



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

A Minerals Strategy for New Zealand to 2040

JANUARY 2025

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Hīkina Whakatutuki – Lifting to make successful

MBIE develops and delivers policy, services, advice and regulation to support economic growth and the prosperity and wellbeing of New Zealanders.

More information

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ISBN (online): 978-1-991316-28-8 ISBN (print): 978-1-991316-29-5
JANUARY 2025

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Foreword



Developing our minerals sector is one of our country’s big opportunities. We can double the value of our mineral exports to \$3 billion by 2035.

Minerals are essential for our way of life and enable nearly every aspect of our modern world. They are at the

heart of key sectors that drive New Zealand’s economy, including infrastructure, construction, agriculture, manufacturing, medical equipment, and information technology. Some of our regions have been built on mineral developments, and they are still the heart and fabric of many of our communities.

The numbers don’t lie – the minerals sector is a small but mighty part of New Zealand’s productive output. The value of mineral exports for the year to June 2023 was \$1.46 billion. The sector creates job opportunities, supports local businesses, and generates substantial tax revenue that funds infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

We have barely scratched the surface when it comes to our potential. This strategy will focus our efforts towards a clear goal, and ensure we have the foundations in place to enable the sector to meet our ambition. The delivery roadmap within our strategy will be updated annually, to lead us on an export-led growth pathway to double the value of our mineral exports to \$3 billion by 2035.

Gold and coal are the main drivers of economic activity for the minerals sector in New Zealand. With continued growth, they will remain the backbone of our sector. But our geology means we have a varied mineral endowment. There is potential for us to develop critical minerals, including those needed for new technologies and a clean energy transition. The International Energy Agency estimates that to reach net-zero emissions by 2050, the world will need six times more minerals for low emissions technology than are currently being extracted. Production of electric vehicles, batteries,

wind turbines and solar panels are already driving significant minerals demand. This will only increase.

We have a choice to make – do we contribute to and benefit from this growing market, or do we become the recipients of other countries’ economic effort and output?

I want New Zealand to be part of the solution. I want us to contribute to resilient and sustainable global minerals supply chains. We can do it on our terms, with a light touch on the environment, high employment standards, and consistent with Treaty of Waitangi settlements and commitments. The environmental impacts of mining can and will be managed to the highest standard. The sector is now at the forefront of innovation. Precision has replaced estimation, enabled by cutting-edge technology.

We are taking an active, deliberate and coordinated approach for the sector that will take us from ‘open for business’ to ‘doing business’. This strategy will guide business investment and inform regulatory design.

Ultimately, we want to build the foundations of a minerals sector that delivers for New Zealanders, now and into the future, by supporting a productive and resilient economy through responsible and sustainable practices.

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Resources

A strategy to support growth

It’s a plan to coalesce around.

Minerals are essential for our way of life. They are the foundation for the technologies, infrastructure, and industries we use and rely on. From roads and houses to smartphones, batteries, medical equipment and renewable energy solutions, minerals are integral. They are essential inputs that enable innovation, manufacturing and economic growth, and support the sustainable development of societies.

However, we lack a clear guiding vision or plan to direct mineral development in New Zealand. By not defining our mineral future we put at risk security of supply of minerals needed to function and thrive, as well as our ability to derive economic benefit for New Zealanders. Developing a strategy allows us to determine our own minerals future, in a way that accounts for the domestic and geostrategic context and embeds Te Tiriti o Waitangi and responsible practices in its design.

This strategy will help groups think through the future of mineral development in New Zealand. It communicates the Government’s vision for the sector and the actions we will take to get there, which will give certainty to industry and the public.

Minerals production benefits New Zealanders.

The production of minerals benefits New Zealanders in a range of ways. The sector supports individuals by providing high-paying jobs in the regions, with training and education opportunities. It supports community investments, community sponsorships, momentum for local service businesses, and regional infrastructure and housing. It also supports us nationally. Developments generate corporate taxes and GST, which in turn contribute to funding our roads, healthcare, and education services. Around half of mining involves the production of Crown-owned minerals where royalties are also generated and paid into the Government’s account.

Aggregate production is strategically important, and scaling up gold and coking coal will drive our export revenues.

