

Introduction

Name:

Alexander Gorrie (BE (hons), ME)

Email:

Privacy of natural persons

Business name or organisation (if applicable):

Strange Days Design

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?

Other group most identified with (individual submission)

Please specify the group that you most identify with

I am of Kai Tahu descent, I am an engineer and I am an environmental activist

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?

There is no potential for this sector to 'deliver value for New Zealanders, both now and in the future, in an environmentally and socially responsible way'. Globally, this is a sector that has never factored environmental or social implications in its business models. It is unrealistic that the NZ minerals and petroleum sector will set out to dimetrically oppose how the global minerals and petroleum sector operates. The common term for the sort of language used in this vision statement is 'greenwashing'. This sector built on exploiting natural resources. As such, it is fundamentally unable to operate responsibly because shareholder profits are the only bottom line. To be a world-leader in this sector would be to make it obsolete and find ways to derive value for New Zealanders in less destructive areas

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

My vision is that the minerals and petroleum sector in NZ becomes a world-leader in this field by making itself obsolete. As an electro-mechanical engineer, I understand that there is an enormous energy / resource demand in sustaining our build environment. The more we demand for ourselves, the more we have to take from the natural environment. We have undeniably reached a climate crisis point. This sector needs to focus on finding ways to derive value for New Zealanders that are not destructive to the future

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

By leaving them in the ground and acknowledging the responsibility we have to be kaitiaki (guardians / protectors) of our environment.

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?

The jargon terms 'sustainable and inclusive' which are used above. Whether these are supposed to address environmental and socio-economic concerns, or business concerns is unclear. This sector needs to lead the way in Aotearoa's transition to a carbon neutral economy, it has caused a great deal of the damage, and should be doing more than just 'supporting'

Objective for a sector that: “Is productive and innovative”.

Strongly disagree

Why?

If the sector is more efficient at extracting resources (i.e. more productive), then exponentially greater amounts of resources will be extracted. The associated climatic damage will also speed up. This is not a sector which needs innovation. To allocate more design work / time / cost into creatively solving the problems inherent in this sector is wasting efforts that could be spent remediating the damage already done, and mitigating further damage to the environment

Objective for a sector that: “Is effectively regulated”.

Strongly agree

Why?

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

To make itself obsolete and channel efforts and energy into a less petroleum dependent economy

Guiding principles

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

Strongly agree

Why?

If they are not respected now, there will be no 'long term'

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Strongly agree

Why?

Aotearoa is still facing post-colonial friction. Systematic racism exists here and this is something everyone needs to be aware of (professionally and personally). Te Ao

Māori is a taonga - it is found nowhere else on the planet. We need to understand and respect tangata whenua values and ideas

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

The target is not ambitious enough. We need carbon neutrality by 2030. The next generation (i.e. your children) will face an unlivable planet if we act too slow.

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

He waka eke noa - we're all in this together. We can't abandon or devalue people / communities, especially if they are paying the price for industry-wrought climate change

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

Disagree

Why?

Yes, we need a circular economy. This is not possible through efficient use / reuse / recycling alone if we are extracting resources faster than they accumulate (i.e. fossil fuels). Nothing else in nature operates in a non-circular way. We will not achieve it if we continue to depend on extracting fossil fuels.

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?

By association, other related sectors will be involved with resource exploitation. This sector needs to consider another direction to

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 disagree

Why?

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

There is no scope for further exploration of these resources. These permit holders are damaging the future potential for a livable planet.

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.

Strongly agree

Why?

Best evidence rather than best profit is the only way to make decisions. Future generations need to be considered

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

Disagree

Why?

ALL stakeholders needs to be proactively engaged and consulted. The decisions need to be communicated in a clear and transparent way. 'Relevant' stakeholders allows some degree of subjectivity which the Crown does not have the authority to decide

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Everyone needs to go home safe at the end of the day

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

The scope needs to be broadened to encompass 'environmental-best-interest' in operations. There is no guarantee that 'industry best practice' is sustainable or just

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

More efficient extraction operations will inevitably lead to an increased rate of resource extraction. Minimising the negative effects of these operations can only be achieved by ceasing them and leaving the resources in the ground.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Stakeholders need to be able to have a say - and a substantial weighting to their voices too. If they will be suffering the impacts from the industry's decisions/ work, they need to be considered before they are affected

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

Leave the resources in the ground and lead the way in reshaping the built environment so that they are obsolete

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

The world we're currently in is on the brink of climate catastrophe and considering further resource extraction as per the 19th-20th centuries is criminally negligent.

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

Fossil fuel resources need to be kept in the ground. No caveats.

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

Stiongly disagree

Why?

We need to redefine our minerals and energy needs rather than continuing as we are. If affordability is the bottom line for our resources then no changes to mitigate climate disasters will be implemented or considered

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

Energy Return on Investment analyses on mineral exploration/extraction proposals - anything lower than the lowest 'renewable' resource EROI should be considered nonviable.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Strongly agree

Why?

Colonization has seen iwi marginalised, devalued and exploited - there are issues with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, but it does provide some basis for acknowledging the position held by mana wheua and tangata whenua

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

Implement a framework that makes you accountable and liable to local iwi / hapu for the damage that is wrought through your work to tribal land and sea areas

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

By definition stakeholders have something at stake in the procedure

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

Implement a framework where communities are honestly and proactively engaged and are made aware of 1) the risks that the work in their area will entail. 2) the tangible benefits that this work will bring if any - whilst being direct if there is no benefit/ return to the stakeholder / community affected

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

This is completely arbitrary in an obsolete industry

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?

'Better' tends to mean 'more efficient / productive' in these contexts. We cannot afford to extract resources at increasing rates

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

Research and investment in ways that value can still be derived by leaving the resources in the ground and reshaping the built environment to be less carbon intensive

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

Leave the resources in the ground and lead the way in reshaping the built environment so that they are obsolete

Other

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

It is your responsibility to make meaningful change to the way this sector operates.

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

Use and release of information

We intend to upload submissions to our website at www.mbie.govt.nz. Can we include your submission on the website?

Yes

Can we include your name?

Yes

Can we include your email address?

No

Can we include your business name or organisation?

Yes

Can we include your position title?

No

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

Yes

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

If there are any other parts to your submission that you do not want public on the website please note them below:

OIA publishing warning

If there is information in your submission that you wish to remain confidential, please note them below: