

Thank you for making the draft strategy “From the ground up” available for consultation. I am definitely in favour of using our geothermal resources for the good of NZ’s economy and with cultural sensitivity to the tangata whenua.

As a long-term resident of Taupo I have one major concern about the strategy. On page 27 under the heading **Having your say** you ask ‘are there challenges for our geothermal sector that we haven’t considered?’

I would like to ask you to consider the impact of geothermal drilling on residential areas. We live on Huka Falls Road, Taupo. In 2024 there was drilling being done to the west of Wairakei Drive, approximately 2 km from our home. We had intermittent rumbling and ground movement during the months-long drilling period. I could not find who to contact to discuss the issue, every agency I spoke to said it was someone else’s responsibility.

When you make plans for geothermal exploration, I would like to see conditions that the drilling is not to take place in near proximity to residential areas. At the very least there should be conditions that companies must be aware of and mitigate any noise and ground movement effects on residential areas.

Shona Bleakley

Privacy of natural persons

[Redacted]

[Redacted]