We have the potential to scale up production of existing minerals. Our quarries produce aggregates, industrial rocks and building stone, gravels, and sands throughout New Zealand. These are the building blocks for our infrastructure and housing needs. Gold mining is projected to continue to contribute significantly to New Zealand’s long-term earnings. Our high-grade metallurgical/coking coal will continue to be sought after for international steel making, and thermal coal also plays a role in keeping the lights on and businesses running.

New Zealand can contribute critical minerals for a clean energy transition.

Minerals are critical inputs into products that are necessary for modern life, such as within rapidly growing clean energy technology - from wind turbines and electricity networks to electric vehicles. They are also contained within medical products and as inputs into our key sectors. While New Zealand utilises these products, our critical mineral contributions are limited. However, we have critical mineral potential and our first developments are coming online now. There is an opportunity for New Zealand to position itself as a reliable supplier of minerals to our partners. We can strengthen critical supply chains and leverage our relationships and international partnerships to drive economic benefits for New Zealanders.

Industry statistics (for the year to June 2023)



\$1.46 billion
in mineral exports



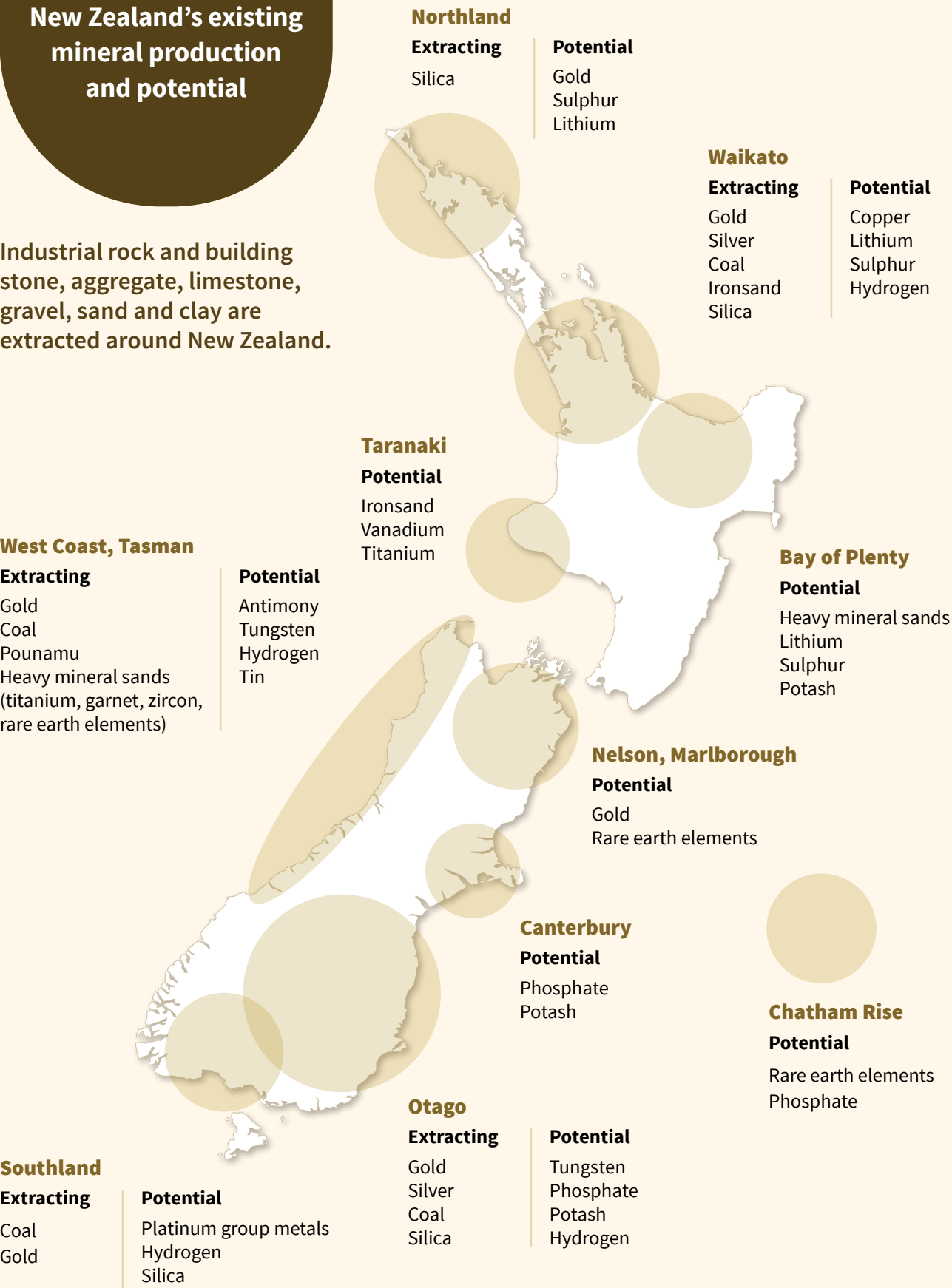
5,290 people
employed in the sector



\$21.6 million
in royalties

New Zealand’s existing mineral production and potential

Industrial rock and building stone, aggregate, limestone, gravel, sand and clay are extracted around New Zealand.



Our strategy



OUR VISION:

A minerals sector that delivers for New Zealanders, now and into the future, by supporting a productive and resilient economy through responsible and sustainable practices.



OUR GOAL:

Double the value of our mineral exports to \$3 billion by 2035.



OUTCOME 1: PRODUCTIVE

Sector growth and innovation contributes to New Zealand's prosperity.

OBJECTIVES:

Improve regulatory pathways to make obtaining permits and consents more efficient.

Develop a responsible regulatory framework that benefits New Zealand, its communities, and honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

Foster sector research, innovation, value add, workforce development, and the mining technology and services industry.

Attract foreign and domestic investment across the minerals value chain.



OUTCOME 2: VALUED

The value and potential of our minerals are understood, the sector's performance is known, and responsible practices are recognised.

OBJECTIVES:

Improve data on New Zealand's mineral resources, production and consumption.

Increase public understanding of minerals and use, our robust regulatory regime, and sector performance.



OUTCOME 3: RESILIENT

Our critical minerals are sought after and support resilient supply chains, here and overseas.

OBJECTIVES:

Support strategically important critical mineral developments, facilities, and capabilities.

Build international partnerships on critical minerals with economic partners.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1: TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

