

From: James Littlewood Privacy of natural persons
Sent: Tuesday, 30 July 2024 10:30 am
To: resourcesfeedback
Subject: Minerals Strategy Consultation 2024

Kia ora

Here is my submission to the Minerals Strategy Consultation 2024:

Q1) ARE THE STRATEGIC PILLARS OF THE DRAFT STRATEGY SUITABLE OR IS THERE MORE WE NEED TO CONSIDER?

The strategic pillars in the draft strategy are insufficient and need a stronger focus on social and environmental impacts. Economic value should not overshadow crucial concerns such as polluted waterways, habitat loss, and health & safety issues. A dedicated Risk Management pillar is essential for evaluating stakeholder risks effectively. Moreover, mining should be limited to minerals that support a just energy transition, explicitly excluding coal.

We not only have the potential for a rapid transition to 100% renewable energy, we also have the moral and economic obligation to do so.

Q2) ARE THE KEY ACTIONS THE RIGHT ONES TO DELIVER ON OUR STRATEGIC PILLARS, AND ARE THEY AMBITIOUS ENOUGH?

The proposed actions fall short of addressing citizen prosperity and a clean energy transition. The Fast-track Approvals Bill is biased towards large corporations and has faced well-justified public opposition due to its concentration of power among a few MPs, which creates both real and perceived risks of conflict and corruption. Continuing coal mining and seabed mining contradicts climate objectives and harms marine ecosystems. It's imperative to enforce stringent safety and environmental regulations for mining high-value minerals.

We must rethink our consumption patterns before considering new mining operations.

Q3) ARE THERE OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR MINERALS SECTOR WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED?

Aotearoa could lead in conscious mining by developing robust frameworks for assessing new minerals necessary for decarbonizing our economy. This would position us as leaders in achieving a just transition while setting an example globally.

Q4) ARE THERE CHALLENGES FOR OUR MINERALS SECTOR WE HAVEN'T CONSIDERED?

The draft strategy overlooks several critical challenges including environmental degradation, health hazards, legal complications, and land rights issues that must be addressed comprehensively.

Q5) ARE THERE ANY OTHER THINGS WE HAVE MISSED THAT WE SHOULD INCLUDE, OR THINGS WE SHOULD NOT INCLUDE?

Relying on mining, particularly fossil fuels like coal, is unsustainable. Instead of new mining ventures, we should develop high-value economies offering regional income alternatives. While some minerals are essential for the renewables transition, the usage of them should be strictly limited.

Absolutely no new mining activities should take place on conservation lands, because to do so would imperil biodiversity and ecosystem services and gravely compromise the fundamental role of the natural environment in the Aotearoa culture and export brand. It's crucial to develop sustainable industries providing economic benefits without causing environmental damage.

Ngā mihi,

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James Littlewood

Mob: Privacy of natural persons