

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

Privacy of natural persons

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?

Clearly the emphasis of this vision is on mineral and petroleum extraction. I think we need to immediately stop all fossil fuel extraction (including coal, oil and gas,) immediately stop all off-shore mining/resource extraction (with the exception of some fishing activities, though these need to be severely pared back,) immediately cease all resource extraction on land in conservation lands and all other areas of outstanding natural value. (In fact, ideally I think mining and similar resource extraction activities should only happen in areas of very low natural value - and there aren't many of those in NZ [though if we keep wrecking the place there'll be more of them soon I grant you.]) It also says NOTHING about recycling. There are immense material resources tied up in items that've been dumped or had minimal recycling done to them. The key vision for New Zealand should be, 'We aim to make our country a place of peace, freedom, intelligence, wisdom, honesty, industriousness, friendliness and above all, two things: the desire and ability to improve ourselves as individuals, groups, and as a society, and stewardship of our natural environment and the diversity of life everywhere.' That would then lead on to a vision for our Resource Strategy something like, 'We aim to make New Zealand 100% waste free, by creating and importing only resources and products that have been made, transported and able to be used in as close to a 100% sustainable way as possible, and by fostering a society where everyone values our material resources highly and uses them and maintains them intelligently and wisely, including by basing resource decisions on our Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle philosophy. What resources, during our transition to a 100%

renewable resource use way-of-life, that do have to be extracted in a non-renewable way, by definition, we aim to leave as light an intrusive/destructive footprint from the extraction and related activities as possible.'

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

We need to immediately stop all fossil fuel extraction (including coal, oil and gas,) immediately stop all off-shore mining/resource exploration and extraction (with the exception of some fishing activities, though these need to be severely pared back,) immediately cease all resource extraction of any kind on land in conservation lands and in all other areas of outstanding natural value. (In fact, ideally I think mining and similar resource extraction activities should only happen in areas of very low natural value - and there aren't many of those in NZ)

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

We must leave all fossil fuels - coal, oil and gas - in the ground for at least 200 years, and then assess whether the local and global environment can tolerate more burning of fossil fuels. This question ASSUMES we should 'derive value' from our petroleum - a fossil fuel - resources. It absolutely should NOT. We should not seek to derive monetary value for New Zealand from mining/resource extraction. Where it can be done in keeping with extremely high standards of stewardship, then some mineral extraction might be permitted. We should not be seeking to derive financial value from this either. The resources belong to New Zealand, and, if it is deemed absolutely necessary to extract them for the sake of the country, it needs to be for some non-financial benefit to the country (such as mining iron from a barren rocky waste area with very little environmental value to make into train tracks for the good of the country.)

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?

It seems to be trying to put stewardship first, which is good. But it is grammatically poor. Also, it's too focussed on the economy, and not on the environment. I'd phrase it like this: "Responsibly manages resources for New Zealand by (a) primarily basing decisions around wise and sustainable philosophies grounded in stewardship of the environment, (b) Supporting productive and sustainable resource exploration, extraction and management activities (c) Supporting New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy, with a target of carbon neutral by 2030."

Objective for a sector that: "Is productive and innovative".

Disagree

Why?

It should be productive in that people working in the sector should work both hard and smart. But it misses an even more important facet of approach-to-work, that of approaching it ethically. Also, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with having

'innovative' in there, and in fact nurturing some innovation is beneficial. But perhaps it should say that innovation should be geared towards moving the sector in the direction of working hard - where that's not happening sufficiently; and working smart - where that's not happening sufficiently; and promoting a priority amongst all people, companies, groups and government in the sector of basing innovation on ethical goals and to be pursued in ethical ways.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Until we create a more ethical society (i.e. one where people want to be good people and contributing so society in a positive and meaningful way,)

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

Perhaps just that they should be supportive of the National vision (something like what I suggested above,) and that it should be responsive to feedback from all individuals and groups within NZ, especially the Tangata Whenua, including local iwi and hapu.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

It's obvious why. These things have immense intrinsic value (compared to, say, money, which is just a tool, and has zero intrinsic value.)

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

They are a vital part of who we are, and have many traditional values and wisdoms that may not be held by all NZ, but which nevertheless can be incredibly important.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Agree with this, but only as a minimum. I believe we need to be carbon neutral by 2030. Yes, this is incredibly ambitious, and yes, if NZ fully goes for this, it means some people, groups, companies and even the nation will hurt in some ways. But the amount of hurt we will suffer, whilst seemingly extreme to some, will be as nothing compared to what we and the entire planet will suffer if we don't act super fast and super strong on Climate Change. And clearly going carbon neutral is a big part of that strategy.

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.

Agree

Why?

agree, but this is stated poorly. It should be stated, '...should align with NZ's vision,' (something like the vision for NZ I gave above.) And of course all government departments should be aligned with this vision. If this happens, then naturally related sectors and govt. strategies will be aligned.

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

Principle: The Crown honours its duty towards Maori 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?

This assumes that companies are making financial gain from NZ's minerals (and, worse, petroleum.) First off, no-one should be exploring for, let alone extracting petroleum or any other fossil fuels. Secondly, the only other mineral extraction should not be done by companies for financial gain. It should be done by government departments, and not for financial gain, but for some useful thing (not money,) the country really needs.

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

Agree

Why?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

We cannot continue ANY fossil fuel exploration or extraction. Starting IMMEDIATELY. That's just a fact. Sure, petroleum companies with existing permits may be grumpy about this, but they've known about Climate Change for decades, so they should have had time to predict this was going to happen and allow for it. If not, tough bikkies. We need to act now in this was because that's the right thing to do.

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.

Disagree

Why?

I strongly agree that our decisions should be informed by strong science. And predicting future demand for resources is sensible as well. But this statement seems to put these things above the guiding principles of acting ethically with protection of the environment as paramount. That needs to be the guiding sentiment here.

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.

Agree

Why?

No 'strive.' They must do it or be put out of business.

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?

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Agree

Why?

see my comments above

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

Stiongly disagree

Why?

It's implying we're going to meet our energy needs partially at least by mineral extraction. We must not use fossil fuels. If minerals for creating windfarms and pv cells can be responsibly extracted, that's okay. But another point - I don't want to see 'affordable' in here. I don't think any company should be allowed to extract any minerals in NZ for their own financial gain. Only govt. dept.s should extract minerals, where there is need and where it can be done carefully, considering stewardship of the environment as paramount. And not for financial gain, but only for some non-financial gain for NZ as a whole.

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?

foster local groups in communities all around NZ to meet at least once a month to discuss what's being proposed in this area so community groups can stay well informed and get involved in democracy more fully.

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?

This should be done, but there are much higher priorities right now.

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.

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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)?

No

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