

Introduction

Name:

Gail Aiken

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?

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 no way for a petroleum sector to be environmentally and socially responsible and the continued use of fossil fuels is environmentally and socially irresponsible. Continued fossil fuel use benefits only those wishing to risk future generations very security for their own short term greed. The IPCC state that we need to urgently reduce emissions to have the best chance of staying below 1.5 degrees of global warming. This means that we must transition to a zero carbon economy as quickly as possible.

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

That fossil fuel extraction ends as soon as possible. That no further permits for any fossil fuel extraction or exploration (on land or at sea) be issued or extended. That all existing permits for fossil fuel exploration (on land or at sea) be revoked. That deep sea oil drilling and fracking be halted. That people and communities whose jobs currently rely on fossil fuel extraction receive government support to transition to jobs and careers in clean industries that are environmentally and socially responsible. That any extraction of minerals only happen with increased input by hapu and iwi, following greater consultation generally and with minimal environmental impact. The deciding factor should no longer be profit for big companies but the health and well being of people, communities and the environment. That the full and true cost of environmental damage be met by the involved companies.

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

It can't with regards petroleum resources and only can from mineral resources that have minimal environmental impact. The current situation is clearly not sustainable

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 agree with the objective but in practice that means that the petroleum sector should cease to exist as detailed earlier and that the mineral sector be managed much more responsibly (also detailed earlier). We urgently need a transition to a carbon neutral economy but the economic interests of the petroleum industry are in direct opposition to this.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

This is an odd objective. The petroleum sector can't be usefully productive and innovative other than to change to being something other than a petroleum sector.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Would be nice but it isn't effectively regulated. The minerals sector needs way more regulation so that the people, communities and the environment be put first and that the sector bear the full cost of any environmental damage. The petroleum sector should be regulated out of existence so all fossil fuel exploration and extraction be stopped and people working in those industries be supported to change.

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?

We are all dependent upon a healthy environment and ecosystems. The climate crisis and ecosystem collapse must be halted for future generations to have a liveable planet. In practice this principle should guide the minerals sector (and all industry and land use), but upholding this principle necessitates phasing out fossil fuel extraction as quickly as possible and ending all permits which means an end to the petroleum sector.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

This is essential, both under Te Tiriti o Waitangi but also because Māori values are appropriate and of value in trying to repair the damaged caused by rampant western capitalism.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Or sooner if possible. We need to just get on with this which means bold, decisive action and an end to the influence of the petroleum sector and all fossil fuel companies.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

The mess we are in is caused by a system which makes some people very rich while others are poor and which allowed environmental concerns to be disregarded for short term economic gain for relatively few people. Poor people and communities have less economic resilience to the adverse effects of climate change and also to the impact of transitioning to a carbon neutral economy. It is essential that poor people and their communities are not forced to pay disproportionately for mistakes made by a system which ultimately was not truly of benefit to them.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

We need to do things in a better way and be less wasteful and more efficient. Corporations should be required to use resources efficiently and to end built in obsolescence.

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?

Definitely. The overarching question should be 'does this action help or hinder our transition and meeting our emission goals'. Anything that hinders (such as fossil fuel extraction) should end.

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?

Because it is the right thing to do

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Financial returns should not be the guiding factor. If the the Crown is selling minerals and petroleum it should receive a fair financial return but it shouldn't be selling petroleum at all and minerals only if not environmentally damaging.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

I agree but I suspect my view of these points will be different to both the mineral and petroleum sector. Fairness means fair to current and future generations, not oil and mineral companies. Reasonable means that short term economic interests not be put above intergenerational needs.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Existing permits should be withdrawn as they are not compatible with the actions required to achieve a carbon neutral economy.

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.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Interesting principle. A future 'need' could be argued for petroleum except we can't meet that need and have a liveable planet. The real ' need' is for ways to produce essential things without fossil fuels.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Yes and the mean stakeholders are the people not the companies.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Because they often put profits before worker well being

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly agree

Why?

Best practice would involve good decision making at every level considering current issues and the future

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Because profit should not be the guiding element.

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?

I don't know much about the act but have seen the way companies ride roughshod over communities and where environmental concerns are not heeded

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

Bring the act into line with the principles that 'The environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity are respected now and in the long term' and 'Māori cultural interests are understood and respected'.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Affordability shouldn't be the main consideration

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

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

Because its the right thing to do

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

More consultation and engagement at Hapu level

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

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

More consultation with the community

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Difficult question. On the one hand we do need research and investment much of which will be around technology, on the other hand we also need to learn to live within our means and technology cannot necessarily achieve 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”?

The format of this consultation was not particularly user friendly.

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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