki, which isn't financially feasible for them to progress until the Crown puts in place a clear regulatory framework for tidal energy.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

My biggest concern is that the RMA isn't working to regulate the petroleum industry

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

The RMA needs to be amended to include climate change as one of the criteria considered under the consent process, and, in my opinion, there needs to be a move towards the Crown regulating the petroleum industry directly.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

The Crown has been unsuccessful in incorporating meaningful Maori input into protecting Taranaki's pristine rural environment from the ravages of petroleum mining.

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

Undertake genuine consultation with iwi.

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

Up until now the Crown and local councils have been ignoring input from stakeholders and the community about the decision to turn Taranaki into an industrial zone.

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

Provide more support to communities forced to take district councils to the Environment Court for failure to conform to existing law and legal precedents.

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

I believe strong consideration should be given to the Crown regulating the petroleum sector directly.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

With the cost of renewable energy dropping rapidly, there is strong potential to reduce householders' energy costs while simultaneously reducing New Zealand's carbon footprint.

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

Link petroleum and mining strategies with the Crown energy strategy and explore subsidies and feed in tariffs (like they do overseas) to speed up the transition to renewable energy.

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”?

I wish to speak to my submission.

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

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