

Introduction

Name:

Alan Thatcher

Email:

Privacy of natural persons

Business name or organisation (if applicable):

Position title (if applicable):

Is this an individual submission or on behalf of a group or organisation?

Privacy of natural persons

Please indicate which group you most identify with or are involved in?

Privacy of natural persons

Please specify the group that you most identify with

Please indicate which type of group your submission represents

Please specify the group or organisation that your submission is on behalf of.

Vision

Do you agree or disagree with the overall vision for the minerals and petroleum sector in New Zealand?

Strongly disagree

Why?

It sounds very much like company greenwash

What is your vision for the minerals and petroleum sector in New Zealand?

Rapid wind down of the fossil fuel and steel sectors.

How can New Zealand sustainably derive value from its petroleum and minerals resources?

It can't. You cannot apply the word "sustainable" to non-renewable resources - that is simply an oxymoron.

Objectives for the minerals and petroleum sector

Objective for a sector that: "Responsibly delivers value for New Zealand (a) Supporting a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy (b) Supporting New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy".

Strongly disagree

Why?

It can't be done. "Value for NZ"? I note the petroleum and mineral sectors are all almost 100% foreign owned. Many of the companies pay little or no tax and NZ has one of the most generous royalty systems in the world for oil and gas. I have heard this nonsense for "transition" from the energy industry for 25 years now - no sign of it yet, because the industry has absolutely no interest in transition. Why would they?

Objective for a sector that: "Is productive and innovative".

Strongly disagree

Why?

The sector needs to be wound down. "Innovative" usually means figuring out ways to extract and sell more gas. eg fracking

Objective for a sector that: "Is effectively regulated".

Strongly agree

Why?

It sure needs it. Current regulation is "light handed" (to quote the former PCE) and ineffective

Are there any other objectives for the minerals and petroleum sector that you would like us to consider in the strategy?

Guiding principles

Principle: The environment, ecosystems, and biodiversity are respected now and in the long term.

Strongly agree

Why?

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Principle: Support the transition to a carbon neutral economy by 2050.

Strongly agree

Why?

Although the petroleum and minerals sector will lobby hard to try to stop this happening. Just ask the current PCE.

Principle: The impact on people, communities and regions are managed in a just and inclusive way.

Strongly agree

Why?

Absolutely. But the govt is going to need to put some stick about to get some regional councils to comply eg Taranaki

Principle: Support a circular economy by meeting resource needs through resource efficiency, recycling and reuse.

Strongly agree

Why?

For example, the steel industry. We currently have way more than enough steel currently in circulation to meet all our needs. We don't need to mine another single tonne of ironsand

Principle: Actions taken within the mineral and petroleum sector should align with the strategic direction of other related sectors and Government strategies.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Depends on which government! No doubt once National gets back in it will be full steam ahead again for oil and mining companies

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following principles for the Crown?

Principle: The Crown honours its duty towards Māori as a Treaty partner, adheres to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and its duty to meet settlement commitments.

Strongly agree

Why?

Principle: The Crown receives a fair financial return for its minerals and petroleum.

Strongly agree

Why?

Because it's getting very little at the moment.

Principle: The Crown regulates in a way that is fair, transparent, reasonable and proportionate.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Because of the difficulty in defining such terms. What a company sees as fair, transparent etc may be very different from how a community (which the crown should represent) in which the company operates sees it.

Principle: The Crown honours the rights of current permit holders to continue production or exploration activities under existing permits.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Petroleum and coal extraction should be wound down asap.

Principle: The Crown makes policy decisions based on the best evidence, and accounting for the foreseeable need for minerals and petroleum, both now and for future generations.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

Petroleum won't be available for future generations

Principle: The Crown proactively engages and consults with relevant stakeholders and decisions are communicated in a clear and transparent way.

Strongly agree

Why?

And it would be nice if consultation was genuine rather than, as current, superficial and ignored

Do you agree or disagree with each of the following principles for Industry?

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Absolutely. Taranaki Energy Watch is currently in court over this - the oil industry is fighting hard to maintain it's unsafe practices along with its dangerous discharges

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly agree

Why?

That would be nice but generally industry operates to maximise profit which is often incompatible with best practice. eg Pike River

Principle: Seek innovative ways to improve the resource efficiency of extraction operations; and minimise the negative impacts of these operations.

Strongly disagree

Why?

Improving efficiency of extraction often leads to more damaging effects eg fracking

Principle: Engage with stakeholders and implement management systems to understand and manage impacts, and realise opportunities for redress where needed.

Strongly agree

Why?

That would be nice but won't happen. See "consultation" above

Are there any other principles you would like us to consider in the strategy?

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Strengthening of private property rights. Compulsory notification of these rights by any company wishing to prospect or mine on private property. Compensation for actual or potential damage (eg unexploded seismic charges). Absolute exclusion from national parks and reserves, including a buffer zone. A ban on marine seismic surveying.

Action Area: Securing affordable resources to meet our minerals and energy needs

Strongly disagree

Why?

See above. Petroleum is not affordable and a circular economy will take care of mineral needs.

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

To actually consult.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

Currently there is little in the way of effective compliance monitoring, especially in Taranaki

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Action Area: Research and investment in better mining and resource use

Strongly disagree

Why?

The industry does not need any further subsidies!

What future actions would you like us to consider under this Action Area?

Stop all CRI data supply to the industry.

Are there any other action areas you would like us to consider as part of advancing this Strategy?

Other

Are there any other comments you would like to make about the “Minerals and Petroleum Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand: 2019-2029”?

If you wish to, attach a document to this submission.

Use and release of information

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Can we include your name?

Yes

Can we include your email address?

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Can we include your business name or organisation?

Can we include your position title?

Can we include the group you most identify with (if submitting as an individual)?

No

Can we include the group your submission represents (if submitting on behalf of a group or organisation)?

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