

Submitter information

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) would appreciate if you would provide some information about yourself. If you choose to provide information in the "About you" section below it will be used to help MBIE understand the impact of our proposals on different occupational groups. Any information you provide will be stored securely.

A. About you

Name:

Privacy of natural persons

Email address:

Privacy of natural persons

B. Are you happy for MBIE to contact you if we have questions about your submission?

Yes

No

C. Are you making this submission on behalf of a business or organisation?

Yes

No

If yes, please tell us the title of your company/organisation:

D. The best way to describe your role is:

Academic/researcher

Independent expert (please specify below)

Consultant (please specify below)

Business owner (please specify below)

Tradesperson (please specify below)

Student (please specify below)

Industry group (please specify below)

Other (please specify below)

Industry participant (please specify below)

Prefer not to say

Please specify here:

Employee in industry not related to mining

E. Privacy information

- The Privacy Act 2020 applies to submissions. Please check the box if you do not wish your name or other personal information to be included in any information about submissions that MBIE may publish.
- MBIE may upload submissions, or a summary of submissions, received to MBIE's website at www.mbie.govt.nz. If you do not want your submission or a summary of your submission to be placed on our website, please check the box and type an explanation below:

I do not want my submission placed on MBIE's website because... [insert reasoning here]

F. Confidential information

- I would like my submission (or identifiable parts of my submission) to be kept confidential and have stated my reasons and ground under section 9 of the Official Information Act that I believe apply, for consideration by MBIE.

If you have checked this box, please tell us what parts of your submission are to be kept confidential.

A Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040

MBIE is developing a *Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040* to enable us to take a long-term, strategic approach to how we develop our mineral resources. This does not include petroleum which already has an advanced regulatory regime.

Minerals play an essential role in New Zealand’s economic growth through high-paying jobs, Crown royalties, direct positive impact in the regions where mining takes place, and through export revenues. Minerals are also critical inputs into products that are necessary for other sectors to thrive, including the use of aggregates in construction and infrastructure.

Minerals will continue to play a major role in New Zealand’s export-led economic growth and contribute to our economic functions, but the minerals sector faces some risks and challenges. These include lack of complete understanding about our minerals ecosystem, supply risks, social license, and a regulatory system that needs to be improved to enable investments.

These challenges require a long-term strategic approach to ensure that resource development for our economic prosperity happens in a responsible manner. Developing a minerals strategy is a fundamental first step in ensuring that we have a strategic framework for resource production.

The Minerals Strategy Discussion Document seeks feedback on the context and design of the strategy. It discusses key strategic issues, challenges and opportunities facing the minerals sector in New Zealand, and how we could address them.

The strategy is built on three key pillars, **Enhancing prosperity for New Zealanders, Demonstrating the sector’s value**, and **Delivering minerals for a clean energy transition**, and identifies specific actions the Government could take to position the minerals sector to deliver value in an environmentally responsible manner.

Please see the Minerals Strategy Discussion Document for more information.

Questions for the consultation

- 1. Are the strategic pillars of the Draft Strategy (**Enhancing prosperity for New Zealanders, Demonstrating the sector’s value, and Delivering minerals for a clean energy transition**) suitable or is there more we need to consider?

Yes, they are suitable No, they are not suitable Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice? Or is there more we need to consider?

2. Are the key actions the right ones to deliver on our strategic pillars, and are they ambitious enough?

- Yes, the actions are the right ones and are ambitious enough
- No, the actions are not the right ones and not ambitious enough
- Not sure/no preference

If **No**, what else might we need to consider?

3. Are there opportunities for our minerals sector we haven't considered?

- Yes, there are
- No, there are none
- Not sure/no preference

If **Yes**, what are the opportunities for our minerals sectors we should consider?

4. Are there challenges for our minerals sector we haven't considered?

- Yes, there are other challenges not considered
- No, all challenges have been considered
- Not sure/no preference

Is there anything you would like to tell us about the reason(s) for your choice?

5. Are there any other things we have missed that we should include, or things we should not include?

These things could be economic/financial, environmental, health and safety related, or other areas.

It's highly questionable how much our prosperity will be enhanced. The touted economic benefits of the proposed mining strategy are misleadingly small, overshadowed by the stark reality that the majority of profits will likely flow out to overseas investors.

This strategy risks turning New Zealand's natural resources into a cash cow for international mining conglomerates, while local communities and the national economy see minimal returns. Such a scenario not only undermines the potential for local economic development and job creation.

With the very scarce prediction of *only 2000* jobs created over 10 years, it also perpetuates a cycle. Where the true wealth generated from our resources is siphoned offshore, leaving little lasting benefit for our own people.

Throughout the discourse, there is a glaring absence of any serious consideration for the environmental impact, which stands paramount in terms of our long-term survival. The focus seems solely fixated on short-term economic gains and foreign investment, neglecting the irreversible damage that could result from compromising our natural ecosystems.

This perspective not only jeopardises our biodiversity and clean air and water but also undermines our ability to adapt and thrive in a changing climate. Ignoring the environmental consequences is a perilous gamble with our future, as it disregards the interconnectedness of human well-being with the health of our planet.

Thank you

Thanks for your feedback, we really appreciate your insight. It helps us establish a long-term strategic approach to ensure that resource development for our economic prosperity happens in a responsible manner.

To help us continue to develop a Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040, we would appreciate any additional suggestions or comments you may have.

Please leave your feedback here:

The new mining strategy proposed by the New Zealand government has raised serious concerns about its potential impact on our environment and economy. I believe this strategy leans heavily towards benefiting international mining interests rather than aligning with our climate goals and conservation efforts here at home.

The strategy's push to expand mineral exports risks undermining our efforts to transition to a low-carbon economy. It appears to prioritise the interests of large overseas mining companies over the protection of our precious public conservation lands. I'm particularly troubled by the Fast-track Approvals Bill proposed under this strategy, which could allow significant environmental impacts by bypassing protections for our native plants and animals with minimal public oversight.

The Fast-track Approvals Bill proposed by the government is widely criticised as undemocratic for several reasons. First, it grants sweeping powers to ministers, allowing them to approve development projects with minimal public consultation and scrutiny. It also bypasses established environmental protections and community input processes, the bill undermines transparency and accountability in decision-making. This approach sidelines the voices of local communities and environmental experts who could provide valuable insights and ensure that developments are conducted responsibly and sustainably.

Moving forward in this direction, does not differentiate us in any way from Russia or China (where the majority of minerals are currently sourced). Autocratic countries with known track-records of disregard for human health and rights as well as major environmental destruction. Moving forward in a truly democratic way would mean moving this legislature out from behind closed doors and away from only a handful of (unqualified) ministers.

I'm also concerned about the strategy's reliance on industries like coal, which global bodies such as the International Energy Agency have recommended phasing out due to their environmental impact. This approach could potentially damage New Zealand's reputation as a clean, green destination. A reputation that is vital to industries like tourism. Which is New Zealand's second-largest exporter earning approximately \$10 billion a year.

We need a shift towards a more sustainable economic model that prioritises responsible environmental stewardship and considers the long-term interests of future generations. There are viable alternatives to mining on sensitive conservation lands, and it's crucial that we protect our natural heritage in the face of global climate and biodiversity crises.

In conclusion, I urge the government to reconsider its mining strategy. It requires a broader view of our environment, and the impacts of mining upon it, to be considered. We should commit to responsible practices that not only align with global climate objectives but also preserve New Zealand's unique natural beauty and biodiversity for generations to come.