

Introduction

Name:

Alistair David Orchard

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?

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?

Disagree

Why?

The emphasis is wrong. Climate change is not something to be considered and debated. Action is needed NOW. Fossil fuel use exacerbates the condition. Economic considerations ignore the duty to future generations whose rights should be central to all planning.

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

Mining of petroleum and other fossil fuels must be discontinued and mineral extraction must be limited to essential minerals and carried out in a way that preserves the environment.

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

New Zealand needs to put aside the idea that it needs to derive value from such 'resources'.

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 emphasis is wrong. Climate change is not something to be considered and debated. Action is needed NOW. Fossil fuel use exacerbates the condition. Economic considerations ignore the duty to future generations whose rights should be central to all planning.

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

Disagree

Why?

‘Productive’ and ‘innovative’ are buzzwords which sound impressive. However, the emphasis needs to be on reducing CO2 emissions NOW. The time for polite discussion has passed.

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?

The objectives should to reduce the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels (coal, petroleum and petroleum gas) as rapidly as possible. There will, inevitably, be economic costs and those presently profiting from the industry will argue that the cost is too great. However, the greater cost is that to be borne by our descendants. Their interests must be paramount.

Guiding principles

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

Why?

The environment, ecosystems and biodiversity must be PRESERVED.

Principle: Māori cultural interests are understood and respected.

Agree

Why?

Maori cultural interests are important. However, it is inconceivable that the preservation of the environment and the protection of the planet could be contrary to Maori cultural interests.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

The survival of our descendants and a tolerable living environment require nothing less.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This principle is so obvious no further comment should be necessary.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

see above comment.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

All sectors should be aligned with the principle of rolling back the damage done to the earth.

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.

Agree

Why?

This is established law and a part of our national culture.

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

Disagree

Why?

The emphasis should not be on the return. In fact, the Crown must be prepared to take a loss! The Crown must do without the royalties it at present enjoys! This is necessary if the interests of future generations are to be put first.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Any other form of governance is an abomination!

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

Why?

We have reached the point where it must be acknowledged that the plight of the planet is so urgent that cancellation of existing rights must be able to be considered and, in some if not many, cases, implemented. There will be many who will argue that New Zealand is a small player on the world stage but our responsibility is to do whatever we CAN to improve the lot of all.

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?

This is obvious.

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

Strongly agree

Why?

This is obvious.

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

Principle: Pursue continuous improvements in health and safety.

Agree

Why?

The principle is obvious. On occasion, however, risks need to be taken

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.

Strongly agree

Why?

This sounds so simple. However, the industry tends to put the emphasis on the efficiency of production and seems to put much less effort into minimising the ill effects. Coal miners have been known to claim that following open cast mining the land will be better than before!

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

Strongly agree

Why?

Obvious.

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

The entire emphasis of the strategy needs to be on rolling back the damage done. This involves (among other things) moving urgently to a zero carbon economy. This will require strong decisions which will be unpopular with those whose concern for others is so trifling that they rate their own economic comfort as being more important – to the extent that they care not for the future. This is what government is about!

Action areas intro

Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act

Agree

Why?

At present the Crown Minerals Act is designed to regulate the extraction of minerals with the assumption that such will be beneficial. This is not necessarily always the case. The emphasis needs to be on the preservation of the environment and only in extreme cases should devastation of the environment be permitted. The emphasis needs to be on passing on to future generations the unspoiled land and mining activity should be permitted only when this can be, in most part at least, achieved.

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

Review and assessment of all existing permits

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

Agree

Why?

‘Affordable’ is a subjective quality. New Zealand should already be moving very much faster towards becoming carbon zero. There is a complacency about most of our electricity being generated renewably, yet coal and gas are still being used. The country can and must do better. We are fortunate in having greater potential for increased renewable generation than many countries and we need to speed up the change to renewable generation for ALL of our electricity – including the additional load which will come with the rapid adoption of electric cars. The imposition of penalties on importing of petroleum powered cars should be steadily increased and, in quite a short time, importing of such vehicles should be banned. It may be necessary to provide assistance to poorer people to enable them to acquire electric vehicles. If so, it should be done.

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

When considering health and safety, consideration should be given to health. In practice, the emphasis tends to be on safety alone. The coal mining industry causes immense damage to the health of people living in the vicinity of mines. There is a wealth of scientific information from the United States (particularly in relation to the West Virginia coalfields), Great Britain, Australia and China which should be studied by officials. Life expectancy in Buller is, I believe, the lowest in New Zealand. The only credible reason is the mining and burning of coal. This has been consistently ignored by tribunals charged with granting or refusing mining permits, the only considerations given substantial attention being economic ones. The government needs to be serious about health and address this head on.

Action Area: Improving Treaty partnership

Disagree

Why?

I do not think the Treaty partnership is relevant to the issue of mitigating against the climate damage done and the failure to protect people (Maori and Non Maori) against the poor health impact of coal mining and burning.

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

Action Area: Improving stakeholder and community engagement

Why?

This should be part of the function of government.

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

Action Area: Improving industry compliance

Strongly agree

Why?

Companies will always put profit first and comply with the minimum standards possible. This, sadly, is human nature.

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

The management of resources should be removed from the responsibility of local councils. Local councils are much more easily influenced than central government by powerful local lobby groups. Local councils are too easily swayed by economic considerations and in some cases may not be capable of being impartial and acting in the best interests of their districts. Note, for example that the West Coast Regional Council is dominated by coal mine owners and farmers, has members who have openly stated that they will promote mining and they and the council deny climate change!

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

Agree

Why?

...with the emphasis being on becoming carbon zero

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?

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

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?

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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)?

No

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

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