

# Climate Justice Taranaki

Newsletter, 30 Oct 2012

Tena koutou katoa e hoa ma,

please help us stop new proposed law changes that will see an increase in mining in and around Aotearoa and a weakening of our rights to stop or control it. The deadline is 5pm this Friday... but luckily a kind friend from a Far North action group has gone through all the paperwork and written us an easy summary submission to just complete and sign. See below. It is crucial that as many of us as possible send in submissions even if you just say "no changes"!

On a happier note, our group is busy organising a special event for the next month that we'd love to see you all at... 'A Sustainable Farming Film Festival' - coming soon to Okato!

A Saturday night at the community hall, four inspiring and informative films that will offer you solutions for a farming system that can provide more nutrient-rich food, a safer work environment, stronger communities, less business risk and even captures carbon. We have also invited some local and national expert speakers and will have info stalls so you can learn as much as possible from the pioneers. The event will be FREE with drinks and snacks on sale as a community fundraiser. More info coming soon... Get in touch if you want to help out or hold a stall.

For the latest news, views and resources to do with climate justice and sustainability see our website.

Nga mihinui,

Climate Justice Taranaki

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## Crown Minerals (Permitting and Crown Land) Bill

SUBMISSION (deadline 2 November 2012) to:

The Clerk and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Commerce Select Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Email contact details:

28 October 2012

Kia ora

I, \_\_\_\_\_ [description of who you are] from \_\_\_\_\_ [and where you live] wish to make the following submission to the Crown Minerals Permitting and Crown Lands) Bill.

### Clause 1A Purpose

I am opposed to the basic purpose of the Crown Minerals (Permitting and Crown Land) Bill, that is, "to promote prospecting for, exploration for, and mining of Crown owned minerals for the benefit of New Zealand ...and the efficient allocation ...and management of mining rights ...for a financial return to the Crown ...".

The purpose should remain simply at management of minerals, not promotion. In addition, the clause needs to include a precautionary approach to any such mining, against environmental damage, and health hazards which might occur during exploration, prospecting or mining.

I believe the health of New Zealand's economy depends on looking after our country by conserving and enhancing our environmental assets, and undertaking activities which value our natural resources and uses them to provide long-term sustainable economic growth.

### Clause 10 Functions of Minister of Energy and Resources

This clause to enables the Minister to seek and grant permit applications, and promote mining investment decisions.

Again, the promotion of mining should be removed.

In addition, the clause needs to include responsibilities to monitor effects of mining, mitigate any adverse environmental events, and/or to stop mining or exploration because of likely adverse environmental or community health concerns.

### Clause 32 New Section 61C (Access arrangements)

This clause is to allow for access on Crown land to allow for “significant mining activities” and although it notes the Ministers must have regard to the effects of mining activities on such land, there is nothing in this clause which actually protects the land nor ecosystems, and it removes previous restrictions on vegetation stripping or adverse impact on the land as in the previous Crown Minerals Act.

I oppose this Clause.

### Clause 22 New Section 35 (Duration of Permit)

This clause proposes changes to the length of time a prospecting permit may be in force, and exploration for petroleum and non-petroleum minerals.

Previously prospecting was allowed for two years. In this new legislation it is allowed for four years.

Similarly, previously exploration for minerals was allowed for five years. In this new legislation it is allowed for 10 years.

I am opposed to the extension of permits.

### Decision making powers

The Bill provides for access applications for mineral development affecting Crown land to be considered by both the land-holding Minister, and the Minister of Energy and Resources. This means that it requires the Minister of Energy to join the Conservation Minister, in decision-making about mining and mineral-related access. At the moment, the decision-maker is the land-holding Minister only.

This undermines an important step forward that was taken in 1991 when, under the new legislation, the Minister of Conservation (and other Ministers administering Crown land) were given the same rights as private land owners to decide, in accordance with the Act, what may happen on public conservation land. I am opposed to the joint decision-making proposal.

### Extra Additional Clauses needed:

I suggest new clauses be inserted that provide a mechanism for private landowners, hapu and ‘land holding Ministers’ to remove access, exploration,

prospecting and mining permits over their own land or seabed they have responsibility for.

In some cases, land has historically had access, exploration or prospecting licences granted over it, sometimes decades or generations earlier. In some cases land has been purchased with no knowledge of the permits.

Landowners, hapu or ‘land holding Ministers’ may wish for these permits to be removed for many reasons including certainty about their future.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Details (phone etc) \_\_\_\_\_

I request that the Commerce select committee holds a hearing \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ this legislation in Taranaki. If this request is granted, then we \_\_\_\_\_ wish \_\_\_\_\_ to appear in support of our submission.

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COPY AND PASTE the SUBMISSION ABOVE (filling out your details or any changes) into the ONLINE FORM at

[http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/a/c/d/50SCCO\\_SCF\\_00DBHOH\\_BILL11798\\_1-Crown-Minerals-Permitting-and-Crown.htm](http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/SC/MakeSub/a/c/d/50SCCO_SCF_00DBHOH_BILL11798_1-Crown-Minerals-Permitting-and-Crown.htm)

Deadline 5pm Friday 2 November.

[If you want to know WHY see the end of this panui and if you’re more interested in the detail and understanding what’s going on, check out:

<http://pundit.co.nz/content/100-pure-middle-earth-mine-not-ours>]

HERE'S WHY:

The Government has been working closely with oil and mining corporate interests to rewrite existing laws to favour exploitation and streamline access to what’s underground and under the seabed.

The first passed was the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act which was bulldozed through parliament in August. The Government ignored all intelligent environmental

safeguards suggested in submissions and included much of what mining and oil companies wanted to access minerals and fossil fuels from 12 nautical miles, all the way out to the edge of the continental shelf.

And in the same vein, right now changes are proposed across several Government Acts, including the Conservation Act, Reserves Act and Wildlife Act to give preference to mining and oil companies. This would cover the area from the mountain tops, across the land and the coastal seabed out to 12 nautical miles.

Key to this is changing the focus of the laws that govern mining. Currently the purpose of the 1991 Crown Minerals Act is for “the management of Crown owned minerals” but this has been changed to: “promote prospecting for, exploration for, and mining of Crown owned minerals for the benefit of New Zealand ...”.

The proposals seek to give dominant power to the Minister of Energy and Resources - whose position favours mining, fracking and drilling – above the Conservation Minister and other ‘land holding’ Ministers.

It is a sneaky way of undermining public opinion around mining expressed in the huge Queen Street march against mining of 2010. Environmental precautions are absent.

If the combination of all these changes succeed, priority access will have be given to mining and oil companies from the mountaintops across land and seabed into the deep sea on the edge of the continental shelf. This is unlike anything we have seen before.

PLEASE SEND A SUBMISSION of your demand ;) TODAY!

Climate Justice Taranaki

<http://climatejusticetaranaki.info>

[http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group\\_205878806095057](http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=group_205878806095057)

<http://nodrilling.wordpress.com/taranaki/>