



## **SUBMISSION**

# **A Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040**

31 July 2024

Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust submission to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

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## Introduction

1. Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust (the Trust) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the government's proposed *Draft Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040* (the Draft Strategy). We are happy to be contacted with any further questions about our submission.
2. The Trust is broadly supportive of the Draft Strategy, not least because the development of the vast mineral resources over which this country presides, has the very real potential for iwi/hapū Māori to use their own land, businesses and assets to unlock opportunity and deliver true intergenerational wealth and self-determination on a scale that we have not seen since the 1992 *Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act*.
3. However these opportunities must be balanced **at all times** with the inalienable duty we have to the health and vitality of te taiao (the environment).
4. While it may indeed be true to consider that “minerals developments are still the heart and fabric of many of our communities,” it is te taiao that has borne the mineral “fruits” that the Draft Strategy seeks to harvest. As every good orchardist knows, you harvest with the protection of your long-term investment in mind; you make management decisions that will set you up for multiple seasons of productivity.
5. We impress the importance of the Draft Strategy articulating an indelible commitment to responsible environmental management at all times: it is the Crown—and only the Crown—that has the ability to put the necessary guardrails in place that will balance this duty of care.

## Recommendations

6. Therefore we make the following recommendations:
  - 6.1. that the Strategy explicitly acknowledges the fundamental right of iwi/hapū Māori to participate in all matters that directly concern them by including proposed new Key Actions 3(ca) and 3(cb);
  - 6.2. that the Strategy includes substantive, measurable actions that the Crown will enact to adequately engage with iwi/hapū Māori to uphold its te Tiriti obligation as the government seeks to develop the sector;
  - 6.3. that the strategy include an additional strategic pou, “Protecting te taiao ensures that the environment is not only protected from the impacts of mining, but that it benefits from the economic prosperity that the sector

brings. New Zealanders expect a world-leading standard of environmental protections, and deserve a thriving natural environment”;

- 6.4. that the Strategy is explicit in articulating what it deems to be an acceptable level of environmental interruption and the mechanisms by which these impacts will be mitigated;
- 6.5. that the Strategy acknowledge the government’s duty to engage first with iwi/hapū Māori with respect to conservation land, as much conservation land holds cultural value to iwi/hapū Māori and the Crown should not be in a position to unilaterally make these decisions; and
- 6.6. that the Strategy include a requirement for robust environmental rehabilitation plans, and also a world-leading Crown-led initiative that will see investment in environment- or community-enhancing projects as a direct result of our mining sector’s growth.

## **Our rohe**

7. We note that our rohe encompasses Paepae-o-Tū/Bream Tail, Mangawhai to the north and extends south to the Okura river mouth south of Whangapāraoa. Our easterly boundary takes in the islands of Hauturu O Toi (Little Barrier), Kawau O Tumaro, Tiritiri Matangi, Panetiki, the Mokohinau islands, Hawere a Maki, Motu Tohora, Motuihe, Moturekareka, Motuketekete, Motutara, Te Haupa and associations in the Waitemata and the lower Hauraki Gulf. The western boundary starts in the North at Patumakariri, Kaipara, Moturemu, Arapareira, Makarau through to Oteha / Takapuna.

## **The Crown has a duty to uphold te Tiriti**

8. Te Tiriti guarantees Māori the right to participate in all matters that directly concern them. The Crown has an obligation to engage with iwi/hapū Māori and the Trust submits that both the content of the Strategy as well as the conduct of the Crown to date, does not uphold this duty.

## **The Crown has an obligation to engage with iwi/hapū Māori**

9. We refer to Strategy Action 3(c) on page 8 of the Draft Strategy, which says the Crown will:

*“...progress regulatory changes that grow our minerals sector in a way that protects Treaty settlements through constructive engagement with local communities, Māori, and industry stakeholders in decision making processes.”*

