



4. Foster sector innovation, value add and commercialisation, and workforce development

This step is critical. There is a very real shortage of young talent in the minerals industry in New Zealand. This shortage exists across all aspects of the industry from the worksite to downstream technology providers and is particularly problematic in the geology and mineral technology disciplines. Since the closure of the Otago and Auckland University Schools of Mines, there has ceased to be a local training facility for mining specialists.

5. Accelerate a circular economy of critical minerals in New Zealand

No comment

6. Increase public knowledge and confidence in the sector

This action needs to include information sharing on environmental issues related to mineral developments. It seems that there is a large amount of negative publicity regarding environmental damage but very little if any publicity regarding benefits (for example high quality land restoration, pest control programmes).

7. Attract investment and build international partnerships

No comment

Specific Comments related to phosphate

Phosphate is of huge strategic importance to the New Zealand economy. Two recent studies have focussed on this. A recent report completed for the Fertiliser Association of New Zealand analysed the value of phosphorus fertiliser to the primary sector, both at the farm gate and to the wider New Zealand economy. The full report is available at: <https://www.fertiliser.org.nz/Site/research/projects/value-of-phosphorus-2024.aspx>.

A graphic from the report is shown below summarising the reports findings.



A second study was carried out for Our Land and Water (<https://ourlandandwater.nz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Final-Sustainable-Phosphate-Futures-report-1.pdf>). This report investigated the potential for using New Zealand sourced phosphate in the primary sector.

There has been very little exploration for phosphate in New Zealand, and most has been focussed on Clarendon in Otago and the Chatham Rise deposit. Apart from some regional reconnaissance in the early 20th Century, almost all on-shore phosphate exploration has been focussed on the Clarendon deposit in Otago.

During the past three years L&M Group Ltd has been investigating the potential for economic deposits of phosphate on-shore in the South Island of New Zealand. To date this work has produced some encouraging results and studies are ongoing. Some of the findings from L&M’s studies have been incorporated into the Our Land and Water report referenced above.

The Draft Minerals Strategy includes a map (page 5) showing some new mineral opportunities. The map includes phosphate but it seems to only relate to the Chatham Rise. We recommend that on-shore phosphate be included in the list of new minerals. The onshore areas of interest are general the same as the areas marked as prospective for Potash.

Finally given the findings of both of the reports referenced above, we recommend that phosphate be included in the list of Critical Minerals for New Zealand.

Yours Sincerely

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