

Introduction

Name:

Alison Lash

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?

Individual

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

General public

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?

No distinction is made between fossil fuels and other mineral resources. The burning of fossil fuels drives climate change and their continued extraction must stop entirely. There is no possible way of continuing to extract them which could be construed as "environmentally and socially responsible".

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

A minerals sector that supports the transition to a low-carbon economy in an environmentally and socially sustainable way.

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

It cannot do so for the petroleum or coal industries. All other minerals should be treated on a case by case basis. Minerals such as cobalt and lithium which support the transition to a low-carbon green economy could be extracted where the mining does not have irreversible negative environmental effects. There are inevitable adverse environmental effects of mining minerals such as gold, of which there is already enough extracted to meet industrial needs. This entire strategy must fit within and pay heed to the current climate emergency.

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".

Agree

Why?

(b) is particularly important.

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

Agree

Why?

But only if it is in relation to sustainability and the reduction of GHG emissions

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

Strongly agree

Why?

The mining and petroleum companies are some of the least transparent and environmentally and socially responsible. They have amply demonstrated they can't be trusted to act in responsible ways, even when their own scientists tell them that their activities will have significant negative consequences. Regulation will be the only safeguard.

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

The strategy must be fully supportive of the government's climate change strategy. It must set a clear (short) time frame for the phasing out of fossil fuel extraction in NZ

Guiding principles

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

Disagree

Why?

Respected is not strong enough. The word must be "protected".

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Agree

Why?

Good as far as it goes but must also include "and integrated into policy and regulation development"

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is essential to the preservation of a livable future for New Zealanders as well as the rest of humanity and the other plant and animal species we depend on.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This should be a principle of all governmental policy development.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is essential but needs more than lip service - it should have a strategy of its own developed.

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

Agree

Why?

But this needs to be worded more strongly - replace "should align with" by "should be subject 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?

This is a reality of life in Aotearoa and cannot be stated too strongly.

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

Agree

Why?

This is a mechanism for returning value to the people of this country. However, fossil fuels of all types should be explicitly excluded from this.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Need you ask?

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

Strongly disagree

Why?

This will present challenges but we must stop extracting fossil fuels in the next few years. Despite the difficulty of this, it pales into insignificance alongside the difficulty of living with and through the potential climate impacts if we don't. As this is written, it is a clear licence to existing permit holders to continue extraction which is unacceptable.

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 disagree

Why?

With regard to fossil fuels, this must be worded to ensure climate change impacts are front and centre in decision-making.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Add all relevant stakeholders - this would include the population at large which has a huge stake in ensuring a livable world.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Strongly agree

Why?

Principle: Strive to implement industry best practice in operations.

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Disagree

Why?

Negative impacts should be eliminated not just minimised.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Climate and environmental protection must take precedence in decision-making over other factors such as Crown revenue and industry stakeholder interests.

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Strongly agree

Why?

It needs to acknowledge and address the reality of the climate crisis.

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

Ensure the protection of climate and the environment are central to all decision- and policy-making under this Act.

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

Agree

Why?

But this needs to be clear-eyed. Many "needs" are simply wants and driven by the bottom line of the industry players.

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

Protect essential uses of fossil fuels for as long as possible (e.g. steel making) but drive an early move away from these energy sources for sectors such as electricity generation.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Agree

Why?

But not if iwi wish to engage in mining or drilling for any fossil fuels.

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

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Strongly agree

Why?

Because good community engagement up front (not just "consultation" on already-formed proposals) always helps reduce the degree of friction at the point of implementation because of greater community buy-in.

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

Real engagement with communities of interest at first principles stage.

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

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

Serious sanctions for non-compliance, not just token gestures.

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Why?

I would agree if I could be sure better meant safer for the environment and not exacerbating of the climate emergency.

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

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

Make it explicit that this includes gas wells and fracking, both of which are unacceptable.

Other

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

Business as usual is simply not an option any more. We must decarbonise our economy rapidly. The only strategy in relation to fossil fuels - oil, gas and coal - should be a phasing out on a short time frame. Recent science tells us that we must halve our emissions by 2030 if we are to have any hope of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 - the government's obligation under the Paris Accord. Given the profile of NZ's emissions, our methane emissions may not be able to be reduced by 50% by 2030 which means non-agricultural sectors will have to make a larger contribution. Any support for the continued extraction of fossil fuels completely undermines that effort. The need for the use of other minerals should be assessed with avoidance of negative environmental impacts front and centre.

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

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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?

No

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)?

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