

## Submission on “A Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040”

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Privacy of natural persons

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I am writing to provide my feedback on the draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040. Having thoroughly reviewed the draft document, I wish to address the key questions raised for submitters' consideration.

New Zealand faces a precarious and uncertain near-term economic outlook. We are increasingly vulnerable to potential global geopolitical events. If such events occur and we are unprepared, New Zealand will likely scramble for self-sufficiency, leading to significant reliance on trade with friendly nations, resulting in extreme supply and cost pressures.

The strategy document could be reframed with a critical question: Can New Zealand remain resilient and self-sufficient with closed borders? The answer is clear: without adequate preparation, we will be exposed, and our ability to export goods and services will be at risk, except for critical minerals. Resilience involves ensuring sufficient domestic consumption and strategically possessing what others may need. This should be the focus of our strategy.

I support the broader extraction of minerals as outlined in the draft strategy. However, I wish to offer specific comments on the potential for seabed mining, particularly in the South Taranaki Bight area, where Trans-Tasman Resources Limited seeks to have its marine consents re-confirmed.

The economic benefits of this project are well-documented, including export receipts, job creation, taxes, and royalties. This project is one of regional and national significance, and if consents are confirmed, it can be operational within 24-36 months. A critical question for the future strategy is: Can we add value to the minerals extracted before export? For instance, can the Taranaki region become New Zealand's renewable energy hub, utilizing solar farms, wind farms, and mass battery storage facilities? These could be located on or offshore South Taranaki, feeding the national grid and providing backup power storage.

This strategy is not just about extraction and export. The long-term goal should be ensuring New Zealand's self-sufficiency and resilience, even if our borders are completely closed. We need to guarantee that we can keep the lights on, businesses operating without interruption, our homes warm, and our basic needs met without compromise.

Thank you for considering my submission.

