

Jonathan Young MP
Chair
Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

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18 September 2018

Tēnā koe Mr Young,

We are writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee ahead of expected changes to the Crown Minerals Act. We expect your committee to be considering amendments to this legislation very soon based on recent public comments by the Prime Minister and Minister of Energy and Resources.*

We are writing to request that once this occurs the committee holds public hearings in New Plymouth, given that Taranaki is the home of the oil and gas industry in New Zealand and the region most directly affected by these changes.

The voices of Taranaki's workers and businesses need to be heard in person. They face an uncertain future since the Coalition Government's announcement and deserve the chance to be heard by legislators.

For many workers and their families it would be difficult and expensive to visit Wellington for the purpose of making a submission. In the interests of fairness, democracy and natural justice it seems only right for at least some of the hearings to be held in the region most affected by this policy.

We note it is common for select committees to hold hearings in different centres and that New Plymouth and Waitara have hosted select committee hearings on different issues in recent years.

We understand this will require a vote of your committee at the relevant time, and we hope you will support such a motion.

As always, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you in person at your convenience to discuss this proposal or any other issues.

Please feel free to contact me at any time on 021 674 671 or at cameron.madgwick@pepanz.com.

Nāku i runga i aku mihi ki a koe





Cameron Madgwick
Chief Executive Officer

* *"I believe the Minister will be making statements on that imminently."* – Prime Minister's post-cabinet press conference 15 September 2018, and comments by the Minister of Energy and Resources in Question Time on 8 August 2018 ("We have signalled there is likely legislative change for any further block offer announcements.")

While the relevant select committee will be determined by the Minister of Energy and Resources, we would expect it to be your committee given it holds annual estimates hearings for the Energy and Resources portfolio.