We are taking an active, deliberate and coordinated approach for New Zealand's mineral development that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and upholds Treaty settlements and commitments.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2: RESPONSIBLE

Minerals developments in New Zealand will happen in a responsible manner where environmental protection, the health and safety of our workers, and impacts on regional communities inform all sector initiatives.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 1:

Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We are taking an active, deliberate and coordinated approach for New Zealand's mineral development that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and upholds Treaty settlements and commitments.

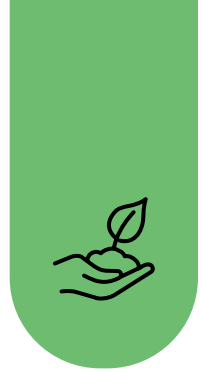
Iwi and hapū have significant interests and rights in relation to the protection and management of natural resources. The Government recognises aspirations for greater participation in natural resource management, given long-standing cultural, historical, spiritual, and traditional association to minerals.

Additionally, iwi and hapū have specific interests in minerals development, either directly as participants or indirectly with a view to regional employment and development. Iwi and hapū have an important role and opportunity as economic investors in sustainable project development and job creation, leading to regional economic prosperity.

In recognition of these rights and interests many iwi and hapū have, or are in negotiation with the Crown on, Crown Minerals Protocols expressed through their Treaty Settlements. These may include a commitment to ensure iwi and hapū are consulted with on the issuing of mining permits and the management of minerals. Some Treaty settlements and pieces of legislation also vest, or provide fossicking rights for, certain minerals.

Iwi and hapū also have broader perspectives relating to resource development. Activities associated with mineral extraction may have impacts on other kinds of rights and interests.

With Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a guiding principle, this strategy's outcomes and objectives will drive minerals development in a way that upholds Treaty settlements and commitments and recognises iwi and hapū perspectives and aspirations.



GUIDING PRINCIPLE 2:

Responsible

Minerals developments in New Zealand will happen in a responsible manner where environmental protection, the health and safety of our workers, and impacts on regional communities inform all sector initiatives.

Minerals production will not come at the expense of our environment, the health and safety of workers, or the communities in which activity takes place. All mineral production needs to be done in a responsible way.

This means ensuring we balance environmental protection and long-term environmental sustainability with the need for resource development. All actions that come out of this strategy will be informed by measures to minimise environmental impacts, ensure best practice rehabilitation plans, and mitigate environmental risks associated with mining. This specifically includes ensuring ongoing protection of areas of high value recognised as Schedule 4 land in the Crown Minerals Act 1991.

