

Introduction

Name:

Ewan MacMaster

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?

Agree

Why?

It is incredibly important that the 'minerals and petroleum' sector is run in a way that is environmentally and socially responsible. I have only checked the agree, rather than strongly agree, as the conditional part, environmentally and socially responsible, is woolly and not strongly conditional.

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

That the extraction of non-renewable resources is controlled by a strongly-enforced regulatory framework which has as its fundament environmental considerations and very long-term thinking.

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

Only when looking at the bigger picture and with a long term and globabl view.

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?

Agree. But there is not enough urgency or conditional framwork around either statement. There should be a date on transitioning to carbon neutrality, and there should be a strong framework around what constitutues 'sustainable' and 'inclusive'. I would assume these mean environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive, respectively, but this is not clear.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Economic market forces will drive this. What is the benefit in being 'innovative' for the sake of it? Why is that possibly of value?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

It's very clear that anything that isn't 'effectively regulated' is either very inefficient (my daily business life is full of inefficiently administrated regulation - I am very aware of how half-arsed application of regulation by dunderheads benefits nobody) and that where environmental (or social) harms are not effectively and firmly controlled by regulators, then people seeking to make a profit will often take advantage of lax enforcement of regulation. Priority should be given to materials that are environmentally benign and can be recycled continuously with little or no degradation.

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

Minimisation of non-biodegradable plastics (which are derivatives of the petroleum industry) as they cause huge environmental harm.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Agree

Why?

This target is not aspirational enough. It should (and must) be sooner.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Economically, production of resources, particularly in NZ due to our scale and internal distance, does not seem to favour recycling. It would be great to see help/regulation to facilitate and encourage this to happen.

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?

I see this from both a business and general perspective. It makes absolutely no sense not to align at both a strategic level, and critically at the level of practical application.

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 agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Without very strong mitigating factors to the contrary, contracts should be honoured.

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?

Absolutely agree that decisions should be made on the best evidence. However, the need to NOT use resources should also be accounted for, and in particular, to not use petrochemical resources.

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.

Agree

Why?

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Agree

Why?

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

Agree

Why?

Agree that the negative impacts should be minimised. However seeking innovation seems pointless - just seek good solutions, whether innovative or existing.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Minimising production and use of non-biodegradable plastics (to zero). Minimising

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

Agree

Why?

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

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?

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

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 agree

Why?

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”?

I would strongly like to see 'circular economy' principles embedded in the strategy.

In a related way, I would strongly like to see priority given to reuse and recycling of mineral resources over the extraction of virgin resources.

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?

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:

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