10. As drafted, this implies that Māori are simply another stakeholder to be engaged with alongside sector interests and other stakeholders. This is not the case.
11. As partners to Te Tiriti, the Crown has an obligation towards iwi/hapū Māori that must be a baseline requirement for all aspects of the Draft Strategy.
12. While the obligation to uphold this ultimately rests with Ministers, its credibility also flows from the actions of the Executive; this means any failure of officials to act, becomes the job of Ministers to rectify.
13. We are thoroughly disheartened that the Draft Strategy does not make clear the Crown's duty to iwi/hapū Māori.
14. It is well established that te Tiriti entitles iwi/hapū Māori across the motu their own unique and enduring relationship with the Crown. Therefore it is reasonable to consider that the starting point for engagement must be with iwi/hapū Māori, before other stakeholders are considered.
15. Given the government has chosen to demonstrate a willingness to diminish the commitment to their partnership obligations through the wording chosen at the Key Action 3(c), we submit that the government remove Key Action 3(c) and insert proposed Key Action 3(ca) and 3(cb):
  - 15.1. *(ca) We will progress regulatory changes that grow our minerals sector in a way that protects Treaty settlements and upholds the Crown's Treaty obligations through open and good-faith engagement with iwi/hapū Māori.*
  - 15.2. *(cb) We will progress regulatory changes that grow our minerals sector in a way that engages constructively with local communities and industry stakeholders in decision making processes.*
16. We do acknowledge the Draft Strategy notes the importance of recognising "the interests of Treaty partners in the protection and management of mineral resources". It is appropriate that the Final Strategy recognise these interests.

**Recommendation 1:** That the Strategy explicitly acknowledges the fundamental right of iwi/hapū Māori to participate in all matters that directly concern them by including proposed new Key Actions 3(ca) and 3(cb).

### **The Crown has already failed to engage appropriately**

17. With the preceding context in mind, the Trust acknowledges we received a written invitation to kōrero with officials, which stated:

*As Treaty partners, we would normally have time to for korero [sic] with iwi before releasing a discussion document to the general public for consultation. However, due to the pace at which this is being developed the discussion document was released today, 23 May 2024. We are welcoming further kōrero from iwi and hapū to provide further information and to provide an opportunity for you to ask any questions about the draft Minerals strategy.<sup>1</sup>*

18. This correspondence acknowledges the duty the Crown has to engage as a Treaty partner, and also that the Crown has **already** erred in upholding that duty.
19. It is unreasonable to say that this could not be done when the Crown has vast resources at its disposal. For example, the primary role of Te Arawhiti is to “support the Crown in its Treaty obligations, recognising that good faith engagement with Māori will lead to better outcomes for Māori and all New Zealanders”.<sup>2</sup>
20. The Trust submits that the Crown’s failure to consult is a clear abrogation of duty and an example of failing to engage in good faith. Should these actions be indicative of the Crown’s future conduct with respect to the development of the minerals sector, then it will fall significantly short of the commitments made by the Crown when our Deed of Settlement was signed in 2011.
21. If necessary, we will take all steps to ensure our rights are upheld and respected. If decisions made by the Crown undermine our settlement rights or adversely affect our interests, we are prepared to utilise all avenues available to us to seek justice and uphold our rights.

### **The partnership between Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust and the Crown**

22. Our settlement, enacted by Parliament through the passage of the *Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012*, acknowledges that the Crown failed to deal with the long-standing grievances of Ngāti Manuhiri appropriately. In its formal apology to Ngāti Manuhiri, the Crown says that it:
  - 22.1. *“profoundly regrets its breaches of the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles”*; and
  - 22.2. *“unreservedly apologises for not having honoured its obligations to Ngāti Manuhiri under the Treaty of Waitangi. Through this settlement the Crown seeks to atone for its wrongs and to begin the process of healing. It is the desire of the Crown to build a new relationship with Ngāti Manuhiri based on the Treaty of Waitangi and its principles, so that Ngāti Manuhiri and the Crown can work together to revitalise Ngāti Manuhiri.*

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<sup>1</sup> Email from MBE’s General Manager Resource Markets, dated 23/05/2024. Subject: Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040

<sup>2</sup> Te Arawhiti homepage: [www.tearawhiti.govt.nz](http://www.tearawhiti.govt.nz). Accessed 25 July 2024

