

26th May, 2010

Ministry of Economic Development

To: schedule4@med.govt.nz

NZCID Submission to the Ministry of Economic Development and Department of Conservation on 'Maximising our Mineral Potential: Stock take of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act and Beyond'

The New Zealand Council for Infrastructure Development has contributed to and fully endorses the detailed submission made by Business New Zealand in support of judicious access to Schedule 4 land as a means to unlock value from minerals on Crown-owned land. We make the following key points in support of this submission.

1. NZCID supports a general policy of New Zealand earning revenue from responsible minerals development undertaken in a manner that enhances the conservation estate.
2. The NZ Council for Infrastructure Development (NZCID) supports the removal of proposed areas from Schedule 4 (outlined in section 7 of the discussion document) so that applications for exploration and mining can be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. NZCID supports the addition of the proposed areas to Schedule 4 (outlined in section 8 of the discussion document) as an indication of good faith and support for New Zealand's conservation values.
4. NZCID considers that the mineral potential of areas listed in sections 7 and 8 of the discussion document is likely to be understated and that the true potential can only be determined through investigation.
5. NZCID endorses a policy of open information flow regarding minerals investigation, in the interests of economic benefit for all New Zealanders.
6. NZCID supports proposals to establish a Conservation Fund, its funding by a portion of royalties, and its operation by an independent panel.
7. NZCID supports access arrangements being jointly approved by the land-holding Minister and the Minister of Energy and Resources.
8. NZCID notes that new methods and equipment mean it is possible to get precise access to and the retrieval of minerals and we now have very sophisticated standards and technology for restoring and enhancing landscapes.

9. NZCID considers that environmental effects are properly addressed under the Resource Management Act framework and other protections designed to manage them, as outlined in section 3.2 of the consultation document. In addition, existing planning documents (such as regional and district plans) are not over-ridden by the Schedule 4 proposals. Combined, these constraints are significant, and it cannot be implied that the removal of land from Schedule 4 will result in that area being mined.

Yours faithfully,



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