

Curia Market Research mining poll results – 2026

To note:

The survey sample size was 1,400 – 1,000 by online panel, representative of New Zealand. An additional 200 in Waihi and 200 on the West Coast of the South Island, by phone.

The survey ran from Friday 10 April to Sunday 19 April 2026.

The sample population was adults aged 18+ who live in New Zealand and are eligible to vote, who are contactable on a landline or mobile phone or online panel.

Based on the main sample size of 1,000 respondents, the maximum sampling error (for a result of 50%) is +/-3.1%, at a 95% confidence level. Results for Waihi and West Coast have a margin of error of 6.8% and 6.9% respectively.

Questions and answers included:

Overall, do you have a positive, negative, or neutral view of mining in New Zealand?

43% view mining favourably and 22% negatively, for a net favourability of +21%. 32% were neutral.

In Waihi 72% viewed favourably and 13% negatively. On the West Coast 83% viewed favourably and 5% negatively.

Women are +7% favourable and men +38%.

Under 40s are +27%, 40-59 year olds +12%, over 60s +28%.

Which industry do you think generates greater exports for New Zealand? (Wine or mining)

20% more respondents **incorrectly** thought wine had greater export earnings than mining. 52% said wine; 32% said mining; 17% said don't know.

How important do you think mining is to New Zealand's economy?

72% of New Zealanders think mining is very or somewhat important to New Zealand's economy. In Waihi it is 81% and on the West Coast, 89%.

How valuable do you think New Zealand's mining industry is to each of the following?

- **New Zealand's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**
- **Preserving local jobs and communities**
- **New Zealand's export earnings**
- **Conservation and environmental rehabilitation**
- **Infrastructure and construction**
- **New Zealand's transition to a low-carbon economy**

The proportions saying very or somewhat valuable, in order are:

1. Local jobs and communities 83%
2. Exports 79%
3. NZ GDP 77%
4. Infrastructure and construction 71%
5. Conservation and environmental rehabilitation 52%
6. Transition to low carbon economy 52%

How concerned are you about each of the following when it comes to mining in New Zealand?

The portion significantly or very concerned are:

1. Profits going overseas 49%
2. Impact on biodiversity 43%
3. Destruction of conservation land 40%
4. Contribution to climate change 38%
5. Visual impact 38%
6. Lack of transparency on environmental impacts 38%
7. Not enough local benefit 36%
8. Damage to waterways 36%
9. Impact on local communities 32%

Minerals like silica and iron sand are needed to produce things like solar panels and renewable energy infrastructure. Would you prefer New Zealand to mine these minerals ourselves, or import them from other countries?

58% of respondents prefer New Zealand to mine its own minerals and 14% prefer to import from other countries.

New Zealand has some of the world's highest environmental and employment standards for mining operations. Other countries where minerals are mined often have weaker protections. Now, knowing that, would you prefer NZ to mine its own minerals, import minerals, or have no preference?

71% prefer NZ to mine its own minerals and 12% prefer to import.

If a proposed mine would create 500 jobs, but would be located on conservation land and require relocation of several native species, would you support or oppose the mine going ahead?

46% of respondents would support the proposed mine going ahead, and 29% would be opposed.

New Zealand mining is subject to strict regulations and oversight. How much would awareness of each of the following influence your support for mining in New Zealand?

The proportions saying something would somewhat or greatly influence their views are:

1. Local economic benefits 70%
2. More local employment 69%
3. Renewable energy transition 69%
4. Transparent site rehabilitation 68%
5. Greater transparency 66%
6. Strict environmental monitoring 65%

Do you agree or disagree with the statement: My views on mining would not change with any further information?

58% agree and 42% disagree.

Have you heard of the Government's Fast-track Approvals law?

65% have heard of the law.

Based on what you know or have heard, do you support or oppose the Fast-track Approvals law?

The fast-track approval law has +24% net support in New Zealand. In Waihi it is +42% and in the West Coast +66%.

The Fast-track Approvals law is designed to speed up the approval process for development projects considered to be of regional or national significance. Existing environmental rules and regulations remain in place, with economic benefits also taken into consideration. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the law?

After explanation net support is +35%.

Thinking about the next 10 years, would you like to see each of the following types of mining in New Zealand increase, stay the same, or decrease?

The **net increase** in support is:

Critical minerals +56%

Gold mining +45%

Sand, gravel and rock quarrying +42%

Coal mining +32%

Mining companies in New Zealand are legally required to meet strict environmental conditions as part of their resource consents, and face prosecution if they fail to do so. How much do you trust mining companies to comply with these conditions?

60% say they have a fair or great amount of trust and 30% not very much or any trust. In Waihi the figures are 81% and 19% and on the West Coast 76% and 22% respectively.