Election 2026

– Mining means progress

Research shows

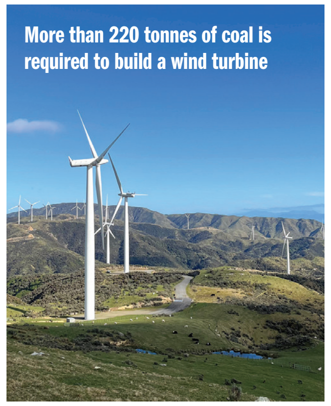
72%

of New Zealanders think mining is important to the economy. They are right.

71%

said they would prefer New Zealand to mine its own minerals, while just 12% said they would prefer us to import minerals.

As our map shows, mining contributes to exports and jobs; pays taxes and royalties to the Government; pays wages and rates; and contributes to the environment and regional economies where the mines are.



More than 220 tonnes of coal is required to build a wind turbine

We would like all political parties to consider the facts about mining, including:

- **Mining's value in terms of jobs and economic contributions**
- **Responsible mining in 2026 and beyond cares for people and places**
- **The benefits of growth and developing critical minerals to meet global demand**
- **Growth will require a skilled workforce**
- **That minerals are essential for a better, healthier future and for modern living to progress in all fields including technology, health care, renewable energy, food production, environmental protection, infrastructure, transport, space exploration, resilience, science and new discoveries.**

Policy and law should **enable investment in and growth of the mining industry** so that New Zealand can make the most of its resources, within reasonable guardrails.

Stable Government and cross-party agreement on impactful issues allows for clarity and confidence for businesses, investors, and trading partners, as well as positive outcomes for all New Zealanders.

Following are **areas** we would like the parties aspiring to make up the next Government to engage with our industry on, and reflect in their policies.

Looping our way through the laws

To move through mineral prospecting and exploration into mining requires millions of dollars and a loop de loop through many laws, rules and regulations.

The time and cost of this can be a deterrent to international investors. Because of the high up-front costs of mining, before there is a return to cover that, investment largely comes from economies bigger than New Zealand.

The fast-track law condensed this laborious journey into a one-stop shop for consenting projects, allowing applications to be considered in one place. This was celebrated as a sensible approach to getting significant projects up and running in a timely way.

The fast-track law should continue to be refined to match its economic purpose. The projects that have gone through the process so far illustrate that this is not the rubber stamp for mining and other development that some critics claim.

We want to see the one-stop shop approach extended, beyond the life of the fast-track law, to be a pragmatic approach to consenting projects that are covered by numerous laws. These would be projects of regional and national significance bringing money into the economy and providing much needed jobs.

Sticking to the strategy and critical minerals

In January 2025 the Government launched a minerals strategy and critical minerals list. This has given New Zealand profile on the world stage where there is competition for access to certain critical minerals. The Government needs to be cognisant of the global tensions around critical minerals and we would not want to see this tension lead to any restrictions in trade.

We want to see the incoming Government remain committed to a minerals strategy and a "live" (adjusted according to supply and demand) critical minerals list.

Conservation and the Wildlife Act

We support modernisation of the Conservation Act which is underway. Mining's footprint on conservation land is small and temporary – about 0.04 percent of the conservation estate has been mined. But because one-third of the country is locked away as a conservation estate, we need continued access on a case-by-case basis.

There are some fantastic examples of where mining companies and the Department of Conservation have worked together to create the best environmental outcomes. These include the likes of pest management and kiwi breeding programmes, and at the end of mining major rehabilitation projects leaving community assets for all to enjoy.

There is a great deal of misinformation circulated about mining on conservation land. For mining applications to be approved and consent to mine given, strict environmental regulations have to be met and conditions agreed to.

The Wildlife Act was passed in 1953 and the world has changed. This legislation threatens many development projects, not just mining, and must be modernised.

We want the incoming Government to acknowledge that caring for the environment and the economy are not mutually exclusive and that miners care about the environment and managing their impact on it.

Mining on conservation land should continue on a case-by-case basis. Suggested bans are steeped in ideology, not facts, evidence, and science.

Climate change

We believe the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) is the most effective and fairest way for the Government to meet climate change obligations.

Minerals play a crucial role in both combatting and adapting to climate change. They are needed in abundance to make wind turbines, solar panels, batteries, etc. for renewable energy.

If production shifts offshore because New Zealand emitters face higher costs than their international competition, then jobs and businesses are put at risk for zero environmental benefit.

Coal is critical to steel and food production and electricity generation.

When the rain doesn't fall, the sun doesn't shine, and the wind doesn't blow, coal is needed for back up electricity generation.

We don't believe the incoming Government should over complicate meeting our emissions targets and should leave the ETS to do that work.

We would like to see the incoming Government acknowledge the role mined minerals will play in climate change adaptation and ongoing resilience, including in infrastructure.

Seabed mining

There are critical minerals in the seabed within New Zealand's territorial sea and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Pacific Island nations are exploring seabed mining, often with New Zealand expertise.

Science, evidence, and facts should prevail when looking at extracting minerals from the sea.

