



12 September 2025

Paul Stocks  
Resource Policy  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
PO Box 1473  
WELLINGTON 6140

Sent via email: [resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:resourcesfeedback@mbie.govt.nz)

Dear Paul

## **A draft strategy to unlock New Zealand's geothermal potential**

1. This is a brief submission from the Major Electricity Users' Group (MEUG) on the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)'s consultation paper "*From the Ground Up: A draft strategy to unlock New Zealand's geothermal potential*"<sup>1</sup> published on 30 July 2025.
2. MEUG members have been consulted on the approach to this submission. This submission does not contain any confidential information and can be published on MBIE's website unaltered. Members may lodge separate submissions.

### **Support for draft strategy and important role of geothermal energy**

3. MEUG welcomes the draft government strategy focused on unlocking the potential of geothermal energy across the country. Geothermal energy plays a key role in our electricity system, providing a reliable and substantive level of baseload generation throughout the year, to support the increasing levels of intermittent renewable generation such as solar and wind. It also produces relatively low emissions, supporting New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions target, with positive progress being with reinjection technology to make it increasingly close to net zero carbon.
4. MEUG has reviewed the draft strategy and supports the proposed vision and strategic outcomes. We support the goal to double geothermal energy use by 2040, as a way of meeting the forecast increase in energy demand, and to support New Zealand through the energy transition. We also support New Zealand leveraging the extensive skills and experience that we have in geothermal energy and striving to be a global leader.
5. MEUG welcomes the proposed action in 2025 – 2026 (horizon 1) to develop a geoheat information package for businesses looking to use direct geothermal heat for industrial/ process heat. It is important that businesses have access to numerous forms of affordable energy that both meet their technical requirements and support business productivity, particularly as New Zealand's natural gas supplies decline. This also supports the country's decarbonisation goals.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/30975-from-the-ground-up-a-draft-strategy-to-unlock-new-zealands-geothermal-potential-pdf>

6. We support the government exploring the role of policy direction for managing geothermal resource, as a way of providing policy and investor certainty and consistent approach across regions.

#### Next steps

7. If you have any questions regarding our submission, please contact MEUG on 027 472 7798 or via email at [karen@meug.co.nz](mailto:karen@meug.co.nz).

Yours sincerely



**Karen Boyes**  
Major Electricity Users' Group