

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?

Privacy of natural persons

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

Privacy of natural persons

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?

No distinction is made between fossil fuels and other minerals. Fossil fuels should go to zero as fast as possible, because they are driving climate change. Other minerals should be assessed on their environmental impact. No distinction is made between aggregates, which are abundant and can usually be mined with low impact, and minerals like gold which cause disproportionate 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.)

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

The draft Strategy should be consistent with the Government’s policy 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. Last year the United Nations said we had 12 years to sort out emissions, so business as usual is not an option any more. Principle 1 says that ecosystems and biodiversity must be “respected”. That must include climate change, which should not be disrespected.

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

By sustainably conserving them for uses for which they are unique.

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?

It isn't sufficiently responsible, sustainable, or supportive.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Innovative yes, but productive only if the production is necessary and can't be achieved without new extraction.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Events such as Pike River and Tui mine indicate that regulation is all too often ineffective, despite good intentions.

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?

Mining produces less than 1% of GDP. It should not risk the clean green image of the country, or risk polluting the world.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Te Tiriti is the basis on which most of the present population has any rights.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Change needs to happen sooner than 2050 and the principle is unlikely to achieve it.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

As minerals form such a small part of the GDP, it should be possible to replace mining work with more sustainable work without loss to the workers or the areas they live in.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

It is the only sustainable way, though not sufficiently achieved by these principles.

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, but they don't achieve climate objectives.

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?

Te Tiriti is the basis on which most of the present population has any rights.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

It creates an incentive for excessive unsustainable extraction.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Proportionate to less than 1% of GDP.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

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. There should not be any form of Principle 10 for fossil fuels. For other resources it should depend on environmental impact.

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?

It should be truly sustainable for essential resources and for avoiding pollution.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

The main stakeholders are the 99% not involved in extraction.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Protection of life and health should be prime functions of government.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Best practice is not always safe or sustainable. When it isn't extraction should stop.

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?

The main stakeholders are the 99% not involved in extraction.

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?

Agree providing it ensures sustainability.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Sustainability is more important than affordability.

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

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

It has been broken since 1841 and needs to be put right.

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

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

The main stakeholders are the 99% not involved in extraction.

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

Principles and rules are pointless if ignored.

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 disagree

Why?

Resources can be better used elsewhere.

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”?

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?

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Can we include your name?

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Can we include the group you most identify with (if submitting as an individual)?

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