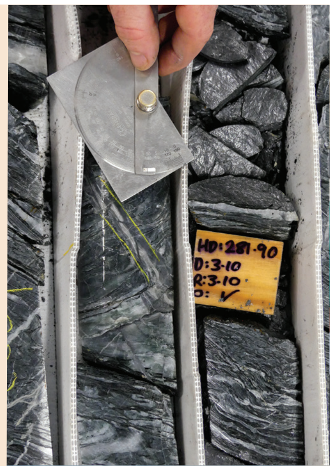
To fully reflect that science, and unlock the potential for responsible seabed mining, the incoming Government will need to clarify the purpose of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012. This would be to permit case-by-case development of the natural resources of the EEZ, while meeting environmental objectives.

We want the incoming Government to work with the minerals sector to review the EEZ law to make it fit for purpose. Such a review would have benefits for other sea-based industries as well.

Costs for mining

The Government is looking at royalty payments and other costs to mining and this work will extend beyond the election. The industry is comfortable with paying its way. However, New Zealand is seen by investors as an expensive jurisdiction for mining. There is investment choice and we want New Zealand to be in the mix.

We want the incoming Government to be aware that significant investment is required for mining in New Zealand. If costs are too high, investors will look elsewhere. Don't kill the goose before it can lay golden eggs.



How will your party help?

Will you support mining in New Zealand based on responsible mine management; encourage investment; and support research and science to understand and develop our resources?

What are your plans to:

- **Modernise legislation to better enable growth in the productive sector, including laws governing resource management, conservation and reserves, environment, wildlife, and the EEZ**
- **Engage with mining stakeholders to support development of the industry**
- **Ensure that primary, secondary and tertiary state education appropriately recognises growth in the mining sector and properly equips New Zealanders to work in the industry**
- **Support research and science, both on land and sea, to understand our resources and how to develop them responsibly**
- **Balance New Zealanders' interest in the environment with the need to have economic growth, including in the productive sectors, and the need for more resources to meet energy and technology demands**
- **Acknowledge the work the mining industry does to care for the places they mine, and work with stakeholders to get the best outcome for rehabilitation and restoration work, particularly on the conservation estate.**

New Zealand Minerals Council is the industry association representing the New Zealand minerals and mining sector.

Members include minerals producers, explorers, researchers, engineering and geotechnical firms, equipment suppliers, and providers of ancillary services such as legal, financial, insurance and environmental expertise.
www.mineralscouncil.co.nz

Our purpose is to: Enable socially and environmentally responsible mining, providing minerals for a sustainable and resilient future and enduring value for New Zealanders. Our members sign up to this.

New Zealand
MINERALS
COUNCIL

New Zealand mining

Mining is a small but highly productive part of the New Zealand economy with potential to grow as the world's demand for critical minerals outstrips supply.

Mining companies, in addition to providing jobs, support regional economies with their purchasing power and contribute to many social, environmental, educational, and sports projects.

$2.07 billion GDP

CORPORATE INCOME TAX AND PAYE 2025
$342.5 million

ROYALTIES
$30 million plus paid by the mining industry

Taxes go into the Government accounts to pay for roads, schools, hospitals and the like.

EXPORT CONTRIBUTION

$3.1 billion minerals export earnings in 2026.

Export earnings have doubled since 2023, which is the baseline year of the Government's minerals strategy.

Gold - #1 goods export to Australia
Coal - #2 goods export to India
Aluminium - #2 goods export to Japan
Iron ore - #3 goods export to Hong Kong

REGIONAL ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION

Mining is significant to regional job creation and GDP.

Hauraki 22% of GDP
Buller 16.6% of GDP
Waitaki 26.6% of GDP

Mining companies pay more than $3 million per year in contributions to their local communities – to healthcare, schools, charities, community assets, sports, community groups, marae, and conservation projects.

RATES

Miners pay significant rates, which vary from region to region.