The safety and wellbeing of our people and communities is non-negotiable. There have been times when our workers have not returned to their families and our communities have suffered. Government and the sector carry both the weight of these failures and the lessons they taught us. Our work to cut red tape does not mean that we are cutting corners. The actions that are progressed under this strategy will support responsible practices that ensure the safety of our workers and the wellbeing of the communities where our workers come from.



OUTCOME 1:

Productive

Sector growth and innovation contributes to New Zealand's prosperity.

Productivity is at the heart of this strategy. Our economy requires access to the minerals it needs at the right time and in the right quantities to grow and thrive. Many of these minerals can be sourced responsibly in New Zealand if we have the right settings in place – this enhances security of supply. We can also derive value through the export of our minerals in a way that returns value to New Zealanders.

We will work towards enabling a more efficient regulatory system that can deliver minerals for our economy and regions, and in a way that respects the environment and conservation land, with Te Tiriti o Waitangi front of mind.

Production may come from the ground, from the re-processing of wastes and slags, or potentially from recycling and recovery. Circular economy thinking is part of our future.

Embracing technology and innovation can enhance our productivity and reduce financial, social and environmental costs. A major focus is adding value to our minerals by undertaking domestic processing prior to export. Increased mining, equipment, technology and services (METS) activity will also increase productivity.

Minerals projects need capital to get underway – the Government will promote our mineral opportunities to attract capital across the minerals value chain, from prospecting to refining. We will support initiatives in geoscience, research, innovation and regional infrastructure. We will work across government to enable these objectives with research organisations, investment agencies and the private sector.

How will we know that we have met this outcome?

We'll know that we have met this outcome if mineral exports have doubled to \$3 billion by 2035. This growth will bring additional jobs, wealth, and other benefits to New Zealand and to regional communities.

Objectives

- Improve regulatory pathways to make obtaining permits and consents more efficient.
- Develop a responsible regulatory framework that benefits New Zealand, its communities, and honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Foster sector research, innovation, value add, workforce development, and the mining technology and services industry.
- Attract foreign and domestic investment across the minerals value chain.



OUTCOME 2:

Valued

The value and potential of our minerals are understood, the sector's performance is known, and responsible practices are recognised.

Minerals are the building blocks of modern-day society. The industry is also seen as a driver of regional regeneration and economic opportunity. But to truly understand the functions our minerals serve for modern living and for our economy, we need the full picture.

We will improve data accessibility on our minerals potential, production and use. This means collating and publishing the many but varied data sets and reports of New Zealand's minerals. It also means improving information about our production across Crown and privately owned minerals. With a better information base we can model growth scenarios for the sector, to anticipate and forecast in advance and to understand any trade-offs.

We are transitioning to a clean energy future, underpinned by minerals. In light of this, better, publicly available data is needed to enable candid conversations about the role of minerals and minerals production in New Zealand.

New Zealand has a robust regulatory regime that proactively manages all aspects of minerals mining every step of the way. We will increase visibility of our minerals production and reserves, our responsible regulatory settings, and of sector practices.

This information will better support conversations on current practices and New Zealanders' environmental and social expectations.

How will we know that we have met this outcome?

We'll know that we have met this outcome when there is greater public understanding of our minerals, their potential and value, the regulatory system, and sector performance.

Objectives

- Improve data on New Zealand's mineral resources, production and consumption.
- Increase public understanding of minerals and use, our robust regulatory regime, and sector performance.



OUTCOME 3:

Resilient

Our critical minerals are sought after and support resilient supply chains, here and overseas.

Critical minerals are generally defined as mineral resources that are essential to the economy and whose supply may be disrupted. Critical minerals serve important functions. New Zealand relies on critical minerals as raw materials (such as phosphate for fertilisers) and within products (such as clean energy technology, microprocessors and medical products).

Currently, the extraction and processing of many minerals is concentrated in a limited number of countries. This high geographical concentration makes global critical minerals supply chains vulnerable to disruptions. New Zealand is exposed to international supply risks due to our reliance on some raw mineral and manufactured goods imports. But New Zealand can play a role in the domestic and international critical mineral economy, to increase resilience and contribute our fair share.

