

Introduction

Name:

Yanina Silva

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?

Agree

Why?

The key phrase for me is "in an environmentally and socially responsible way". We have to approach this with the knowledge we have about the climate crisis. Because the future of humanity and the rest of the living beings on Earth depend on it.

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

That we take from the ground only what we absolutely need; that we become a world leader on extracting and recycling minerals from products that are no longer in use; that whatever we extract no contamination goes into the soil, water or air during extraction and/or consumption; that we extract no more fossil fuels from the ground. Corporations have morals and deliver integral value to all New Zealanders, and do not deliver just financial value to just a few at the expense of the loss and degradation of NZ's natural capital.

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

We need to focus on leaving as much as possible on the ground, and find innovative ways to recycle what we have already in use. In regards to fossil fuels, including petroleum and coal, we need to stop extracting and using altogether, and shift the investments to renewable energies... no exceptions. We must invest only in renewables, help and encourage people to generate their own energy (solar, microgrids), invest in natural carbon storages (seaweed farming, tree planting, soil regeneration) and in carbon capture technologies... the list is endless. We must move away entirely from fossil fuels and lead the world in this sustainable change

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?

Because the future of humanity and the rest of the living beings on Earth depend on it. Once again, “Responsibly deliver value for New Zealand” means not only financial value, but also delivers quality of life for all New Zealanders by protecting the country’s natural capital, which is so linked to people’s health and wellbeing. Moving to a sustainable economy is key to our future, and transitioning to a carbon neutral economy is the responsible way to do that, ensuring that there is a just transition for those whose jobs will be lost, e.g. for those within the fossil fuel industry.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

In my opinion, it depends on the definition of "productive". We should be doing everything we can to minimise further extraction of minerals, and gradually but steadily phase out the extraction and production of fossil fuels. Innovative yes, we need to find new ways of re-using the minerals that we already have and creating a circular economy. New Zealand can become a world leader in this.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Regulation will be key to making sure that this transition happens in a fair manner for all involved. Policies must be developed taking into account all stakeholders (including the general population) but also should have teeth to ensure the delivery of the vision. In addition, regulations need to be put in place with a long-term vision and permanency, to make difficult the removal of such policies by populist or denialist governments.

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

That people's wellbeing and not corporate interests are put first.

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Zero tolerance for soil, air and water pollution, including greenhouse gases emissions. Without our environment, ecosystems and biodiversity life on earth will not be able to continue in the way that we know it today or in any way, and it is hard to predict what the fallout will be.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Because Maori New Zealanders have a much healthier relationship with all life on Earth and everyone living in this country should learn from the Maori culture on how to relate and care for our environment. To take only what is needed, use it in a way that is in line with a circular economy, and relate to the environment as if there were no separation from it. New Zealand can be a world leader in looking after the interests of its indigenous people, action which has been shown to correlate with protecting the environment.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Once again because the future of humanity and our life on Earth as we know it depend on it. Climate change is happening at a rampant and visible pace. I find it terrifying to consider how it will affect me, the future of my loved ones and our communities. Transitioning to a carbon neutral economy is our only hope of avoiding the potentially catastrophic change that will eventuate with a temperature rise of more than 1.5 degrees. There is no need for more proof, it's widely understood in the literature by now.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

There's a need of a complete and systematic overhaul change on the way we do things. This is going to affect people in every aspect of their lives, all people. Some regions will be harder hit than others in the move away from, fossil fuel extraction for example (e.g. Taranaki). These region should be supported by government and where possible alternative means of employment and retraining should be encouraged to develop on the most affected regions. Education and mental health support will be essential. In addition, solutions such as Carbon Fee and Dividend, could be implemented to help smooth the impact due to a transition to a low-carbon economy, by protecting the most financially vulnerable people.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This will have the joint benefits of protecting the environment and costing less in the long run.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Yes, as long as actions are compatible with the vision described above and the interests of people's wellbeing is considered first priority (not that of financial shareholders). The actions taken by the mineral and petroleum sector must fully align with the strategic direction established in the Zero Carbon Bill and conservation departments.

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?

I consider The Crown to be the New Zealand government

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

Strongly agree

Why?

I consider The Crown to be the New Zealand government

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

Disagree

Why?

Our situation has changed, climate change is happening and faster than we predicted. We need to phase out the extraction of fossil fuels as fast as possible. We need to stop new explorations altogether even if companies have been granted a permit, but we must continue producing from what is already being exploited only to assist in a gradual transition to a carbon neutral economy, until we fully stop extraction altogether.

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, as long as that fits into the Zero Carbon Bill and a rapid phase out of fossil fuel extraction. Otherwise future generations haven't got a chance.

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?

The word "Relevant" is key. I only agree if stakeholders include the general population of New Zealand, in particular the younger generations who are going to live for longest with the consequence of the decisions that are made.

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.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

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

Agree

Why?

Where further extraction is the only option to meet our needs, we should absolutely aim to be as efficient as possible and have zero tolerance to any negative impacts in people, soil, air and water.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Agree as stakeholders include the general population of NZ and the wellbeing of people and the natural environment are put as first priority

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

Carbon pricing has been recognised by economists and scientists as the only sustainable way forward through the climate change crisis. Whilst New Zealand has the ETS, it has not worked to reduce carbon emissions, and an alternative is required. The carbon fee and dividend strategy that has been adopted in Canada and other countries is a fair way of implementing a carbon fee, as the money collected is then paid out pro rata as a dividend, meaning that any price rises due to the carbon fee are offset for most households, in particular for low and middle income households, making it a progressive and politically sustainable policy.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Neither agree nor disagree

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Agree only if done according to the vision expressed above, and ensure we recycle all that we can and we work to reduce our needs.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Including the general population of New Zealand, in particular youth and Maori

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

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

Disagree

Why?

Any research and investment should go into improving efficiency and making extraction only where absolutely necessary, for other minerals other than fossil fuels. Any research and investment related to fossil fuels should completely stop, unless it is for recycling and minimise the impact of extracting and using them. Most research and investments should shift to renewable substitutions to fossil fuels.

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

Any research and investment should go into improving efficiency and making extraction only where absolutely necessary, for other minerals other than fossil fuels. Any research and investment related to fossil fuels should completely stop, unless it is for recycling and minimise the impact of extracting and using them. Most research and investments should shift to renewable substitutions to fossil fuels.

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

Look at best practise in other countries. Consider the carbon fee and dividend model – see more details at <https://citizensclimatelobby.nz/fee-and-dividend.html>.

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.

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:

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