



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Shane Jones	Portfolio	Resources
Title of Cabinet paper	Final national geothermal strategy for approval	Date to be published	17 March 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
December 2025	Final national geothermal strategy for approval	Office of Minister for Resources
2 December 2025	Final national geothermal strategy EXP-25-MIN-0117 Minute	Cabinet Office
	<i>Note: The version of the geothermal strategy appended to the Cabinet paper) is superseded by the final version, which was launched on 17 March 2026. It can be accessed here:</i> Geothermal Strategy	MBIE

Information redacted

NO

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.



Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review 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.

Final National Geothermal Strategy

Portfolio Resources

On 2 December 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1 **noted** that New Zealand has a globally significant geothermal resource, with the potential to support economic growth, regional development, emissions reduction, and Māori economic participation;
- 2 **noted** that in July 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) approved the release of a draft geothermal strategy for six weeks of public consultation [EXP-25-MIN-0063];
- 3 **noted** that ECO invited the Minister for Resources to report back by late 2025 with a final geothermal strategy and implementation roadmap, and any funding implications, following public consultation [EXP-25-MIN-0063];
- 4 **noted** that feedback received from public consultation was generally supportive of having a strategy to drive innovation, double geothermal energy use by 2040, and unlock regional potential;
- 5 **noted** that:
 - 5.1 officials have finalised the geothermal strategy following feedback received from public consultation, the Wai 2358 discrete one-day hearing, and additional analysis;
 - 5.2 the vision, strategic outcomes, and action plan goals remain broadly unchanged from the draft released for consultation;
- 6 **noted** that the Strategy includes five key priorities to focus action;
- 7 **noted** the inquiry into National Freshwater and Geothermal Resources (Wai 2358) is ongoing, and that this strategy does not pre-empt any Waitangi Tribunal reporting;
- 8 **agreed** to the final national geothermal strategy From the Ground Up – A strategy to unlock New Zealand’s geothermal potential;
- 9 **agreed** that the Minister for Resources may make amendments to the geothermal strategy, and the paper under EXP-25-SUB-0117, to address areas where the Waitangi Tribunal considers that there is the potential for a Treaty breach;

- 10 **approved** the release of From the Ground Up – A strategy to unlock New Zealand’s geothermal potential at an appropriate time;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister for Resources to make any graphical, technical, and necessary minor amendments to the strategy and action plan prior to release.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Hoggard

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for EXP