

31 July 2024

Submission to: Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

By: WMS Group

On the: Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040

1. Introduction

- 1.1. WMS Group is a New Zealand privately owned critical minerals, ports and bulk logistics business based on the West Coast of the South Island. Within the WMS Group, Westland Mineral Sands Co. undertakes critical mineral mining and West Coast Bulk Logistics operates port and logistics activities.
- 1.2. WMS Group is developing a multi-generational industry for New Zealand and the West Coast Region, through the revitalisation of the Westport and Greymouth ports, coastal shipping (including a Group owned shipping vessel), innovative practices and investment in long-term land use and sustainability.
- 1.3. Mineral licenses, permits, resource consents, processing plants and mining equipment are held across 20,000ha of private freehold land on the West Coast. The first active mine site is in Cape Foulwind of Westport.
- 1.4. WMS Group has a strong commitment to environmental planning, monitoring and enhancement, aiming to leave land in better condition than pre-mining activities, and to contribute positively to nature on the West Coast.
- 1.5. WMS Group **supports** the intent of the Minerals Strategy to 2040, particularly its focus on developing an enduring minerals sector for New Zealanders, demonstrating strong economic, social and environmental value (both regionally and nationally) and delivering minerals for a clean energy transition as part of a global supply chain. However, WMS Group **recommends** a review of the design and structure of strategic pillars, and the subsequent action plan, to enhance the clarity for New Zealanders and international stakeholders. We have not made specific recommendations across the strategy in this regard, but focus on several key matters; Heavy Mineral Concentrates, Environment and Sustainability, and Global Supply Chains.

2. Heavy Mineral Concentrates (HMC)

- 2.1. The strategy identifies new mineral opportunities, including Heavy Mineral Concentrate (HMC) as a promising opportunity for future realisation within the mineral sector. WMS Group **support** the recognition of these opportunities in the strategy, and notes that HMC exploration and extraction is already occurring on the West Coast. Therefore, WMS Group **submit** that the strategy be updated to acknowledge not only the potential and substantial value of HMC, particularly in the West Coast region of New Zealand, but to reflect that this opportunity is already being realised through sustainably managed exploration and extraction activities. This revision would ensure that the strategy accurately represents the current and future contributions of HMC to the sector.

3. **Environment and Sustainability**

- 3.1. WMS Group **supports** the inclusion of environmental and sustainability initiatives within the strategy. We consider careful environmental management and sustainability goals critical to building a successful and enduring minerals sector that is valued and supported globally and locally.
- 3.2. WMS Group submits that the actual and potential land sustainability benefits that can be realised because of mineral extraction should be better highlighted within the strategy. For example, the minerals sector can (and does) invest in long term sustainable land use which endures long past mining has been completed. This can include enhanced agricultural productive land use, as well as improved environmental outcomes through things like biodiversity and freshwater initiatives.
- 3.3. WMS Group **submits** that the environmental and sustainability aspects of the Draft Strategy be further strengthened to more comprehensively reflect the sector's current environmental and sustainability practices, as well as future land use (both productive and environmental) opportunities and commitments. Enhancing this aspect of the document will underscore the significant value proposition that New Zealand, and its mineral sector, offer in the global supply chain. It would also demonstrate the value the mineral sector offers domestically, from a social and environmental perspective, alongside its economic benefits.

4. **Global Supply Chains**

- 4.1. WMS Group **supports** the acknowledgement of the minerals supply chain role in the document. It is important that how New Zealand minerals contribute to both domestic and global supply (potentially including value add opportunities), and that the associated logistics are considered.

5. **Conclusion**

- 5.1. WMS Group supports the proposed minerals strategy to 2040 for New Zealand and the overall intent of the document. We submit, however, that some enhancements could be made to fully realise the sector's potential. This includes valuing the current opportunities presented by Heavy Mineral Concentrates (HMC), particularly in the West Coast region; an elevation of environmental and sustainability initiatives to demonstrate the sector's commitment to high standards; and a comprehensive approach to the minerals supply chain. Collectively addressing these areas will help enhance the strategy's endurance and contribute to securing a prosperous future for New Zealand's minerals sector.