



# MAXIMISING OUR MINERAL POTENTIAL

## SUMMARY OF GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

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### THE REMOVAL OF 7,058 HECTARES OF LAND FROM SCHEDULE FOUR OF THE CROWN MINERALS ACT

The Government is proposing the following highly prospective areas for removal from Schedule Four, to allow applications for mineral-related activity to be considered on a case-by-case basis (with land access and resource consent considerations still applying):

- Seven areas in the Coromandel Peninsula totalling 2,574 hectares (3.7 per cent of public conservation land on the peninsula);
- 705 hectares of Te Ahumata Plateau area (about 2.6 percent of Great Barrier Island);
- The Otahu Ecological Area (396 hectares);
- Parakawai Geological Area (68 hectares); and
- The Inangahua sector of Paparoa National Park (3,315 hectares – 8 per cent of the park)

These areas total 7,058 hectares (70 square kilometres) and account for 0.2 percent of Schedule 4 land (or 0.026 percent of New Zealand's total land area).

### THE ADDITION OF 12,400 HECTARES TO SCHEDULE FOUR OF THE CROWN MINERALS ACT, RESULTING IN A NET ADDITION TO SCHEDULE FOUR OF 5,342 HECTARES

The Government is proposing the following areas for addition:

- Areas of Abel Tasman National Park (914 hectares)
- Burwood Bush Scientific Reserve (3,114 hectares)
- Areas of Egmont National Park (358 hectares)
- Horoirangi Marine Reserve near Nelson (904 hectares)
- Ianthe Scientific Reserve (211 hectares)
- Kaikoura Island scenic reserve (564 hectares)
- Orokonui Nature Reserve (236 hectares)
- An area of Paparoa National Park (240 hectares)
- Parinihihi Marine Reserve in North Taranaki (1,844 hectares)
- Rakitu Island scenic reserve (254 hectares)
- Tapuae Marine Reserve near New Plymouth (1,404 hectares)
- Taputeranga Marine Reserve off Wellington's South Coast (854 hectares)

- Te Paepae o Aotea (Volkner Rocks) Marine Reserve near White Island (1,267 hectares)
- Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve (237 hectares)

### FURTHER SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION OF PROSPECTIVE AREAS OF LAND

The stocktake revealed that areas of mineral interest in Schedule Four are broken into two groups:

- areas where there is enough information to pinpoint specific targeted areas of highest mineral potential; and
- areas where it is known there is excellent potential for mineralisation but for which more information is needed to pinpoint targeted areas.

The government is therefore proposing that further technical investigation is carried out over the next nine months in a range of areas. The programme will involve low impact techniques such as airborne geophysical exploration, mapping and sampling by mainly hand-held methods.

The research programme is expected to cost between around \$4 million and will be funded from within existing budgets.

The areas that will be further investigated are:

- the Northland region;
- public conservation lands on the Coromandel Peninsula
- the Southern Coromandel volcanic zone
- parts of the Central North Island
- the Median Batholith, found in various areas of the South Island including Rakiura National Park
- parts of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite belt
- the Tapuaenuku Complex near Kaikoura
- carbonatite rocks north of Haast River
- South Island areas with potential for mesothermal gold
- The Longwood complex in Southland.

Following the investigation programme the Government will consider whether to propose the removal of further areas from Schedule Four; and how best to make available the information collected.

## INTRODUCING JOINT MINISTERIAL APPROVAL FOR ACCESS TO CROWN LAND

Currently, consent to access for Crown land has to be given by the Minister responsible for administering the land. For public conservation land, this means the Minister of Conservation's consent is required before any mineral-related activities can be carried out.

The Government considers it important that the consideration of any mineral-related access arrangement application for Crown-owned land takes full account of the potential national significance and economic benefits of a proposal to explore or mine Crown-owned minerals.

The Government therefore proposes that:

- The joint approval of the land-holding Minister and the Minister of Energy and Resources be required for an access arrangement in future.

## ESTABLISHING A NATION-WIDE DOC STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR ACCESS TO LAND FOR PROSPECTING, EXPLORATION AND MINING

The lack of a standard nationwide procedure and timelines for processing minerals access arrangements, and incomplete applications and information from applicants, are leading to delay and frustration for both DOC and the minerals industry.

A nationwide standard operating procedure for access arrangement applications under the Crown Minerals Act is being developed. It is expected to be finalised within the next two months. It is envisaged it will include standardised application forms, specified fees charged for processing applications, and indicative timelines for different types of applications.

## A REVIEW OF THE CONCESSIONS PROCESS

Commenced in 2009, the Department of Conservation review will establish if the current concession process could be improved to better meet the needs of applicants with a specific focus on simplifying and streamlining processes, decision-making timeframes, transparency and certainty, and reducing compliance costs.

DoC is also developing, as part of the Resource Management Act Phase 2 review work, a model for a single process option for nationally significant proposals where both resource consents and concessions are required.

## ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONTESTABLE CONSERVATION FUND

The Government is proposing to establish a dedicated fund based on a portion of future royalties it receives in relation to mining in public conservation areas.

The fund would not impact on the money that DOC receives from the Crown for its conservation work, and would be used to supplement existing conservation activities by people and organisations around the country.

The fund would not be used to mitigate the effects of modern mine sites or provide compensation for mining activities.

The features of the fund would be:

- An objective to enhance conservation outcomes for New Zealand. Decision-makers would be able to use the available funds in ways that maximise conservation benefits.
- An annual budget for the fund based on 50 per cent of royalty revenue from minerals (other than petroleum) from public conservation areas, with a minimum of \$2 million per annum for the first four years and a maximum of \$10 million per annum;
- The fund would be contestable and open to all;
- Allocation and fund management would be made by an independent panel appointed by the Ministers of Energy and Resources and Conservation.