23. We must ask whether the Crown's conduct with respect to the Draft Strategy casts doubt upon the integrity of its apology.
24. In much the same way as we saw during the *Fast-track Approvals Bill* submissions process, the Crown has not afforded us the opportunity to engage at all stages on projects that will affect us.
25. The Crown's behaviour during this consultation—with a matter that is not inconsequential to iwi/hapū Māori—demonstrates to us that haste has once again trumped the basic principles of engagement committed to by the Crown in our Deed of Settlement.
26. Under the protocols included in our Deed of Settlement the Crown agreed that:

*1.1 the Minister of Energy and Resources (the "Minister") would issue a Protocol (the "Crown Minerals Protocol") setting out how the Ministry of Economic Development (the "Ministry") will consult with the Ngati Manuhiri Governance Entity (the "Governance Entity") on matters specified in the Crown Minerals Protocol.*

27. Said Crown Minerals Protocol<sup>3</sup> states that:

27.1. *5.3 Effective information sharing is a key factor in building and maintaining strong relationships between the Governance Entity and the Crown. Consultation under clause 5.1 of this Protocol will be the mechanism for Crown and the Governance Entity to share the information required for both parties to make fully informed decisions. [...]*

- 27.2. *5.4 The following principles will be used to guide consultation with the Governance Entity:*

*5.4.1 The Governance Entity are informed about activities within the scope of this Protocol. This includes supplying adequate and timely information to the Governance Entity on issues related to this Protocol. [...]*

- 27.3. *6.1 The Crown has an obligation under the Act (as provided for in minerals programmes) to consult with parties whose interests may be affected by matters described in clause 5.1 of this Crown Minerals Protocol. The Ministry will consult with the Governance Entity in accordance with this Crown Minerals Protocol and in accordance with the relevant minerals programme if matters described in clause 5.1 of this Crown Minerals Protocol Area may affect the interests of Ngati Manuhiri.*

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<sup>3</sup> [Ngāti Manuhiri Deed of Settlement: Crown Minerals Protocol](#), pages 56-57

27.4. 6.2 *The basic principles that will be followed by the Ministry in consulting with the Governance Entity in each case are: [...]*

*6.2.3 ensuring that sufficient time is given for the participation of the Governance Entity in the decision making process and the consideration by the Governance Entity of its submissions in relation to any of the matters described in clause 5 of this Crown Minerals Protocol; and*

*6.2.4 ensuring that the Ministry will approach the consultation with the Governance Entity with an open mind, and will genuinely consider the submissions of the Governance Entity in relation to any of the matters described in clause 5 of this Crown Minerals Protocol.*

28. The inclusion of the Crown Minerals Protocol in our Deed of Settlement redress was to ensure full protection of our taonga resources such as the sands of Pakiri and other interests across our rohe.
29. With this in mind, the conduct of the Crown through the consultation process to date illustrates why the Draft Strategy must include substantive, measurable actions that the Crown will do, to ensure it does not fail in its duty to engage with iwi/hapū Māori as the government considers how to develop the minerals sector and double the sector's export value to \$2 billion over 10 years.

**Recommendation 2:** That the Strategy includes substantive, measurable actions that the Crown will enact to adequately engage with iwi/hapū Māori to uphold its te Tiriti obligation as the government seeks to develop the sector.

30. We welcome the Crown taking urgent steps to rectify the breach that has already been committed, and uphold our Deed of Settlement. We look forward to hearing from the Government on this matter.

### **An abundance of opportunities: developing a sustainable and responsible minerals sector**

31. The Trust is broadly supportive of the overarching intentions of the Strategy to enable the development of a sustainable mineral resources sector. However, we submit the Crown has a duty to ensure such development does not manifest in a way that fails to appropriately balance people with profit, and the needs of individuals with the needs of our planet. We must all look after our natural environment for future generations.
32. To assist analysis, we have grouped our feedback thematically, as each theme is relevant to multiple focus questions. We have noted clearly which of the Draft Strategy's three key pillars each sub-section relates to.

