

Introduction

Name:

Jenny Lux

Email:

Privacy of natural persons

Business name or organisation (if applicable):

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Position title (if applicable):

Privacy of natural

Is this an individual submission or on behalf of a group or organisation?

Privacy of natural persons

Please indicate which group you most identify with or are involved in?

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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?

The vision should not refer to "petroleum" and "environmentally and socially responsible" in the same sentence. This makes no sense, as the extraction and burning of petroleum is killing our planet and making it unlivable for humans.

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

"A world-leading minerals sector that delivers value for New Zealanders, both now and in the future, in an environmentally and socially responsible way."

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

We need to focus on extracting only minerals that will develop our country towards a zero carbon economy (e.g. aggregates and battery minerals like lithium and cobalt). We cannot derive value overall from petroleum because a dollar earned now is a cost of many, many dollars in a few years' time.

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 agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Reduce the extraction and burning of fossil fuels to 50% by 2025 and to zero by 2030.
Prevent all new and expanded coal mines and coal burning plants. End deep sea oil exploration and fracking for oil and gas.

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.

Strongly agree

Why?

But this does not include expanding mining and then offsetting it.

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?

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?

Yes, it will have to align with the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Act.

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 disagree

Why?

I don't like the reference to petroleum in this principle. It needs to be deleted.

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 disagree

Why?

No, I think existing petroleum exploration permits need to be cancelled in light of the recent science and the recognised climate emergency.

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, the best evidence is scientific evidence.

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.

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.

Strongly agree

Why?

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?

The principle of phasing out fossil fuels and concentrating the other minerals that are needed in a zero carbon economy.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

Because petroleum extraction needs to be phased out in line with the Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Bill.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

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

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?

The word "better" needs to be defined in the overall context of the balance in the biosphere.

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”?

There is no distinction made between fossil fuels, which must go to zero as fast as possible because they are driving climate change, and other minerals which should be assessed on their environmental impact. There is no distinction made between aggregates, rock used for roading and concrete which are abundant and can be mined with very low impact, and minerals like gold which cause major environmental disruption. 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.)

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. Business as usual is not an option anymore.

It is not good enough to say (Principle 1) that ecosystems and biodiversity must be “respected”. It should say “protected”.

Principle 10 (continuing production and exploration under current 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. 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. Particularly, any new gas wells or infrastructure will be used for decades and take us backwards from the zero carbon future. It should be phased out in the same way as coal and oil.

The Strategy should set a time-frame for the phase out of fossil fuels, starting with no new coal mines or oil and gas wells, and protecting only essential uses of these fuels (e.g. steel making) for as long as possible, while closing down uses for which there are good substitutes, like electricity generation, promptly.

The reference to the circular economy is good, but no steps have been identified to start the difficult journey to get there. This needs a strategy on its own.

The diagrams beginning on page 17 are very useful for people who have not previously engaged with the process; but the section on mining techniques doesn’t even mention fracking! This is the most destructive of techniques and needs to stop as part of the phase out. It is only used for oil and gas.

The Strategy proposes “balancing impacts across all 4 capitals”. This is not OK! Climate and environmental protection must take precedence over revenue to the Crown, for example.

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

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