

Introduction

Name:

Tony Fala

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?

Strongly agree

Why?

Environmental issues are subsumed under the development of minerals and the petroleum sector. Environmental issues should take precedence.

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

Where the minerals and petroleum sector is guided by the reality of climate change in the Pacific and the world. At present, the minerals and petroleum sector pays lip service to issues of climate change.

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

Sustainability and the economic value pursued by both the Labour and National governments in recent years in Aotearoa are mutually incompatible. Talk of economic value and sustainability in the context of the existential threat of climate change is nonsense.

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 disagree

Why?

We cannot have both productive and sustainable economic development while we continue to mine and develop petroleum resources. The argument that this strategy advances NZ to a carbon neutral economy is more nonsense. Where are the sections

in this strategy dedicated to showing how we might move to a carbon neutral economy in practice, not aspiration?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Productivity and innovation in an economy are irrelevant unless the reality of climate change is factored into all thinking.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

What is the point of having a strongly regulated economy regarding minerals and petroleum if we are not dealing with climate change?

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

Planning objectives that address the reality of climate change; genuine consideration of how we move towards a carbon neutral economy, including some serious planning about how this might be achieved.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

You cannot respect the environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity without addressing the issue of climate change. Pursuing environmental, ecosystem and biodiversity wellbeing while pursuing neo-liberal economic agendas of economic growth are a nonsense.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly disagree

Why?

You cannot uphold the cultural interests of Maori and pursue naked economic profit simultaneously. Similarly, the principle addresses the issue of Maori cultural issues being understood and respected. This does not commit the government to actually listening to Maori perspectives on culture at all. The New Zealand government has never honoured Te Tiriti. Maybe the principle that 'the Crown will honour Te Tiriti' rather than throwing Tangata Whenua breadcrumbs for lands lost needs to be a founding principle for this strategy.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This principle is irrelevant unless the issue of climate change is central to the overall strategy. The 'Responsibly Delivering Value' document does not illuminate actually how this transition to a carbon neutral economy will happen beyond talk of 'innovation' 'the future' and the need to 'mine certain types of minerals for batteries' et al.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This principle is entirely useless unless climate change and Te Tiriti are foundational to the strategy. Talk about a just and inclusive relationship to communities while pursuing economic profit at the expense of the environment and the community is more double-talk.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The discourse of a circular economy here is useless unless issues of sustainability and adaptability vis-a-vis climate change are central to the strategy.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This is more double-talk. All policy should be aligned with Te Tiriti and climate change.

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 disagree

Why?

The Crown has never honoured its relationships to Maori in a way that upholds Maori as equal partners under the treaty. The principles of the treaty were devised by Pakeha law makers, not Maori. The Crown have given iwi scraps in return for treaty settlements. The guiding principle here should be, 'The Crown agrees to honour Te Tiriti by honouring Maori as an equal partner'.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Why speak about fair returns without talking about climate change and the damage done to the environment by mining and the search for petroleum?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Issues of climate change need to guide the above principle. The above principle is framed within a neo-liberal model of economic extraction- to the detriment of ordinary communities in Aotearoa.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The issue of climate change should frame the principle above

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 disagree

Why?

This is government propaganda. It is better that the Labour Government speaks honestly and says its strategy is guided by neo-liberal economic policy of extracting maximum value from the environment.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Climate change considerations must frame the principle above. Otherwise all we are talking is more neo-liberal economic policy nonsense.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Industry should be guided in the above principle by the reality of climate change.

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Why?

Industry should be guided in the above principle by the reality of climate change.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Industry should be guided in the above principle by the reality of climate change

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Industry should be guided in the above principle by the reality of climate change.

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

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly disagree

Why?

The 'Responsibly Delivering Value' strategy document outlines the various pieces of legislation that accompany the CM Act on page 15. All relevant laws pertaining to mining and petroleum need to factor in (1) climate change realities (2) genuine community engagement in decisions made under the various laws (3) Maori as an equal partner under Te Tiriti at all levels of consideration in statute law (4) the impacts of our laws regarding mining and petroleum regarding the realities of climate change in the Pacific. Discussion in 'modernising' the CM Act without addressing other issues mentioned above is nonsense. The talk of 'modernising' above is situated within the same neo-liberal economic imperatives that have done damage to many ordinary kiwis in Aotearoa in the last forty odd years.

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

I have outlined what could be done in my response above.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Climate change imperatives need to guide the action area above.

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

Implementation of action around climate change regarding adaptation and sustainability in the face of this existential threat.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly disagree

Why?

The Crown needs to honour Te Tiriti and honour Maori as equal treaty partners. Talk of 'improving treaty partnership most likely involves the government still telling Maori what to do- but with a little bit of 'sugar' on top. This is not a way of improving treaty relationships.

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

I would like the Crown to speak with Maori as equal treaty partners and actually listen to Tangata Whenua.

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly disagree

Why?

Climate change issues, relationships with Maori, and genuine power sharing between central government and local communities needs to occur for this action area to actually mean anything in concrete reality.

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

I would like to see the Crown address climate change as an existential threat in all thinking, planning, or strategising for the future- whether in relation to minerals and petroleum, or other areas of life in Aotearoa.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly disagree

Why?

Climate change realities should guide industry and industry's modes of compliance.

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

I would like to see industry recognise the existential threat of climate change and use their talents to help us move to a genuine climate neutral economy in the future.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

Why not put research into the relationships between mining and climate change? Then we could move forward into a carbon neutral economy more effectively.

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

The issue of climate change should guide all planning and research concerning mining and petroleum in Aotearoa.

Are there any other action areas you would like us to consider as part of advancing this Strategy?

There needs to be grassroots up community participation in this strategy if the strategy is going to truly represent the aspirations and the will of the New Zealand people. Everything in this questionnaire and in the 'Responsibly Delivering Value' need to be discussed and shared with the New Zealand public. Public feedback needs to be heard and respected- and then acted upon-especially if the public feedback is contrary to the wishes of those who have drafted the 'Responsibly Delivering Value' strategy document.

Other

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

No thank you.

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?

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)?

If there are any other parts to your submission that you do not want public on the website please note them below:

No.

OIA publishing warning

If there is information in your submission that you wish to remain confidential, please note them below:

No.