## **Economic benefits for iwi and hapū**

### ***Pou: Enhancing prosperity for New Zealanders***

33. A leading priority of the Trust is to balance long-term economic sustainability with an enduring commitment to cultural and environmental preservation. This manifests through supporting initiatives that contribute to the economic and social wellbeing of Ngāti Manuhiri as well as our community, and we acknowledge that the mineral sector could indeed provide plentiful jobs and other opportunities for our people.
34. So when employment and investment opportunities are borne from the use of natural resources, it is essential that economic prosperity be balanced with environmental responsibility.
35. In practice, this means that the Trust seeks to prioritise sustainable development and responsible land use over harmful extractive practices and damaging activity. We do this so that we may preserve and protect our cultural heritage, natural environment, and ancestral lands for future generations.
  - 35.1. For example, the Trust is deeply engaged with O Mahurangi, an upcoming two-lane road project, along with a shared walking and cycling path, which promises to enhance travel efficiency between Whangaparāoa and the broader Auckland region.
  - 35.2. As the mana whenua responsible for this project's area, the Trust is involved across all levels of O Mahurangi, from governance and operational management to strategic planning and on-the-ground kaimahi work within te taiao. This project opens doors to significant employment, procurement, and educational grant opportunities throughout its duration and we are encouraging our people to take up these opportunities as they become available.
36. The Trust submits that the government must make sure that the Strategy focuses not just on enabling extraction and mining, but also places weight on the flow-on benefits that are of equal importance to growing local, regional, and national economies.

### ***Measuring success: are there opportunities for our minerals sector we haven't considered?***

37. We note that the Draft Strategy outlines that progress for the *Enhancing prosperity for New Zealanders* pou will be measured by the following indicators:
  - 37.1. Tracking export revenues and Crown revenue from the New Zealand minerals sector.



- 37.2. Tracking growth in mining-related jobs.
- 37.3. Tracking processing timeframes for minerals permit applications and volume of applications waiting in permitting queue.
- 38. The Trust submits that the government could consider the following:
  - 38.1. Measuring levels of direct investment in the minerals sector by iwi/hapū Māori.
  - 38.2. Tracking growth in mining-related jobs by rohe.
  - 38.3. Setting minimum social procurement targets for Crown investment.
  - 38.4. Tracking key indicators relating to Māori employment.
- 39. The Strategy presents an opportunity to lift regional employment rates and develop local capability.
- 40. We also recognise the Strategy's intentions to grow sector investment in research, development, and innovation, and we encourage the government to support mātauranga Māori solutions and collaborative partnerships in this space.
  - 40.1. For example: the Trust has a kawenata (direct relationship) with the University of Auckland Institute of Marine Science. We have partnered on several research projects, including kohunga kūtai, which investigates using traditional resources such as harakeke to replace plastic ropes for mussel spat. The mineral sector, and its associated industries, would also benefit from such partnership.

## **Transparency in decision-making and communication**

### **Pou: *Demonstrating the sector's value***

- 41. We refer to page 9, Key Action 6, of the Draft Strategy discussion document:
  - 41.1. *"Increase public knowledge and confidence in the sector",*
- 42. In its role as a partner to te Tiriti, the Crown must openly and in good faith engage with Māori. We support the intention to be transparent about the decision-making process, as well as the benefits and drawbacks of developing New Zealand's mineral sector.
- 43. Only through transparent decision-making and robust engagement can the sector gain and maintain the trust of iwi/hapū Māori, and New Zealanders more broadly. We hope that the final Strategy includes a commitment to accurate, rigorous reporting and measurable engagement outcomes.

44. We also strongly encourage the government to extend the commitment to visibility from the Crown to sector interests as well. The private sector must join the conversation if it wants the social licence to profit from the natural resources of Aotearoa.