We will develop New Zealand's critical minerals list. Once we have a critical minerals list we will then undertake actions to reduce the supply risk of those particular minerals.

The first action is to look at how we can better enable developments to boost supply. This will build New Zealand's self-resilience for some minerals and allow us to supply international markets for other minerals, becoming a producer as well as a recipient.

We will also build international partnerships to ensure resilient supply of those minerals we cannot produce here in New Zealand.

Our responsible regulatory systems can be a model for others. Working with partners in this way will also facilitate international trade, market entry and inward investment.

How will we know that we have met this outcome?

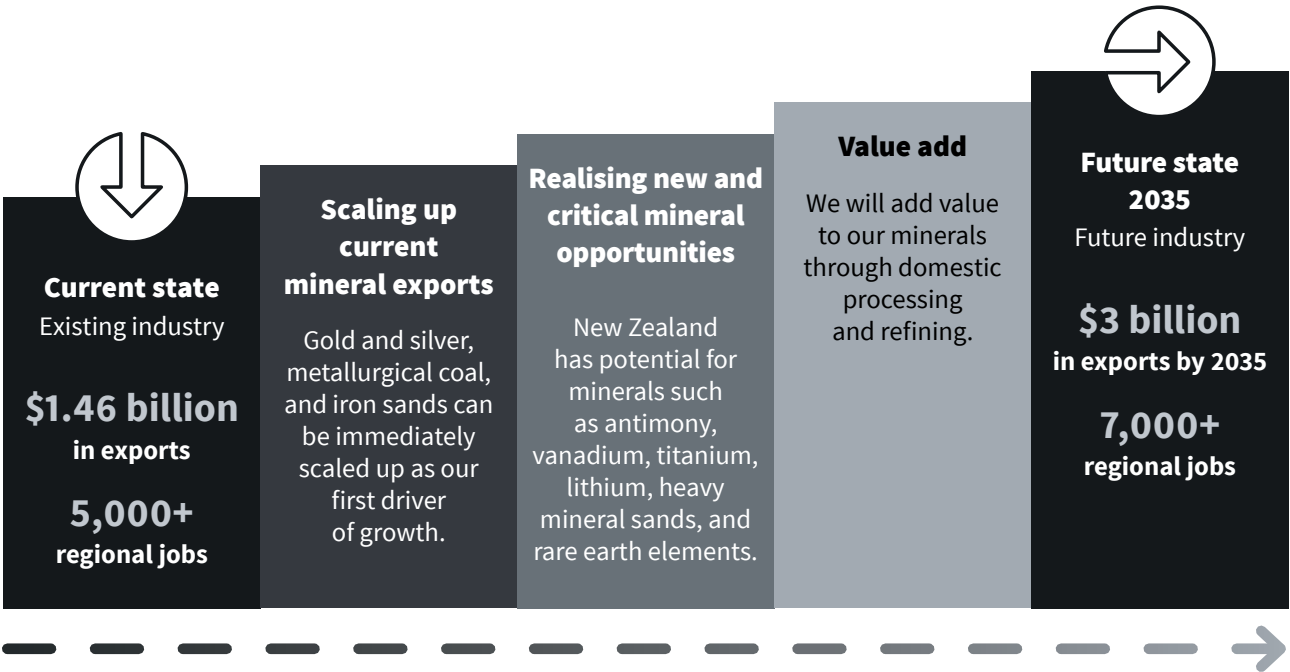
We'll know that we have met this outcome when our actions reduce the supply risk ratings of our critical minerals.

Objectives

- Support strategically important critical mineral developments, facilities, and capabilities.
- Build international partnerships on critical minerals with economic partners.

An export-led growth pathway

We expect that growth towards our goal of \$3 billion in annual mineral exports will be underpinned by scaling up our existing exports, realising new and critical mineral opportunities, and adding value to our minerals.



Delivery and monitoring

Timeframe

We will take an iterative approach to this strategy, with a one-year review. Following this, we plan to conduct reviews every three years.

