

Out of Scope

**From:** David Alexander Lourie Privacy of natural persons  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 31 July 2024 4:56 pm  
**To:** resourcesfeedback  
**Subject:** Submission

submitted by Privacy of natural persons

Privacy of natural persons

If there is a hearing I wish to be heard

The goals of credibility and integrity of the resource sector is in conflict with the fast track bill.

I read from cover to cover a number of times a GNS report published in 2007. It identified the mineral potential of Northland and estimated it to be about \$10B. There is a downside however, not only a large percentage of the biodiversity would disappear but so too would a great deal of the land the biodiversity, which includes humans, depends on for survival.

There are a number associated costs and risks that need to be considered. Something which seems to be overlooked is that the process of mining unlocks not only mineral wealth, in doing so it liberates many toxic elements and minerals into soils, rivers, streams, lakes, aquifers, estuaries, and coastal marines habitats that support marine life. Bloody naysaying greenie you may say. But, there are many negative effects on downstream industries that negatively impact the property rights of good loyal upstanding right wing ACT, National and NZ First supporters. Such as, farmers, fish farmers, commercial and recreational fishing communities, the tourist industry, the accommodation industry. Minerals locked away inside mountains and underground elsewhere can leach into the environment slowly over time in the processes of erosion. The surrounding environment can absorb and neutralise the elements and minerals while they are released in sub lethal concentrations. Mining operations dig into the heart of mineral deposits exposing the surrounding area above and below ground, through the lower catchment area to high concentrations of toxic elements as well as effecting pH. These can have devastating consequences.

Example: Puhipuhi Mountain about 15km north of Whangarei, just past Hikurangi on the right hand side of State Highway One. Twenty million years ago Puhipuhi was a hydrothermally active area, not unlike Waiotapu Geothermal Wonderland near Rotorua. It had geysers, mudpools, silica terraces, fumerals, where rock was digested under heat and pressure from magma chambers deep below the surface where the conditions allowed gold and silver and copper to be dissolved and forced to the surface. The downside is mercury and arsenic and other elements harmful to life come as part of the package deal. Mercury was mined at Puhipuhi form the early to mid twentieth century. It was mined where there were commercial concentrations of the metal. Being molten at room temperature it is one of the last metals to condense out of the steam carrying it into a mineable form. However there were steam vents all over the mountain, like Waiotapu, so the distribution of mercury is wide spread and likely to be found in lower than mineable concentrations throughout the mountain.

Some decades ago a quarry was opened at the top of the mountain, rock crushed and spread as gravel over local roads. Grass died and cows became ill. Mercury was detected. The gravel was scraped off the road, returned to the quarry and the quarry shut down with danger signs erected to keep people out.

The Hikurangi Basin, a drained swamp formed by a volcanic caldera explosion is now the home of a thriving dairy industry farmed by people who no doubt in the main vote National, ACT and NZ First. Puhipuhi mountain which has

a regionally high rainfall drains into this basin farmed by National Party, ACT and NZ First supporters whose farms supply Fonterra's Kauri Dairy factory just outside of Kamo. This dairy factory exports high grade value added dairy products to very discerning markets that pay premium prices. If they get a hint that the high value products they import are contaminated with mercury they will drop that product line instantly. And what happens to the farmers, the dairy factory, the countries reputation for quality high value foods. What happens the people and businesses that depend on uncontaminated water downstream. What happens to the seafood industries in the Kaipara Harbour. The more shares people have in mining companies I guess the less they care.

Mines need tailings dams. Tailings dam walls are engineered to standards that give them a lifespan measured in decades and are subject to collapse particularly in high rainfall areas. There are a lot of risks spread over huge areas, effecting big numbers of property owners with property rights.

Property rights activists incessantly remind us about how government regulations take away their property rights. Using their frame of reference we should also consider how mining companies infringe on the property rights of food producers and processors whose livelihoods and property values are effected by the downsides of mining practices.

Another consideration is that NZ Aotearoa is a long skinny series of islands with no deep hinterland that large continents have. No hinterland to act as a buffer between toxic industries and the population and the sea. Our economic and development model has been transposed from large economies based on large continents, with a few exceptions, and many aspects of these economic models are not suitable for situation, isolated at the bottom of the South Pacific.

Thank you,

David Lourié

--

David Alexander Lourié

Privacy of natural persons

Web-site: [www.davidlourie.nz](http://www.davidlourie.nz)

Facebook : [David Lourié for Northland Regional Council](#)