### **Clean energy and decarbonisation opportunities**

#### **Pou: *Delivering minerals for a clean energy transition***

45. The Trust is a committed advocate for sustainable practices and environmental values when approaching infrastructure and development projects. We are keenly aware of the environmental, social, and economic benefits that clean technology can afford.
46. However, we acknowledge that if New Zealand does not become a market maker, we will be a market taker: that is, we will be recipients of other countries' economic effort and output at the cost of our own economic benefits. We must not simply facilitate the profit of overseas industry.
47. The development and creation of many clean energy technologies requires mineral resources — of which ours sit largely unexplored. We understand the role that New Zealand's minerals sector will play in the transition away from fossil fuels towards clean, renewable energy.
48. However, the vast majority of these mineral resources lie within the land, and therefore come under kaitiaki of iwi/hapū Māori. Māori must mobilise in a way that has never been done before: that is, we must put ourselves in the centre of these developments, to ensure that the environmental impacts of mining are managed to the highest standard. It would be a greenwashed perversity should te taiao be further degraded in the name of clean energy.
49. We are encouraged by the Strategy's apparent commitment to technological innovation, energy security, and decarbonisation targets. We urge the government to prioritise these outcomes when finalising the Strategy.
50. Therefore, we consider that the strategic pou of "*Delivering minerals for a clean energy transition*" is suitable. However, the government must be ambitious in its goals, and prioritise Aotearoa New Zealand's energy needs and decarbonisation targets over offshore industries and short-term economic gains.

### **Protecting te taiao: opportunities for improvement**

51. With all this in mind, there are significant opportunities to improve the strategy in ways which will safeguard the sector development for generations into the future. We recommend the following:

- 51.1. that an additional "**Protecting te taiao**" strategic pou be added to the Strategy, bringing the total strategic pou to four;
  - 51.2. that the Strategy establishes explicit **guiding principles for developing significant environmental safeguards**, which make it clear to applicants what protections and considerations they must account for;
  - 51.3. that when the Crown is considering mining in conservation areas, there is a requirement to undertake **compulsory consultation with mana whenua** in the first instance, and a prescriptive process for this consultation be put in place and appropriately resourced by the Crown;
  - 51.4. that the Strategy includes a requirement for **robust environmental rehabilitation / regeneration plans and reinvestment** in other environment or community enhancing projects.
52. We have elaborated on the reasoning for these recommendations in the paragraphs that follow.

### **Protecting te taiao**

53. As outlined in paragraph 30, we submit the Crown has a duty to ensure that the exploration of mineral resources and sectoral expansion is done in a way that appropriately balances people with profit, and the needs of individuals with the needs of our planet.
54. The Trust submits that the most important change that must be made to the Draft Strategy is the inclusion of a fourth strategic pou: *Protecting te taiao*.
55. The Pou, as they currently stand, speak to the benefits that we as a nation can collectively achieve, however none of these benefits wholly outweigh, or can be a substitute for, the responsibility we have to prioritise the needs of the environment.
56. It could be as simple as inserting the following after "*Delivering minerals for a clean energy transition...minerals to the world*":

***Protecting te taiao*** ensures that the environment is not only protected from the impacts of mining, but that it benefits from the economic prosperity that the sector brings. New Zealanders expect a world-leading standard of environmental protections, and deserve a thriving natural environment.
57. We must all take responsibility for ensuring the preservation of our natural environment for future generations.

**Recommendation 3:** Include an additional strategic pou, “**Protecting te taiao** ensures that the environment is not only protected from the impacts of mining, but that it benefits from the economic prosperity that the sector brings. New Zealanders expect a world-leading standard of environmental protections, and deserve a thriving natural environment”.

## Environmental Safeguards

58. The next point to note — one that both public and private sector have considerable stake in — is the manner in which regulation and legislation speak to what consequences the Crown deems to be acceptable.
59. For example, since signing our Deed of Settlement in 2011, we have invested considerable time and resources into challenging consents that pose a threat to the integrity of our land and resources. Our challenges to consents are always grounded in our commitment to kaitiakitanga (guardianship) and pono (integrity). That is, recognising our responsibility as guardians and stewards of our land, culture, and resources — and doing so with mana and integrity. Many of the consents we challenge are those that would have a consequential and irreversible impact on te taiao and the well-being of our community.
60. We value and support development activities which balance commercial returns with environmental consequence.
61. The Trust submits that the Draft Strategy does not go far enough in outlining what the Crown does and does not deem to be “*responsible and environmentally sustainable*” activities.
62. For example, the government’s five-point climate change strategy, released on 10 July 2024, details the ways in which the government’s planned actions may impact individuals, businesses, and communities. This strategy must do the same thing.
63. There is no question that te taiao has been degraded by decades of exhaustive development. Unsustainable, extractive practices continue to accelerate damage to the environment. We submit that the Final Strategy **must** set out guiding principles that articulate what the Crown considers to be:
  - 63.1. The acceptable level of unavoidable environmental interruption.
  - 63.2. The mechanisms by which these impacts will be mitigated.

