

## **Introduction**

### **Name:**

Aaron Erb

### **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?**

Disagree

### **Why?**

The vision places emphasis on value from petroleum production with an caveat of environmental responsibility.

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

A minerals sector aligned with New Zealand's response to the climate crisis, delivering value consistent with social, environmental and economic responsibilities. A deprecated petroleum industry whose vested interests are responsible to follow a mandated pathway of rapid transition to renewable energy.

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

All petroleum industry operators and investors mandated to transition investment to 100% renewable energy production by 2030. Revocation of all future petroleum exploration permits. Petroleum extraction limited to sales consistent with the the above transition timetable. No increase in petroleum exports above 2019 levels or other means of "compensatory selling" to maintain petroleum derived profits. Incentives for petroleum producers and users to encourage maximum early adoption of transition initiatives and technologies e.g. new taxes on petro vehicle sales, petro fuels charges increasing modestly then steeply over timetable period, large tax incentives and "moon shot" research awards for climate crisis research with best anticipated impact (funding partly derived from new petroleum taxes). Online public register of mineral and petroleum companies summarizing transition goals and progress against timetable. An education and "business incubator" model as part of a local and national investment in businesses along the extraction to consumer supply chain. I.e. keep supply chains within our economy (different industry, but it seems a shame to me that NZ is merely the launch pad for RocketLab)..

## **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?**

This objective is closely tied to the four capitals. Financial well-being must be sought for within the constraints and opportunities provided by the national response to the climate crisis.

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

Agree

### **Why?**

The industry is highly motivated in this regard already in as much as impact on profits is concerned. We have reached the point where government must incentivise and even mandate measures that represent our best understanding of effective climate response. Of course, this is exceptionally difficult and I'm not advocating centrally planned production. In that regard, I think it best to only apply mandates to limit and end practices that produce the climate crisis, and use broad incentives to "orient" trends in our energy infrastructure and industrial practice.

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

Strongly agree

### **Why?**

The word "effective" is easily read in aRegulations best reward early adoption and aggressive development of climate response opportunities - i.e. healthy living is better than seeing what we can get away with.

**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.**

Disagree

### **Why?**

2030. My understanding of criticisms of the IPCC reports is that they have tended to err on the side academic caution and careful statement of what can be established with certainty. That's good science but not good risk management. The latter needs to look

at risk analysis of climate scenarios under projected global emissions. The country needs domestic regulation that is precautionary in its proscriptions.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Yes and when impacts are considered this needs to be done with a wide view that includes overall climate response targets and the impacts of \*not\* undertaking a given project. For example, some of us may have to put up with a mine nearby if that mine is important to accelerating adoption of renewable energy sources.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

I think unless some radical innovation takes place, we need to be careful not to allow continued petroleum use on the basis of small steps taken by industry to limit emissions. Petroleum use can only be accepted if climate and environmental impacts are curtailed.

**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?**

In particular, the petroleum sector must align with our response to the climate crisis.

**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?**

Yes, within an agreed response to the climate crisis.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Yes but only what is necessary to extract and sell as we transition out of a petroleum economy. Petroleum should not be viewed as an asset that figures in income planning beyond the transition period.

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

Agree

**Why?**

Of course, these terms are hard to argue with by being obvious to the point of toothless. For example, "fair" must not mean a kind of compromise of "interests" that weights desire for profits equally with the long term value of the environment. I would add a little more bite, and emphasize, "precautionary" as an appropriate framework for dealing with the environment. We can't readily get back what we destroy.

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

Disagree

**Why?**

Current permits were issued in the past. This obvious fact is critically relevant when our understanding of the climate, mass extinction, and human health are changing rapidly. The country must maintain its sovereign responsibilities for respecting the earth and its life over short term economic interests. The granting of a permit strikes me as similar to a contract and growing understanding of our environmental impact and responsibilities alters (or should alter) the legitimacy of these contracted agreements.

**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?**

There is a problem that arises around "best evidence" and that is we, and the scientific community, tend to construe the term to mean "what models predict as the most likely outcome". This leads to policy as a kind of gambling based on the odds of a game we do not fully understand. What I'm calling taking a precautionary approach could also be called "not gambling". We could be overly precautionary of course by trying to create a no risk situation (which we would fail at in any case). Still the urgencies of the current economic growth model have a way of pushing us to only address likely outcomes and deem less likely, but dangerous, possibilities unworthy for serious consideration. For example, little has been done to understand the potential for warming to produce a sudden methane emission from beneath melting arctic permafrost. So models of climate change do not take this scenario into account. Given such "known unknowns" we need to take a more precautionary approach than what "best evidence" alone inform.

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

Strongly agree

**Why?**

**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.**

Strongly agree

**Why?**

**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?**

**Action areas intro**

**Action Area: Modernising the Crown Minerals Act**

Agree

**Why?**

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

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

Agree

**Why?**

**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**

Agree

**Why?**

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

**Action Area: Improving industry compliance**

Agree

**Why?**

**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 agree

**Why?**

Support for the circular economy seems particularly important. Many petroleum products should be replaceable by renewable alternatives made from hemp or other plant fibres for example. This area of research is enormous and cannot remain a minor point at the end of this document.

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

Create a separate strategy for developing the circular economy over the next decade.

**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](http://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?**

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)?**

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

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