



Submission on the 'Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040' May 2024

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This is the submission of the Communities Against the Fasttrack (CAFT) on the Government's proposed Draft Minerals Strategy July 2024.

CAFT formed in response to the Government's proposed Fast Track Approvals Bill, as a result of widespread concern throughout the environmental and social sector of Aotearoa New Zealand at the implications of that Bill for the environment, for democracy and for Te Tiriti.

Thank you for considering our submission.

We do not think that the Government should apply the proposed Fast Track legislation to any mining (including seabed) or quarrying projects.

We do not think that the development of a Fast Track system is appropriate for mineral extraction developments.

Mining is a complex development with a range of significant impacts to consider, and decisions on such projects should not be fast tracked. They also involve long-term impacts that endure long after the project has finished.

Such projects should be carefully assessed by a wide range of interested parties, including interest groups, experts and local authorities.

Receiving communities (both local and national) must be widely consulted, be able to make submissions and engage in the process, to ensure robust decisions are taken.

Any Strategy or legislation must recognise the Government's obligation to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

It is the submission of CAFT that this Minerals Strategy be abandoned in favour of widespread consultation on the use and need for minerals in Aotearoa New Zealand, and that the Fast-track Approvals Bill be scrapped.

We further submit that changes to other legislation that governs mining and mineral resources in Aotearoa New Zealand should confirm and strengthen the Government's role to be that of management rather than promotion or facilitation.

Prepared by Augusta Macassey-Pickard.