64. It is the Crown's responsibility to establish the settings by which this activity can occur. Therefore a document as important as this Strategy must take steps to curtail the fears that commercial development will override any environmental protections.

**Recommendation 4:** That the Strategy is explicit in articulating what it deems to be an acceptable level of environmental interruption and the mechanisms by which these impacts will be mitigated.

### **Mining in conservation areas**

65. The next consideration for the government is whether or not the Draft Strategy strikes an appropriate balance between protecting the conservation estate and expanding mineral extraction. We do not think it does.
66. We note the government's intention to reverse the ban on oil and gas exploration<sup>4</sup> and the cessation of work on the Department of Conservation's no new mines on conservation land policy. With this comes the responsibility of the Crown to consider whether its land holdings that could be used for mining are in appropriate ownership.
67. For example, we are not necessarily opposed to all mining activities on any conservation land. For reference, conservation lands included in our rohe are listed at the end of our submission.
68. We acknowledge that there may be situations and contexts in which it is appropriate to consider an application of this nature.
69. However, in the interests of upholding the Crown's Treaty obligations, the consideration of any such applications must be done **in conjunction with** thorough, open, and good-faith engagement with mana whenua.
70. The fully informed and active involvement by iwi/hapū Māori from the outset of the Crown's consideration of mining conservation land is a necessary element in the progress of a country that values te Tiriti, and the countless formal apologies made by the Crown to date, for failing to uphold its obligations.
71. The Trust submits that the Strategy should be explicit in acknowledging the government's duty to engage first with iwi/hapū Māori with respect to conservation land, because we know that much conservation land holds cultural value to iwi/hapū Māori and the Crown should not be in a position to unilaterally make these decisions, especially when the more appropriate owner of that land is iwi/hapū Māori.

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<sup>4</sup> [Government to reverse oil and gas exploration ban | Hon Shane Jones](#)

**Recommendation 4:** That the Strategy acknowledge the government's duty to engage first with iwi/hapū Māori with respect to conservation land, as much conservation land holds cultural value to iwi/hapū Māori and the Crown should not be in a position to unilaterally make these decisions.

## Rehabilitation and regeneration

72. One of the most powerful tools that we have is the ability to set processes in place to ensure that the impacts of mining activity on the whenua are appropriately. Two of the tools that can be used to achieve this are:
- 72.1. Rehabilitation plans, which necessarily occur after the cessation of mining activity, and
  - 72.2. Reinvestment schemes, which enhance te taiao across the entire lifespan of the project.
73. Yet the Draft Strategy includes only one reference to "*best practice rehabilitation plans*" to mitigate environmental risks.
74. We submit that the Strategy can go much further than this, and should require not only best-practice rehabilitation plans, but could also introduce a world-leading initiative that would require a portion of any revenue generated from mineral extraction to be reinvested into environmental regeneration projects in the region. This will ensure the minerals sector plays a truly transformative role in New Zealand's future.
75. This reinvestment must be additional to, not instead of, a comprehensive, well-monitored, and strictly enforced rehabilitation plan.
76. We point to the waste disposal levy<sup>5</sup> and its governing legislation and regulations as a possible model for how this could be enacted, particularly given the recent broadening of the levy's scope.
77. We would, however, consider it inappropriate for the waste disposal levy to be further expanded to cover mining activities. It would be more appropriate for a separate scheme to be established.

**Recommendation 6:** Include a requirement for robust environmental rehabilitation plans, and also a world-leading Crown-led initiative that will see investment in

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<sup>5</sup> [Overview of the waste disposal levy | Ministry for the Environment](#)

environment- or community-enhancing projects as a direct result of our mining sector's growth.

