

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 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: John Deed

Email address: jld.christchurch@gmail.com

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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

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. 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 three strategic outcomes are suitable. As an employee in the electricity supply sector, it is evident that pursuing decarbonization and energy self-sufficiency will require an increase in electricity generation that is not subject to the vagaries of weather.

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

The action plan goals capture the most important areas.

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

The proposed action plan correctly captures the necessary government interventions and policies. One challenge will be for regulatory settings to advance rather than impede progress.

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 role for the sector appears clear to me. Having a consolidated and readily available knowledge base should enhance progress.

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?

I am unable to offer informed comment on this.

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

The largely untapped geothermal field around the Main Alpine Fault in the South Island should be investigated for development opportunities:

- Geothermal electricity production could provide a boost for West Coast economy and not be subject to the boom-and-bust cycles of some other significant industries in the area.
- Geothermal electricity production in this area would make it less dependent on transmission from other areas.
- Geothermal electricity production in this area could provide faster restoration of supply after a major event such as a rupture of the Main Alpine Fault.

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

Challenges related to the opportunity in point 6 above include:

- Much of the geothermal activity is within conservation areas. However, a comparison with Department of Conservation maps suggests that some high-potential geothermal areas are outside of conservation areas.
- The proximity of the geothermal area to the Main Alpine Fault presents another challenge. However, I see this as an opportunity to use and if necessary further develop our significant earthquake research and resilience technology.

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

None that I can identify.

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:

No further suggestions.