

Introduction

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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

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Vision

Do you agree or disagree with the overall vision for the minerals and petroleum sector in New Zealand?

Strongly disagree

Why?

There can be no value in a "petroleum sector" beyond say 20 years as we need to phase it out completely and shift to a "no carbon emissions economy" because of the damaging consequences of climate change.

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

One that is transitioning rapidly to zero carbon emissions and that is funding research into alternatives that are carbon zero. Those alternatives are where this sector can find a future - and only there.

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

Not from petroleum as noted in the above two answers. The wording of this question is ridiculously ambiguous as there are several interpretations of "sustainably" and "value". We need to sustain the values of an environment within which humanity can flourish. Only a carbon zero industry can now achieve this. We are already at least 30 years behind time in making the transition.

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?

"Sustainably" is meaningless unless tightly defined. We need to transition to a carbon zero (gross emissions zero). "Carbon neutral" suggests that so-called "off-sets" would

be used. It is gross emissions that we need to cut rapidly and to zero. "Off-sets" are unreliable, mis-used and if the aim is to use forestry then all that is achieved is replacing forest that was there within the last couple of centuries (in N.Z.) - it would not be "off-setting" emissions from fossil sources, merely absorbing CO2 released when we destroyed huge swathes of forest over the last few centuries (much of that CO2 is still in the atmosphere).

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Yes innovative in achieving carbon zero and in conducting any necessary minerals extraction in a manner that protects environmental values. Only minerals that directly help achieve carbon zero should be extracted.

Objective for a sector that: "Is effectively regulated".

Strongly agree

Why?

Strong regulation is needed to achieve carbon zero and extraction that recognises and protects environmental values in all their rich and diverse characteristics.

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?

See answers above.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Their approaches will help NZ achieve the necessary recognition of environmental values.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This is not ambitious enough. The aim should be carbon zero and at an earlier date. Only with ambitious aims might we achieve the necessary deep transitions to the way we lead our lives in order to avoid catastrophic climate change. See the IPCC 1.5 report (which itself is conservative).

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This should apply to any human activity.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is a necessary part of the deep transition in the way we live our lives. We need a detailed strategy that shows how we can achieve this as a central feature of our economy.

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?

Especially with strategic directions to achieve reductions in carbon emissions. Hopefully these will develop rapidly into stronger policies than those presently proposed in the "Carbon Zero Bill".

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.

Agree

Why?

Returns from any environmentally appropriate activities (see above answers) should be used to drive the societal change towards carbon zero .

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

Agree

Why?

"Fair" especially to future generations in leaving an environment that provides for a flourishing life - this will be one that is not grossly affected by climate change (our current path).

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Petroleum and gas production is driving us towards a climate that will greatly and negatively affect our, and future generations', lives. These activities must cease quickly and with a transition to alternative sources of income for the workers involved.

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?

Yes, always on the "best evidence" as assessed by a diverse range of people including those outside the sector. Rather than "the foreseeable need for minerals and petroleum" it should be "the foreseeable need for an environment that is not affected by damaging climate change and other forms of environmental degradation".

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

You need to define "relevant stakeholders". In my opinion, all citizens are "relevant stakeholders".

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Agree

Why?

Motherhood and apple pie. But, following my theme in answers above, "health and safety" includes protecting all citizens from the consequences of the sector driving climate change and environmental degradation.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Motherhood and apple pie. Otherwise my answer to the previous question also applies here.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Ditto to above two questions.

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

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

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

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

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

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?

Other

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

I have not answered the last few questions as my earlier answers should indicate my overall opinions. The petroleum and gas sector should be entirely focused on how it can become redundant, i.e. on helping society transition to a carbon zero economy. The remainder of the minerals industry should be entirely focused on how it can help this transition with minimum damage to other aspects of our environment. And the aim should be to do this in a socially equitable manner. Big asks but such is the current state of affairs if we want to see a future with happy lives (and this means within the next decade or two).

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