

Introduction

Name:

Patrick Geddes

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 agree

Why?

Strongly agree that future extraction of minerals must be done in an environmental and socially responsible way

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

That this sector enables the world's transition to a healthy biosphere that will remain for future generations to enjoy.

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

By disciplining its usage of finite natural resources to transition to a circular economy in which finite natural resources are no longer required.

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?

I support this as a high level objective however there will be inherent trade-offs between achieving productivity, sustainability and inclusivity with sustainability being the paramount consideration followed by inclusivity then productivity, which needs to be carefully defined.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

We will definitely need to innovate to get us off the current trajectory towards climate devastation. Again, productivity needs to be carefully codified.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Effective well-resourced regulation is going to be crucial in achieving a healthy biosphere for future generations.

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

We need to explicitly acknowledge that our massive consumption of finite fossil fuels is directly undermining the stability of the biosphere and that scientific consensus is that this needs to be transitioned to near zero levels to ensure a sustainable future for our children.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

These three elements underpin the very survival of human beings and their stability has enabled the development of our society.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

In the concept of kaitiakitangi Maori have a blueprint for the relationship that needs to exist between people and the natural world that we inhabit.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is an essential journey that we need to undertake to ensure we leave a world that future generations can live on.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This will be extremely challenging because people have different needs and wants but nevertheless it is an important principle that we strive to manage impacts in a way that is fair and as inclusive as possible.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is hugely challenging big long term goal.

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?

In particular, this needs to align with the objectives of the future 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?

This is essential due to the inherent nature of NZ's constitutional history

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

The Crown's inherent return is less important than the impacts its regime has on wider society.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Transparency and good process are going to be essential to ensure the long-term credibility of the minerals regime.

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

Agree

Why?

Whilst the principle of fairness to existing permit holders is important it does not take precedence over the need to ensure a safe and stable biosphere for future generations so existing permits could and probably should be revoked if they are putting this at risk.

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?

The government needs high quality impartial data and information to make good decisions.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This will be essential to ensure the credibility of any future regime.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

All workers deserve a safe working environment.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Agree

Why?

Sounds like a good non-controversial, aspirational objective.

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

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 beneficiaries of mining have responsibilities to engage with affected communities

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

No. Seems quite comprehensive in terms of principles. The devil will be in the detail of how it gets translated into legislation and then implemented.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

The current 1991 Act has as its purpose "promote prospecting for, exploration for, and mining of Crown owned minerals for the benefit of New Zealand". This is no longer fit-for-purpose. The focus of a future Act should instead acknowledge the reality that

the human species finds itself in. Instead the Act should have as its core purpose the careful management of finite mineral resources to achieve the long term sustainability of the biosphere.

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

I question whether MBIE is able to perform the role of 'promoter of economic growth' and 'regulator of crown minerals'. To me this is a conflict of interest and the regulation function should be moved to another entity such as the EPA or Ministry for the Environment.

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

Agree

Why?

This is going to be very challenging - again, environmental integrity and sustainability are paramount

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?

Work probably needs to be done to define what needs to be done in practice.

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

It maintains the credibility of the regime and improves the quality of actions taken through better information.

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

This needs to be defined and how this may exceed what is prescribed in legislation such as the RMA.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

As has been proven multiple times, industry cannot be relied upon to do the right thing. There needs to be robust and effective oversight.

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

Public reporting of compliance activities undertaken will be paramount.

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

Agree

Why?

Important to strive to be as effective as possible.

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

Government and not just industry should be involved in communicating with the public around what 'best practice' looks like and summarise what the future potentially holds.

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”?

All scientific evidence indicates that we need to make substantial progress on transitioning away from finite fossil fuels over the period of this strategy to have any hope of preserving a stable climate for future generations. Among the four capitals the natural environment needs to be prioritised because it directly supports and enables the other three. Trying to achieve parity across these four objectives is foolhardy. This strategy would potentially have a significant influence over whether NZ achieves this end.

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

Use and release of information

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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)?

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