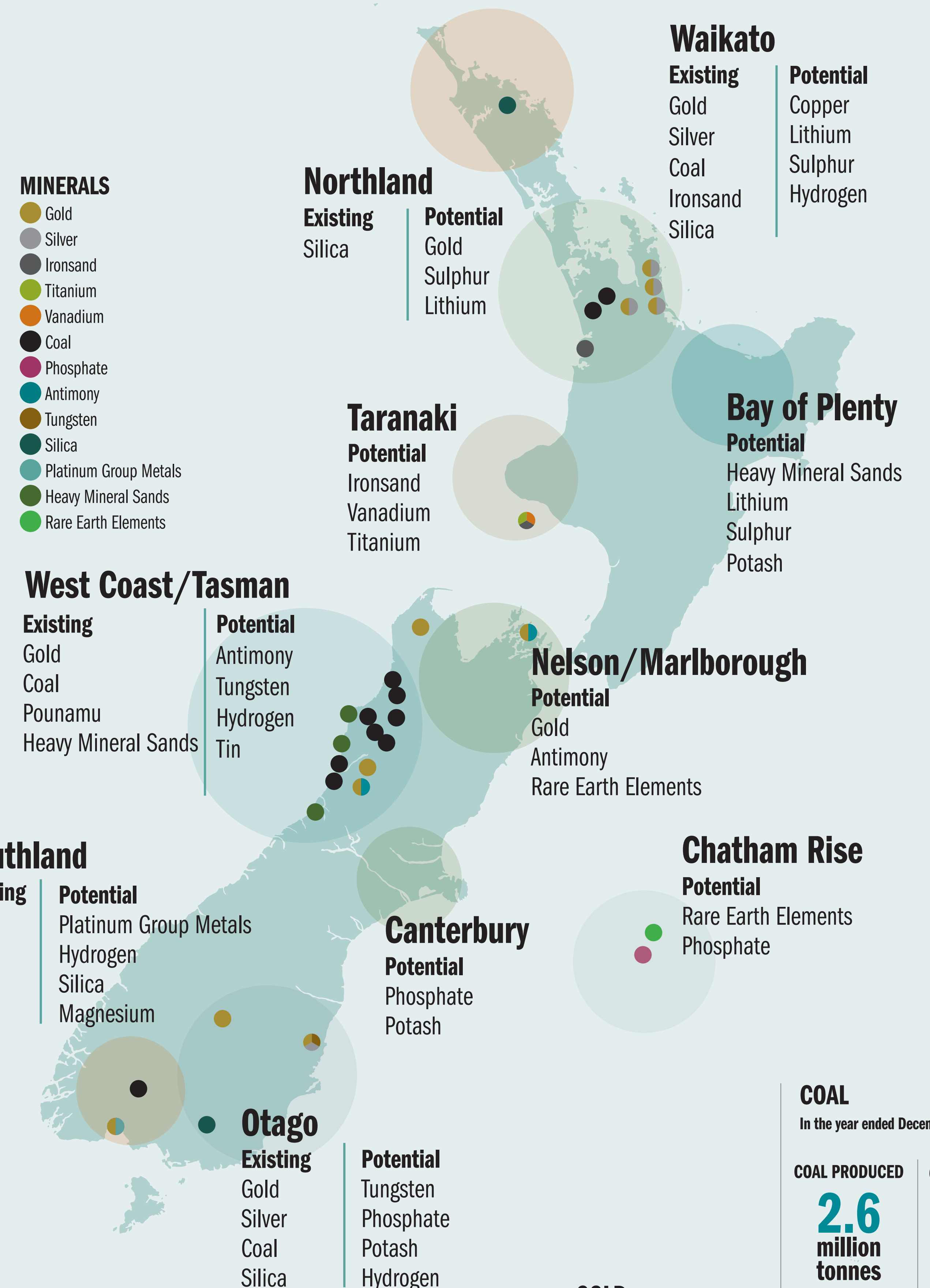
Buller – coal miners contribute 9.9% of Buller District Council's general rate take.

Hauraki – miners pay 75 times as much per dollar of capital value than other industrial rate payers.

EXPLORATION

In 2025 there were 551 mining applications compared with 450 in 2024.

Existing and potential mining



*This map is indicative only as permits change from time to time.

GOLD

In the year ended December 2025

GOLD PRODUCED
250,000 ounces

COAL

In the year ended December 2025

COAL PRODUCED	COAL EXPORTED
2.6 million tonnes	**1.43** million tonnes
COAL CONSUMED LOCALLY	**COAL USED FOR ELECTRICITY**
2 million tonnes	**0.54** million tonnes

CRITICAL MINERALS

Critical minerals are needed for energy, technology, medicine, transport, infrastructure, communications, food production, and many other aspects of our lives.

New Zealand's first Critical Minerals List includes 37 minerals, which are listed below in alphabetical order – those produced in New Zealand are highlighted in orange and those with potential to be produced in New Zealand in green:

Aggregate & Sand	Cobalt	Metallurgical coal	Rubidium
Aluminium	Copper	Molybdenum	Selenium
Antimony	Fluorspar	Nickel	Silicon
Arsenic	Gallium	Niobium	Strontium
Beryllium	Germanium	Phosphate	Tellurium
Bismuth	Gold	Platinum Group Metals	Titanium
Boron	Graphite	Potassium (Potash)	Tungsten
Cesium	Indium	Rare Earth Elements	Vanadium
Chromium	Magnesium		Zinc
	Manganese		Zirconium

PRODUCTIVITY

Mining is one of the most productive sectors in the New Zealand economy.

$458,952

value of amount produced per full time equivalent

$174, 045 across the whole economy.

JOBS

5,870 people

The extractive sector employs 5,870 people (2024), up 11% from 5,290 in 2023, the baseline year for the minerals strategy. With the mines in the pipeline there are more than **1,500 new jobs** directly in mining. Mean earnings for mining (including oil and gas, and quarrying) are **$125,630** compared with mean earnings for the whole economy of $82,500.

SUSTAINABILITY

New Zealand Minerals Council members sign up to our Charter purpose:

Enable socially and environmentally responsible mining, providing minerals for a sustainable and resilient future and enduring value for all New Zealanders.

CONSERVATION LAND

Mining is the most productive land use on the conservation estate, over a tiny footprint

Mining takes place on only

0.04%

of the conservation estate

Mining is prohibited in National Parks