## Conclusion

78. The Trust regards the Draft Strategy as presenting a very real potential for iwi/hapū Māori to use their own land, businesses and assets to unlock opportunity and deliver true intergenerational wealth and support self-determination.
79. However these opportunities must be balanced at all times with the inalienable duty we have to the health and vitality of te taiao (the environment).
80. We reiterate our recommendations:
  - 80.1. that the Strategy explicitly acknowledges the fundamental right of iwi/hapū Māori to participate in all matters that directly concern them by including proposed new Key Actions 3(ca) and 3(cb);
  - 80.2. that the Strategy includes substantive, measurable actions that the Crown will enact to adequately engage with iwi/hapū Māori to uphold its te Tiriti obligation as the government seeks to develop the sector;
  - 80.3. that the strategy include an additional strategic pou, "Protecting te taiao ensures that the environment is not only protected from the impacts of mining, but that it benefits from the economic prosperity that the sector brings. New Zealanders expect a world-leading standard of environmental protections, and deserve a thriving natural environment";
  - 80.4. that the Strategy is explicit in articulating what it deems to be an acceptable level of environmental interruption and the mechanisms by which these impacts will be mitigated;
  - 80.5. that the Strategy acknowledge the government's duty to engage first with iwi/hapū Māori with respect to conservation land, as much conservation land holds cultural value to iwi/hapū Māori and the Crown should not be in a position to unilaterally make these decisions; and
  - 80.6. that the Strategy include a requirement for robust environmental rehabilitation plans, and also a world-leading Crown-led initiative that will see investment in environment- or community-enhancing projects as a direct result of our mining sector's growth.
81. We encourage officials to consider the matters outlined in our submission and take appropriate steps to adequately address the identified shortcomings, so that the

Strategy can achieve its overarching purpose: to facilitate the development of a sustainable, prosperous minerals sector for Aotearoa New Zealand.

82. As the government looks to the future, eager to 'do business', we ask you to be vigilant with your safeguards.
83. It is the Crown that must create the settings that will ensure the sector is held to world-leading environmental standards. Let us not look back in 20 years' time with regret as we reflect on what we should have done better to protect the whenua; rather let us have those conversations now — no matter how difficult — to ensure productive, equitable development that also protects our most vital taonga: te taiao.

### **About Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust**

84. Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust is a post settlement governance entity (PSGE) who are the mandated and approved entity to represent Ngāti Manuhiri and its environs. The principle purpose of the Trust is to represent the interests of Ngāti Manuhiri. Our mission is to elevate the voices of the Ngāti Manuhiri people and cultivate a legacy that transcends generations.
85. Central to this is the preservation of our taiao and protecting our culture. We focus on prosperity for our people through strategic initiatives and partnerships that amplify our presence across the rohe. The Trust plays an active role in advocacy on behalf of Ngāti Manuhiri members to ensure the people's voices are heard and their aspirations actively considered.
86. The conservation lands included in our rohe are as follows:
  - 86.1. Conservation lands:
    - 86.1.1. Hauturu-a-Toi
    - 86.1.2. 70 HA inclusive of;
      - 86.1.2.1. Whakatuwhenua
      - 86.1.2.2. Mt Tamahunga
      - 86.1.2.3. Pakiri Block (conservation area)
      - 86.1.2.4. Pakiri Domain Recreation Reserve
      - 86.1.2.5. Pakiri Riverbed
  - 86.2. Two overlay classifications:
    - 86.2.1. Hauturu - o - Toi
    - 86.2.2. Goat Island scenic reserve
  - 86.3. Statutory acknowledgements:
    - 86.3.1. Motu Hawere
    - 86.3.2. Leigh Reservation Area



- 86.3.3. Goat Island
- 86.3.4. Mt Tamahunga
- 86.3.5. Hoteo
- 86.3.6. Puhoi
- 86.3.7. Pakiri
- 86.3.8. Matakana
- 86.3.9. Waiwerawera
- 86.3.10. Poutawa River
- 86.3.11. Ngaroto lake
- 86.3.12. Spectacle Lake
- 86.3.13. Slipper Lake
- 86.3.14. Tohitohi o Reipae
- 86.3.15. Pohuehue Scenic reserve
- 86.3.16. Kawau island

