

Introduction

Name:

Rupert Sutherland

Email:

Privacy of natural persons

Business name or organisation (if applicable):

Victoria University of Wellington

Position title (if applicable):

Professor

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?

Other group most identified with (individual submission)

Please specify the group that you most identify with

Academia

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?

Disagree

Why?

This does not capture the potential relevance of NZ resources to global transition, and focus should not be on (short-term) 'value', but rather on how it enables (long-term) transition.

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

A minerals and petroleum sector that is environmentally and socially responsible, and enables transition to a sustainable zero-carbon economy in New Zealand and the rest of the world.

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

Mining is by definition unsustainable. The key is to invest capital realized into something that is sustainable (rather than for short-term political gain).

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”.

Disagree

Why?

This does not capture the potential relevance of NZ resources to global economic transition. Climate change is global, not local, and so one guiding principle should be the global good. Will such an activity produce net global progress towards balancing the carbon cycle? Many countries are in a very different state of progress to NZ, so what might not be acceptable or sensible in NZ might be progress in the right direction elsewhere. We should take this into account when evaluating what we might export, and how we might benefit from such value.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Responsibly delivers value. a) Supporting a productive, sustainable and inclusive New Zealand economy; and b) Supporting transition to a carbon neutral economy in New Zealand and the rest of the world.

Guiding principles

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

Agree

Why?

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

But... it should be the whole world we aim to change as best as possible, not just NZ.

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?

But... we need to think about maximizing global impact.

Principle: Actions taken within the mineral and petroleum sector should align with the strategic direction of other related sectors and Government strategies.

Agree

Why?

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.

Agree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

It is essential to realize benefits from natural capital, especially if it is exported.

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 agree

Why?

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.

Agree

Why?

Yes, this is not consistent with the EEZ act, I think.

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?

Innovation is also important, which might be considered a deviation from 'best practice'.

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.

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?

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

Use of royalties only for investment in long-term transition of the economy.

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

Agree

Why?

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

Consider also global need - what would produce best global good? e.g. Exporting natural gas to replace coal would produce net global benefit, but is excluded by current goals.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Neither agree nor disagree

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 needs careful cost-benefit analysis and consideration of broader good (not subsidy for industry that should pay for this).

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?

Research and investment to identify and assess NZ resources and associated environmental issues, both onshore and offshore. Our very large offshore area needs systematic background data collection to underpin and promote exploration, resource assessment, and to enable industry negotiations/regulation. Note that our offshore seabed is 24x the land area and twice as big as the land area of India, and has unique physiography and geology that may host many minerals relevant to the future NZ and global economy, i.e. we may be globally-significant. The past and current actions are onshore, small scale, and NZ-focussed. We should not rule out that in future we may be globally-significant, so we need to start the large task of surveying our offshore seabed.

Other

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

Analysis of global trends and future global need is important, but we should not focus too narrowly on current predictions of what minerals are most important.

Technologies develop much more quickly than large-scale exploration programs can be carried out, so we need to be comprehensively surveying and understanding our geology now, especially our offshore geology, to prepare for the future.

Although NZ is not currently a globally-significant exporter of minerals and petroleum, countries that are have unique global leadership opportunities. However, this is typically not exercised responsibly ('curse of natural resources' paradigm). NZ should learn lessons from other countries and incorporate them into the new legal framework, especially with regard to how value from natural resources is reinvested. Should we copy the Sovereign Wealth Fund model of Norway? If all capital that was realized was invested in specific goals of long-term sustainability and progress towards zero-carbon, then this would increase public licence and lead to better outcomes.

The 'precautionary principle' should NOT be applied to management of resources within the EEZ. Risk and reward probabilities should be balanced, and common sense applied. Activities should then be continuously monitored to update and improve understanding and behaviour, or to abandon activities if thresholds are crossed. Environmental effects are not always possible to estimate precisely, due to little relevant knowledge. It does not follow that small risks are a good reason to forego opportunities for large reward. The legal framework should enable activities, investment, and data collection to start, so that we don't miss significant opportunities.

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?

Yes

Can we include your position title?

Yes

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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