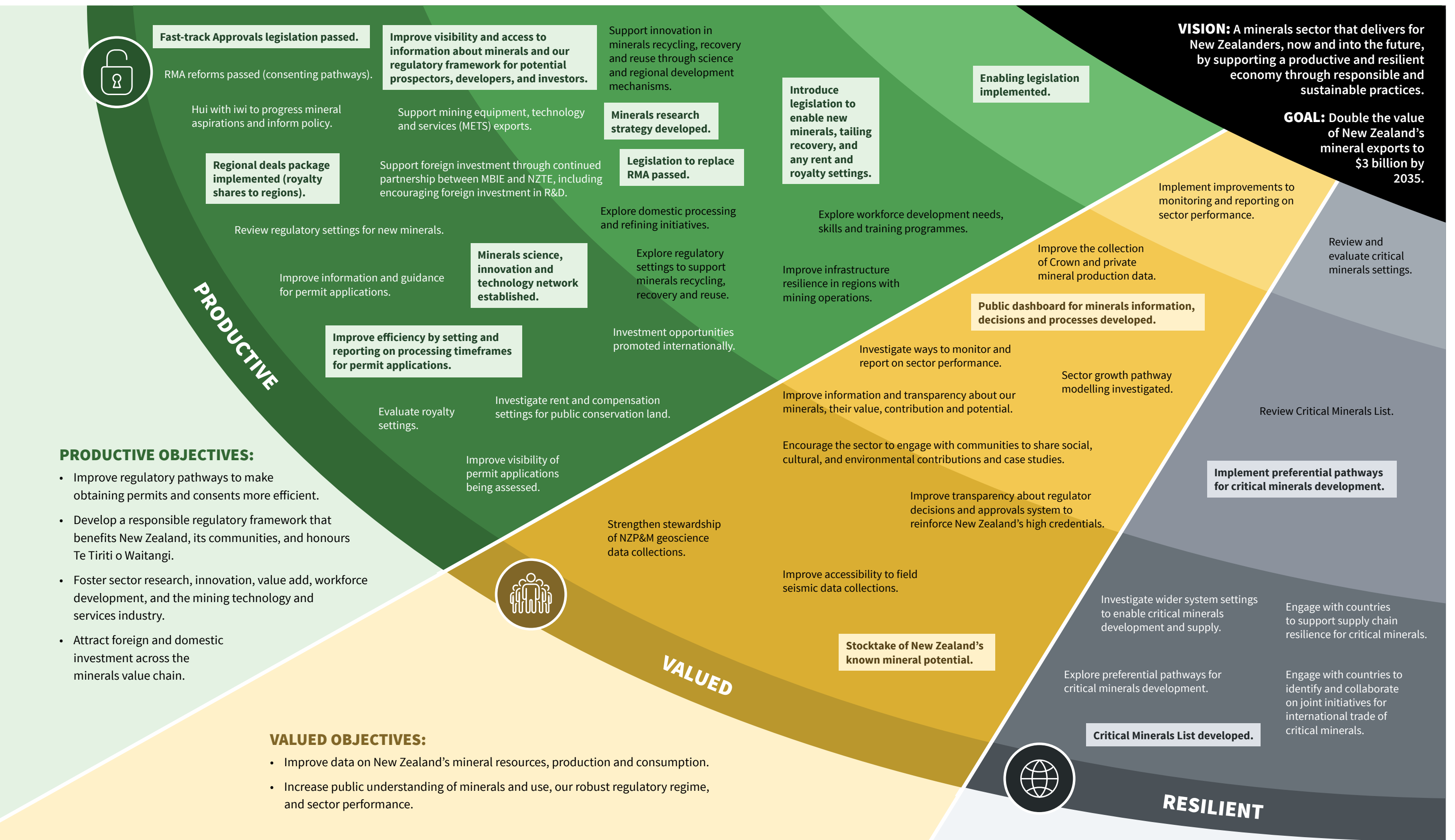
An annual delivery roadmap

Each year the government will publish an annual delivery roadmap to set future key actions for the delivery of the strategy. This first strategy has the roadmap within.

How will we know the strategy is succeeding?

Achieving a productive, valued and resilient sector requires measurement. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will measure and report on sector value, ease of business, information availability, and critical mineral resilience.

- Sector value**
Increased sector value, export sales, jobs, income, regional benefits from minerals developments, and inward investment.
- Ease of business**
Improved efficiency of our regulatory framework.
- Information availability**
Increased information availability on our minerals, their potential and value, and sector performance.
- Critical mineral resilience**
Increased critical minerals supply resilience and involvement in international minerals partnerships.



Delivery Roadmap

Content and placement is indicative and may change as policy, timing and funding decisions develop.
Intended to be updated annually.



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