



MINED - YOUR BUSINESS



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

I'm not on my own in saying the Christmas break can't come too soon!

We started the year well; there was, and still is, no sign or prospect of progress on the dreaded 'solution without a problem' that we know as the 'No New Mines on Conservation Land' proposal. There was never any evidence to support the proposal and 'no progress' is a triumph of evidence over ideology.

We had a very successful Minerals Forum in Dunedin - thanks to Freeman Media for all their hard work and professionalism. A feature of that Forum was the protest attention we received - we can understand, to an extent, the climate change driver for protests, but anti-mining!? That is a solution infinitely worse than the problem!

I note that Forest and Bird chose to protest the Forum (no problem with that) but declined an invitation to participate in the Forum - that's an own goal in my view! I have been hoping for a more mature approach as we work towards Minerals Forum 2020 in Hamilton, but all I see is a hardening of battle lines.

Minister Sage's Waihi OIA decision was another case of ideology versus evidence, and another own goal. Well done to David Clark for his evidence-based analysis, and then to the Labour Party leadership for 'fixing' the problem.

As 2019 comes to an end, we are faced with a raft of Government initiatives - see Jeremy's summary overleaf. Raising environmental considerations is a common



thread in many of those initiatives and the draft Biodiversity NPS in particular poses risk for investment and activity in the resource sector. If something is 'significant', you can't touch it. That'll work!

That said, all these things will look better after the break! We have an excellent team here at Straterra, MinEx and the AQA, we have great support from our Board and our industry, and we have many allies. So, we look forward to 2020 with enthusiasm, optimism, and just a little trepidation.

Happy holidays!

Chris Baker



NEW ZEALAND

Minerals Sector AWARDS 2020

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN THE EXTRACTIVES SECTOR

Awards will be made in four categories:

- Health and Safety Initiative Award (sponsored by MinEx)
- Innovation Award
- Environmental Management Award (sponsored by Lane Neave)
- Community Initiative Award

Entries are now open for the 2020 Minerals Sector Awards. The awards recognise excellence within the New Zealand minerals and mining sector, including coal, gold, iron sands, industrial minerals, aggregates and other minerals.

Winners will be announced at the 2020 Minerals Forum Gala Dinner at Hamilton's Claudelands Events Centre on Wednesday, May 27.

For more information, and to enter the awards, visit www.mineralsforum.co.nz/awards



POLICY UPDATE

The government is currently in the middle of launching consultation on a suite of environmental reforms which have the potential to have significant impact on the extractives sector. These include national policy statements on indigenous biodiversity and freshwater management as well as a wide-reaching review of the Resource Management Act.

The reforms come in addition to the Crown Minerals Act review and a number of climate change policy response consultations which the sector is also grappling with.

Within these initiatives, there is a move to insert environmental considerations into criteria of other legislation in addition to mechanisms already existing to address the environment. We are opposed to such inclusions on the grounds that environmental considerations are best addressed in specialist legislation.

A central theme behind the environmental reforms revolves around two things, both of which will influence whether resource development proposals go ahead – 1) more direction from central government and 2) a shift away from the existing case-by-case, consider-on-its-merits (and adversarial) approach towards increased 'certainty'. This existing approach is deemed by opponents as being too susceptible to court processes. For the resource sector, including mining, a case-by-case approach is essential. Introducing more criteria increases the ability for 'no' to be an easy or even default option reducing ability for the merits of the proposal to be considered.

Individually, and collectively, these reform proposals have the potential to thwart resource development and risk dampening business confidence and investment for land-based industries across the board.

Jeremy Harding

MBIE FUNDING WORTH CONSIDERING

We're encouraging members to consider applying for support from MBIE's Endeavour Fund to help support your research programmes.

The Fund helps support research with the potential to deliver transformational benefits across a range of economic, environmental and societal objectives.

More information about the Fund and how to apply can be found [here](#).



SEARCH ON FOR SECTOR'S MOST INSPIRATIONAL WOMEN

Nominations for the global **WIM100 Global Inspirational Women In Mining 2020 Edition** open early next year. The bi-annual publication recognises inspirational leadership displayed by women working in our sector. It is compiled by Women in Mining UK, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting and progressing the development of women in the mining and minerals sectors.

We'll share more about this in the New Year.

W WOMEN
M IN MINING

