

Introduction

Name:

Katia

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?

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

I agree that this sector needs to behave "in an environmentally and socially responsible way", but that means it must immediately take the "petroleum" out of "minerals and petroleum sector". The science on climate change is clear and stark; we cannot afford to keep burning petroleum or any other fossil fuels.

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

A responsible minerals sector that puts the environment first and foremost, rapidly phases out fossil fuel extraction, prioritises the circular economy over extraction of new materials, and at all times behaves in an environmentally and socially responsible way so that New Zealanders have a future.

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

All decisions about resource extraction should be made through an environmental lens; if a particular form of resource extraction is too environmentally harmful, don't do it. Make a clear distinction between (a) fossil fuels, which must go to zero as fast as possible because they are driving climate change, and (b) other minerals, which should be assessed on their environmental impact. Distinguish 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 (such as lithium and cobalt) should be given priority over those which are merely "nice to have" (such as gold – there is enough gold already above ground for essential industrial uses).

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”.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

I agree with most of the objective, but "productivity" and "delivering value" should not come at the expense of the environment and future generations. The current wording does not make this clear. Climate and environmental protection must take precedence over revenue for the Crown.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Again, productivity should not be our primary objective; it must not come at the expense of the environment and future generations.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Strong regulation is required so that environmental and social impact take precedence over profit. Climate impact, in particular, must be the top priority for regulation, with a focus on the rapid phase-out of fossil fuel extraction.

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?

Protecting the environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity is essential for a liveable future. This should be reflected in the wording: "respect" is not strong enough - environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity must be *protected*.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Any extraction of minerals should only happen with input by iwi and hapu and with minimal environmental impact.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

A rapid transition to carbon neutrality is essential for our survival, so I support this principle. However, we should make it stronger by aiming to transition *before* 2050.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

In phasing out fossil fuel extraction and other unsustainable resource extraction, it is important that we make a just transition for the working people and communities whose jobs currently rely on these environmentally harmful industries. The Government needs to support working people and unions to train for new careers in clean industries.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

We need to build a circular economy that focuses on recycling and reusing waste resources before mining for new materials for the cleantech economy. However, this needs to go beyond lip service; give the circular economy a strategy of its own so that it can be properly implemented.

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?

This sector should not be a law unto itself. It must comply with the strategic direction of the Government, especially around environment and climate change. The draft Strategy is not consistent with the Government's policy on climate change. Everything in the Strategy must fit with the Government's climate change targets and acknowledge the magnitude of the threat posed by climate change. This means changing the way we do things, because business as usual is not an option any more.

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.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Again, climate and environmental protection must take precedence over revenue for the Crown. If resource extraction means destroying our home, it's simply not acceptable, regardless of the amount of financial return. The focus should be on

whether or not it is environmentally sustainable to extract and use the resources, not the price received for them.

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

Agree

Why?

See comments above regarding regulation. Also, part of being "reasonable and proportionate" is acknowledging the magnitude of change required to address climate change and acting on this immediately and ambitiously.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This puts the property rights of miners ahead of New Zealanders' rights to survival. The transition to zero carbon is non-negotiable. We must not allow the renewal and expansion of existing oil drilling licences when there is a ban on new oil drilling. No form of this principle should be allowed for any fossil fuels, and for other resources it should be dependent 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.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

The best evidence is that climate change is an existential threat, and we cannot afford to keep extracting fossil fuels. "Foreseeable need" for petroleum and other fossil fuels should not be a consideration, because they need to be phased out immediately.

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

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?

Especially relating to environmental protection.

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

Agree

Why?

Negative environmental and social impacts must be minimised. If they can't be, don't extract.

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

Agree

Why?

Industry must monitor, understand, and manage environmental and social impacts. Where the impacts are too harmful, don't extract.

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

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Why?

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

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

Agree

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

If industry is wrecking our environment, they should be stopped immediately. It is unacceptable to let industry get away with damaging our home for their own profit.

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

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

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?

Protecting the environment and reducing the impact of climate change

Other

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the "Minerals and Petroleum Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand: 2019-2029"?

We need to focus on the rapid phase-out of fossil fuel extraction. That means no more permit extensions and a halt to deep-sea drilling and fracking.

The Strategy should set a timeframe for the phase-out of fossil fuels, starting with no new coal mines or oil and gas wells. Uses for which there are good substitutes, like electricity generation, should be closed down promptly, while uses that are important and not readily substitutable (such as steel making) could receive longer timeframes for phase-out to allow for time to find clean alternatives.

It is important that the phase-out of fossil fuels does not treat gas as a 'bridge' to a low-carbon economy. The latest research on gas shows that its carbon emissions are much higher than those quoted by industry, and in addition there are significant methane releases from all parts of the production and use cycle. Any new gas wells or infrastructure will be used for decades and take us backwards from the zero carbon future. Gas must be phased out in the same way as coal and oil.

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?

Can we include your position title?

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)?

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