

Legislation

[Crown Minerals Act 1991](#)

[Legislation and permit allocation](#)

[Minerals Programmes](#)

[Crown Minerals \(Minerals and Coal\) Regulations 2007](#)

[Crown Minerals \(Minerals fees\) Regulations 2006](#)

[Mineral and Coal Digital Data Submission Standards](#)

[General Guidelines for Consent Authorities](#)

Crown Minerals Act 1991

The [Crown Minerals Act 1991](#) sets the broad legislative policy for prospecting, exploration and mining of Crown-owned minerals in New Zealand. These include all naturally occurring gold and silver and substantial amounts of coal and other metallic and non-metallic minerals and aggregates.

Legislation and permit allocation

The allocation of rights to prospect, explore or mine minerals that are owned by the Crown is carried out by the issuing of permits under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The policy and procedures followed for the allocation of the mineral resources are determined in the Minerals Programmes and requirements to be met defined in the Regulations.

Issues to do with the environment are dealt with under the [Resource Management Act 1991 \(RMA\)](#). Local government authorities manage resource consents required under the RMA. This process is separate from obtaining a permit for mineral rights under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. The purpose of the RMA is to promote sustainable management of natural and physical resources, including use and development.

Neither a permit under the Crown Minerals Act 1991 or a consent under the Resource Management Act 1991 give a right of access to land. Land access is determined by direct negotiation with the landowner. [Find out more...](#)

Prior to commencing any work on the ground an applicant must ascertain and obtain what is required in terms of:

- a minerals permit from New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals under the Crown Minerals Act 1991
- an access arrangement from the landowner and occupier
- resource consent(s) from either the District Council or the Regional Council under the Resource Management Act 1991.

Minerals Programmes

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 requires the Minister of Energy to prepare minerals programmes. The [Minerals Programme for Minerals \(Excluding Petroleum\) \(2008\)\[2.4 MB PDF\]](#) policies for the allocation of permits and Crown royalties.

Previous Minerals Programmes:

- [The Minerals Programme for Minerals other than petroleum and coal \(1996\)\[456 kB PDF\]](#)
- [The Minerals Programme for Coal \(1996\)\[410 kB PDF\]](#)

Crown Minerals (Minerals and Coal) Regulations 2007

The [Crown Minerals \(Minerals and Coal\) Regulations 2007](#) set out the requirements and procedures for explorers and miners to:

- [apply for a permit](#) under the Crown Minerals Act 1991
- make [permit change applications](#)
- make [royalty returns and payments](#)
- [report to the Crown](#) on prospecting and exploration
- [lodge cores and samples](#) with the Crown

Crown Minerals (Minerals fees) Regulations 2006

The [Crown Minerals \(Minerals fees\) Regulations 2006](#) outline fees payable for the matters specified under the Crown Minerals Act for Minerals and Coal.

Mineral and Coal Digital Data Submission Standards

The Mineral and Coal Digital Data Submission Standards 2011 define acceptable formats for the lodgement of statutory digital information acquired by operators whilst undertaking prospecting, exploration and mining activities.

New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals have revised the Mineral and Coal Digital Data Submission Standards. The revised Standards came into effect on 1 October 2011.

- [Mineral and Coal Digital Data Submission Standards 2011 \[284 kB PDF\]](#)

Templates

- [For use in Notepad \[7 kB ZIP\]](#)
- [For use in Notepad++ \[7 kB ZIP\]](#)

Please note: To use the Notepad++ templates you will need to [download Notepad++](#).

General Guidelines for Consent Authorities

[Administration of Mineral and Coal Mining Privileges under the Transitional Provisions of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 \[103 kB PDF\]](#).