

# Consultation submission form

## From the Ground Up – A draft strategy to unlock New Zealand’s geothermal potential

### How to submit using this form

This form is used to provide feedback on the document *From the Ground Up – A draft strategy to unlock New Zealand’s geothermal potential*.

When completing this submission form, please provide reasons explaining your answers. Your feedback provides valuable information and will inform decisions about the final geothermal strategy.

You can submit this form by 5pm, 12 September 2025 by:

- Emailing to [resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz) with the subject line ‘**Submission on a draft geothermal strategy**’ or
- Posting to:  
**Submission on a draft geothermal strategy**  
Resource Policy  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
PO Box 1473  
Wellington 6140

Your feedback will contribute to further development of a geothermal strategy for New Zealand. It will also become official information, which means it may be requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

The OIA specifies that information is to be made available upon request unless there are sufficient grounds for withholding it. If we receive a request, we cannot guarantee that feedback you provide us will not be made public. Any decision to withhold information requested under the OIA is reviewable by the Ombudsman.

# Submitter information

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) would appreciate if you would provide some information about yourself. If you choose to provide information in the section below, it will be used to help MBIE understand how different groups view the draft geothermal strategy. Any information you provide will be stored securely.

## A. About you

Name: Bernie Dent

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B. Are you happy for MBIE to contact you if we have questions about your submission?  
Yes

C. Are you making this submission on behalf of a business or organisation?  
Yes

If yes, please tell us the title of your company/organisation:

Denterprise 2015 ltd

## D. Privacy information

The Privacy Act 2020 applies to submissions. Please check the box if you do not wish your name or other personal information to be included in any information about submissions that MBIE may publish.

MBIE may upload submissions, or a summary of submissions, received to MBIE's website at [www.mbie.govt.nz](http://www.mbie.govt.nz). If you do not want your submission or a summary of your submission to be placed on our website, please check the box and type an explanation below:

*I do not want my submission placed on MBIE's website because... [insert reasoning here]*

**E. Confidential information**

- I would like my submission (or identifiable parts of my submission) to be kept confidential and have stated my reasons and ground under section 9 of the Official Information Act that I believe apply, for consideration by MBIE.

If you have checked this box, please tell us what parts of your submission are to be kept confidential.

# From the Ground Up – A draft strategy to unlock New Zealand’s geothermal potential

The Government is developing a geothermal strategy for New Zealand to provide a focused pathway to geothermal leadership and growth and unlock the potential of our geothermal resources across a broad range of applications.

New Zealand’s geographical location has given us a unique geothermal advantage, and New Zealand has been a global leader in geothermal development since the late 1950s. Geothermal contributes nearly one-fifth of our annual electricity generation, is a strong tourism attraction, and geothermal heat and steam are utilised both directly and indirectly in industrial, commercial and residential applications.

However, despite our world-class resource, geothermal development faces some barriers, including high upfront drilling costs, fragmented access to data, complex and dated regulatory settings and the scale of the sector. New technologies, such as supercritical geothermal, are also on the horizon. In order to drive the energy resilience, regional development, economic growth and climate leadership, deliberate and coordinated action is required.

The draft strategy sets out a vision for New Zealand to be a global leader in sustainable geothermal development. Three interconnected strategic outcomes, centred around being a world-leader in geothermal innovation, accelerating energy resilience, and strengthening regional economies and te Ōhanga Māori, have been identified to guide action and focus. Five action plan goals have been identified to guide the Government’s approach, underpinned by a draft action plan. The draft strategy also includes an energy-focused goal to double the use of geothermal energy by 2040.

We are seeking feedback on the draft strategy, particularly whether the proposed direction, ambition and outcomes, and accompanying action plan, capture the necessary government intervention and priorities. We are also interested in views about how the wider geothermal sector can contribute to unlocking our geothermal potential.

Please see the draft geothermal strategy for more information, available on our website:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/consultation-on-a-draft-geothermal-strategy-for-new-zealand>

## Questions for the consultation

1. Are the three strategic outcomes of the strategy, centred around **world-leading geothermal innovation, accelerating energy resilience and strengthening regional economies and te Ōhanga Māori**, suitable, or is there more we need to consider?

The co-operative IP sharing of such data between engineers and scientist on the international stage will accelerate both economies.

Only thing to consider is that we all get onto it NOW.

I don’t want to see \$10,000.000.00 spent over 5 years for no result like the debacle on “how to shift the Port of Auckland”.

The three strategic outcomes will happen automatically as we electrify our economy with more geothermal.

Te Ohanga Maori and the regional economies are ready for this to happen.

2. Do the five overarching **action plan goals capture the areas that are most important for achieving** the vision, strategic outcomes and energy goal?

Yes, but to double our geothermal goal in 14 years, we had to start drilling yesterday.

Fresh, accurate raw data for the national library of this resource is paramount.

Test wells is the priority.

I see that the project board is already in place. Nice

And Shane Jones has just released the 1<sup>st</sup> drill site.

3. Does the proposed action plan correctly capture the necessary **government interventions and priorities**?

Yes it does as long as the opposition parties don't pull funding for the next 10 years.

The 3 time horizons rely on this continuation of funding.

4. Is the **role for the sector** clear? How can the wider geothermal sector play a role (e.g. are there specific actions that the sector could own)?

The co-operative nature is already set between all parties, i.e. land owners, gentailiers, capital providers, drillers, pipe suppliers, scientist, engineers and the government.

They all know their roles.

5. Does the strategy and proposed action plan create the right settings to **enable tāngata whenua to realise their aspirations** for geothermal resources in their rohe?

Maori already have successful JV's in their rohe, so they are well versed in this business sharing arrangement. Minor fine tuning may be required.

But, am waiting on wai 2358 which could impact on future JV's and royalties.

6. Are there **opportunities** for our geothermal sector that we haven't considered?

Trace elements / rare metals from deep down, yet to be identified.  
For example, lithium at Ohaaki, north of Taupo is currently being explored.

7. Are there **challenges** for our geothermal sector that we haven't considered?

The quality and quantity of suitable bore piping for the great depths being targeted.  
High temp, pressure and corrosive nature of deep explorations causes issues.  
Do we have six thousand meters of such bore tubing in NZ?  
Coming from a logistics background, such procurement takes time.  
4250 meters is the maximum depth we can drill with current technology.  
A laser drill will have to be imported to achieve greater depths.  
Envisage a 3 year time frame to start such a project.

8. Are there **any other things** that the strategy should include or exclude?

That there is agreements across all political parties for uninterrupted support.

# Thank you

Thanks for your feedback, we really appreciate your insight. It helps us establish a long-term strategic approach to unlock the potential of our geothermal resources in a sustainable manner.

To help us continue to develop a geothermal strategy for New Zealand, we would appreciate any additional suggestions or comments you may have.

Please leave your feedback here:

Two potential geothermal projects.

Maori Environmental Project Office holds a few iwi led projects.

One being the replacement of the Kaimai rail tunnel. Even though Kiwi Rail has not called for an asset replacement, I am holding such a proposal.

A sample of water is required from the leak deep inside the tunnel to ascertain the viability of any geothermal potential.

Can MBIE assist in asking Kiwi Rail for a sample from the center area in the portal?

Only their maintenance crew can assist in this task. A lot less costly than a \$10,000,000.00 bore test.

Second one being an undeveloped field in the Turangi area with stale data which needs a refresh.

Regards,

Bernie Dent