



BRIEFING

Resource Strategy: Summary of submissions for publication

Date:	24 October 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	1241 19-20

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Energy and Resources	Agree for MBIE to publish the summary of submissions on its website alongside the final Strategy on 6 November 2019.	31 October 2019

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Sarah Stevenson	Manager, Resource Markets Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Marissa Quinn	Resource Markets Policy		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
None.

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



BRIEFING

Title

Date:	24 October 2019	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	1241 19-20

Purpose

To seek your agreement to publish the attached summary of submissions alongside the final *Aotearoa New Zealand Minerals and Petroleum Strategy 2019-2029* (final Strategy).

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Agree** for MBIE to publish the summary of submissions on its website alongside the final Strategy on 6 November 2019.
- Agree / Disagree*
- b **Agree** to the proposed Government responses for inclusion in the summary of submissions publication.
- Agree / Disagree*
- c **Note** MBIE intends to publish most of the individual submissions received during public consultation on its website, subject to redactions in line with standard proactive release processes.
- Noted*
- d **Note** MBIE will produce a designed version, and may make minor amendments and refinements to the summary of submissions to improve readability, prior to its release.
- Noted*

Sarah Stevenson
Manager, Resource Markets Policy
Building, Resources and Markets, MBIE

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Hon Dr Megan Woods
Minister of Energy and Resources

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Background

1. *Responsibly Delivering Value - A Minerals and Petroleum Resource Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand: 2019-2029* (the Strategy) will set the Government's long term vision for the minerals and petroleum sector. It is a ten year strategy (2019-2029) that will build a sector supporting the transition to a low emissions and productive, sustainable and inclusive economy. This Strategy will inform the Tranche Two review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA), and will guide future Government policy affecting the sector.
2. On 21 August 2019, Cabinet agreed to the release of the draft Strategy for public consultation and invited you to report back to DEV for approval of the final Strategy in October 2019 [DEV-19-MIN-0220 refers].
3. Public consultation on the draft Strategy was held from the 27 August 2019 to 20 September 2019, and 546 submissions were received. On 27 September 2019, we provided you with a brief summary of the submissions received, and proposed changes to the resource strategy [0994 19-20 refers].
4. You agreed to take the final Strategy to Cabinet [briefing 1134 19-20 refers] and seek approval to publish the Strategy on 6 November 2019.
5. We now seek your approval to publish the summary of submissions alongside the release of the final Strategy.

Summary of submissions

6. The summary of submissions, attached in Annex One, builds on the submissions summary provided to you in September 2019 [briefing 0994 19-20 refers]. We propose to publish this document on our website, along with the Strategy and individual submissions on 6 November 2019.
7. The summary of submissions document contains:
 - the number of submissions received and from which groups;
 - an overall summary of key themes across submissions, and accompanying Government response to these themes;
 - a high level summary of submissions by submitter group;
 - a high-level summary of responses to targeted questions; and
 - notes other matters that were raised as part of consultation.

Key themes and Government responses

8. We propose to include a summary of the general themes that came out across the range of submissions from all groups. As part of this summary, we have also included Government responses. This is reproduced in full below.

Summary of themes	Government Response
More focus on moving to renewable energy sources and the recycling and re-use of minerals. (Environmental groups and the general public).	The inclusion of <i>Principle 5: Support a circular economy by meeting resource needs through resource efficiency, recycling and reuse</i> in the Strategy is a step towards greater recycling and re-use of minerals. The Government will continue to explore opportunities to advance the circular economy and encourage renewable energy.
The Strategy should be framed within the context of Climate Change. (Iwi, environmental groups and the general public)	Responding to climate change is a key factor we considered throughout the drafting of this Strategy. It is reflected in many places, including in Objective 1 which aims for a sector that responsibly delivers value for New Zealand which includes <i>supporting New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy.</i>
The Vision Statement should emphasise socially and environmentally responsible extraction (Iwi, environmental groups and the general public).	The Vision Statement now reads "A world-leading <i>environmentally and socially responsible</i> minerals and petroleum sector that delivers affordable and secure resources, for the benefit of current and future New Zealanders."
The energy trilemma (sustainability, affordability, and security) should be adopted within the Strategy. (Industry groups).	We have now made it explicit in the Vision Statement that we are concerned about all dimensions of the energy trilemma through our references to: environmental responsibility, and to affordable and secure resources.
The terms used within the Vision Statement are ambiguous and further definition is required, particularly 'value' 'world leading' and 'environmentally and socially responsible' (all submitter groups).	These key terms are now defined in commentary that immediately follows the Vision Statement within the Strategy.
The minerals and petroleum sectors have an important role to play in the provision of essential minerals and in enabling a successful transition to a carbon neutral economy (Industry and research institutes).	The Government recognises the important role that these sectors have to play in the transition to a carbon neutral economy. We have recognised this in several places of the Strategy including Objective 1, b) which aims to build a sector that will support New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy.
Māori knowledge and experience needs to be utilised (Iwi, environmental groups and research institutes).	The Government agrees with this sentiment, and through Action Area 3: Improving Treaty Partnerships, we will explore ways to incorporate Mātauranga Māori into decision making.
The importance of community engagement on matters related to the extraction of minerals and petroleum (Environmental groups and research institutes).	The Strategy recognises the importance of engaging with the communities that are impacted by minerals and petroleum operations. Through Action Area 4: Improving Community and Stakeholder Engagement we will explore ways to continue improving how the Government engages with communities.
Royalties should be returned to the regions from which the minerals and petroleum are extracted (Environmental, iwi and councils).	The Government is not considering this proposal at this time.
Disagreement with the inclusion of oil and gas in the Strategy (Environmental and general)	Oil and gas has a role to play in providing New Zealanders with affordable and secure energy until they are replaced by renewable energy sources. As we transition to a carbon neutral

public).	economy, our reliance will decrease, but until then, we need to manage our oil and gas resources responsibly.
Disagreement with the inclusion of the mining of minerals in the Strategy (Environmental and general public).	While we aim to reduce our reliance on mined material through efficiency and recycling, this reliance cannot be reduced completely. For example, aggregate for roads cannot be fully replaced by recycled material. Accordingly, if we are to deliver affordable and secure resources for New Zealanders, we cannot do away with mining.
Disagreement with the inclusion of the No New Mines on Conservation Land policy in the Strategy (Industry groups).	The public will have an opportunity to submit their views on this policy through a separate discussion document which is due to be released in the coming months.
Concern regarding the sequencing of the Strategy and review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (Industry groups).	The Strategy has been informing, and will continue to inform the review of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (CMA). The CMA discussion document is being progressed currently, and insights from the Strategy will inform this document and any future policy recommendations that come out of that process.
Concern around the cumulative impact of simultaneous Government changes on the minerals and petroleum sector (Industry groups).	The Government will continue to look across the range of initiatives that are being progressed and ensure that they are consistent with the vision, objectives and principles of the Strategy.

Next steps

9. If you agree to publish the attached summary of submissions, MBIE will publish the summary and the majority of the submissions received on the draft Strategy on its website, alongside the final Strategy on 6 November 2019 (subject to Cabinet approval).
10. Note that the published version of the summary of submissions will include all design elements and may include minor changes to improve readability.

Annexes

Annex One: Summary of submissions

PROACTIVELY RELEASED