



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Shane Jones	Portfolio	Resources
Title of Cabinet paper	Crown Minerals Amendment Bill 2024: additional policy decisions and approval to release Amendment Paper	Date to be published	31 July 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
19 June 2025	Crown Minerals Amendment Bill 2024: additional policy decisions and approval to release Amendment Paper	Office of Minister for Resources
26 June 2025	Crown Minerals Amendment Bill 2024: additional policy decisions and approval to release Amendment Paper LEG-25-MIN-0119 Minute	Cabinet Office
16 June 2025	Supplementary Analysis Report: Amendments to the Crown Minerals Act 1991 decommissioning regime	MBIE

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of commercial information.



Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Crown Minerals Amendment Bill: Additional Policy Decisions and Approval to Release Amendment Paper

Portfolio

Resources

On 26 June 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Crown Minerals Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 2 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (must be passed by the end of 2025);
- 2 **noted** that the Amendment Paper referred to in paragraph 6 below will create a more flexible, discretionary approach to assigning decommissioning costs to former petroleum permit holders and other persons who have held interests in permit holders, as agreed by the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee in April 2025 [ECO-25-MIN-0047];
- 3 **agreed** to the following changes that align with the intent of the decision in paragraph 2 above and are reflected in the Amendment Paper:
 - 3.1 post-decommissioning obligations will revert to what was in the Bill on introduction, where only the permit holder has perpetual post-decommissioning obligations;
 - 3.2 transitional provisions which provide that:
 - 3.2.1 the existing law will continue to apply to former permit holders who have trailing liability until a transaction is consented to under the new law, which would automatically remove existing trailing liability;
 - 3.2.2 the new law will apply to applications for changes of control and permit transfers that have been made since 13 March 2025 and have not been determined before commencement;
 - 3.2.3 relevant obligations under the existing law continue to apply where necessary (e.g. obligations to notify the Minister for Resources (the Minister) after a change of control of a permit participant (other than operators of Tier 1 permits));
 - 3.3 include a reference to exemptions in section 89E of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 (the Act) to clarify that the standard of total removal only applies if there is no exemption under the Act, and no other enactment, relevant standard, or requirement by a regulatory agency contains any requirements or standards relating to the method of decommissioning;

- 4 **noted** the following decisions that the Minister has made under delegated authority [ECO-25-MIN-0047]:
- 4.1 Tier 3 permit and transitional provisions will commence on a date to be appointed by order in council, with a backstop commencement date of 1 January 2026;
 - 4.2 Tier 3 transitional provisions have been simplified and revised to create an extended window, from the commencement of the relevant provisions until 11 December 2026, for existing Tier 2 permit holders to apply to transition to Tier 3 at no cost;
 - 4.3 the power to grant class exemptions and deferrals from decommissioning obligations by regulation has been amended to allow for class exemptions and deferrals to be made for the whole or parts of particular items of petroleum infrastructure;
- 5 **agreed** to make consequential changes to the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007, Crown Minerals (Petroleum Fees) Regulations 2016, Crown Minerals (Minerals Other than Petroleum) Regulations 2007 and Crown Minerals (Minerals Fees) Regulations 2016 as part of the package of regulations required to implement the Crown Minerals Amendment Bill;
- 6 **approved** the release of the Amendment Paper to the Crown Minerals Amendment Bill [PCO 26211-4/7.3];
- 7 **authorised** the Minister to refine the Amendment Paper prior to its release;
- 8 **noted** that the Amendment Paper will be released prior to the third reading of the Bill, at which point a motion will be put forward to recommit the Bill to the committee of the whole House stage;
- 9 **agreed** that the Amendment Paper be released and the Bill be recommitted and passed in July 2025.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Jamie Arbuckle, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG