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*Ka to te kakano
ka puawai te tangata*



About the Marsden Point Refinery

A petition with 18,300 signatures was presented to Parliament on December 8th, yet the committee only first considered it on 10th March - 13 weeks later.

It decided to seek further information on the petition. It typically takes about 4 weeks for committees to receive the information they seek on a petition.

The only submitters invited have been Social Credit, who initiated the petition, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment (who wrote the paper presented by Minister of Energy Megan Woods to cabinet last September). No public submissions have been called for.

The petition was originally presented to Parliament on December 8th last year yet the committee only heard those verbal submissions on June 9th, fully six months later.

Blocking??? Absolutely. Labour don't want to discuss it and the Greens don't want the refinery resurrected in any shape or form.

The verbal submission can be viewed here - <https://youtu.be/qZfuHBrKBOY>

[You can read the submission here](#)

What Can You Do?

1. To keep the pressure on please send an email to the Committee and the Minister. Simply click here - [Email the Committee and the Minister](#). You'll get a web page with a pre written email. Just copy and paste into your email programme, add your name (and make alterations if you wish) and hit send.

Share this with as many people as you can and ask them to send on to all their contacts too.

2. Make a post on your social media pages and ask others to share it.

3. Write a letter to your local paper using information on that page and the other pages it links to.

4. Contact your local MP and ask them why they haven't done more to stop the refinery closing. Tell them you want them to do more to stop it being dismantled.

5. Make a sign "Stop Destroying the Refinery" or similar and put it on your fence, in a shop window or somewhere else people will see it.

6. Make a donation to help with the costs of the ongoing campaign – Kiwibank 38-9000-0601245-01

7. Anything else you can do to make people aware of the issue.

Thanks for your help

Public Meeting - Sunday 24th April 2022 Forum North, Whangarei

The meeting drew a crowd of about 250 people. There were 5 guest speakers - Aaron Holroyd, a senior operator and site delegate for First Union who has spent most of his working life operating the complex equipment that turns crude oil into fuel for cars, trucks, and aircraft.

Craig Harrison, secretary of the Maritime Union which represents the seafarers who crewed the two coastal tankers that delivered refined fuel from Marsden Point to ports around the country.

Edward Miller from First Union which represents most of the workers being made redundant by the closure of the refinery and whose skills and knowledge are being lost to the country as many of them head off for jobs overseas.

Brian Cox, chief executive of the Bio-Energy Association, whose members are involved in research, development, and production of advanced alternative fuels that a working refinery could blend with current fuel production.

Chris Leitch, Leader of the Social Credit party which gathered 18,300 signatures on a petition to parliament to try to stop the closure and has lead the political action to highlight the risk to the country's fuel security that relying on imported refined fuel poses.

You can watch the speeches here:-

First two speakers - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8W7zPD_ocs

Last two speakers - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b1VLeWImo0I>

[Northern Advocate article on the Public Meeting](#)

[Click here](#)

Petition request

That the House of Representatives declare the Marsden Point Oil Refinery a nationally strategic asset and require the Government to purchase the shares from private owners (using money created by the country's central bank) so it continues to operate; and note that more than 18,130 people signed an online petition to this effect.

Information

The refinery is owned by Refining NZ. It refines crude oil that is imported on behalf of its customers - BP, Z Energy, Mobil and it gets a margin on the refining process.

Those oil companies dominate the shareholding - 47%.

Although originally built in the 1960s the refinery has been massively expanded and upgraded over the years and produces high quality fuels. As its web site says "Refining NZ has a reputation as one of Asia Pacific's safest and most reliable refineries."

About 15% of the oil refined at Marsden Point comes from Taranaki. The rest of the crude is from the Middle East. All refineries need a blend of light and heavy crudes. The rest of the Taranaki crude goes to the older less complex refineries in Australia. The Australian Government has secured its fuel security by ensuring that two refineries are left operating there, subsidised by a levy on fuel. One is owned by Ampol which is currently making a bid for NZ's largest retail chain Z Energy. Ampol currently also own retailer Gull which imports most of its product refined in Australia but gets some from Marsden Point.

The refinery has always operated profitably and returned good dividends to the shareholders. It had a bad year last year with demand well down due to covid. They expect a poor year this year too. Their economic advisors expect that to resolve itself and for it to be profitable through to at least 2035.

Those dominant oil company shareholders have stakes in refineries in Asia with excess capacity and can get crude refined there cheaper, therefore increasing their profit.

The plan is to close Marsden Point by next year and dismantle most of it and sell it for scrap. The tank farm will remain to store the imported refined fuel.

That leaves NZ reliant on imported refined fuel.

In a crisis - supply chain problems - due to natural disaster or geo-political conflict (China/US or Middle East) our supplies could well be cut off.

If the refinery closes the carbon emissions profile will simply be transferred to Asia and increased through more tanker movements to get refined fuel to NZ. That will increase the world's carbon emissions not reduce them. It is irresponsible and dishonest to claim that the refinery and NZ will reduce their carbon emissions when in fact they will be added to those of another country.

Expert assessments obtained as part of the recent consenting process noted that, based on the last five years of data, the effects of Refining NZ activities on the environment have in general been less than minor.

Twenty Largest Shareholders - as at December 2021

1. Mobil Oil New Zealand Limited - 53,760,000 shares - 17.18%
2. Z Energy Limited - 47,999,980 shares - 15.34%
3. BP New Zealand Holdings Limited - 31,572,640 shares - 10.09%
4. Accident Compensation Corporation - 29,955,682 shares - 9.57%
5. Citibank Nominees (New Zealand) Limited - 13,274,879 shares - 4.24%
6. HSBC Nominees (New Zealand) Limited - 10,402,171 shares - 3.32%
7. Leveraged Equities Finance Limited - 6,028,186 shares - 1.93%
8. New Zealand Depository Nominee Limited - 5,223,922 shares - 1.67%
9. BNP Paribas Nominees (NZ) Limited - 4,980,759 shares - 1.59%
10. UBS New Zealand Limited - 4,601,641 shares - 1.47%
11. BNP Paribas Nominees (NZ) Limited - 3,993,683 shares - 1.28%
12. JP Morgan Chase Bank NZ Branch - Segregated Clients Acct - 3,497,624 shares - 1.12%
13. FNZ Custodians Limited - 3,349,799 shares - 1.07%
14. Public Trust Class 10 Nominees Limited - 3,118,624 shares - 1.00%
15. HSBC Nominees (New Zealand) Limited A/C State Street - 2,464,801 shares - 0.79%
16. Custodial Services Limited - 2,302,649 shares - 0.74%
17. ASB Nominees Limited - 1,812,360 shares - 0.58%
18. Custodial Services Limited - 1,498,321 shares - 0.48%
19. Century Securities Limited - 1,360,000 shares - 0.43%
20. Public Trust - 1,360,000 shares - 0.43%

On 14 September 2019, state-owned Saudi Aramco oil processing facilities at Abqaiq and Khurais in eastern Saudi Arabia were targeted in a drone attack.

The scale of disruption from the above attack was significant: oil production from the world's leading oil exporter was cut by half, representing approximately 5% of global oil production and the largest production disruption in history. This resulted in the biggest surge in global oil prices since the 1990 invasion of Kuwait with oil futures spiking almost 20%. The current situation in Afghanistan should be noted.

There is growing evidence to suggest that the world is moving from a period of relative geopolitical stability towards a new phase of geopolitical uncertainty, and that this change could bring with it new risks. Arguably one of the more compelling signs of this shift is the decline in the influence of the US in international affairs relative to other large economies like China and India, making global governance more complex.

New Zealand's current oil security policies have remained largely unchanged over the past 40 years. The National Emergency Management Agency's National Fuel Plan of March 2020 sets out the fact that approximately a third of our reserve stocks of crude and refined product are held overseas – ie. in another country as part of their stocks.

Should NZ adopt an import only model and events such as those outlined about eventuate what guarantees are in place to obtain access to those reserves to ensure continuity of supply for NZ?

Will the Asian refineries say - oops we're short of oil, but that's ok we'll ensure our smallest customer New Zealand gets what it needs before our bigger customers?

Medium-term quantitative model-based energy scenarios are almost universally used to play out possible futures, options, and policy effects, and invariably focus on technical and energy-economic dimensions such as changes in demand and supply, greenhouse gas emissions, and supply costs. Existing oil security reports that guide the New Zealand Government's policy making on oil security exemplify these limitations. Perhaps more surprising is that there has been very little in-depth research examining the exposure and vulnerability of each element of New Zealand's oil supply chain beyond its borders.

In contrast, the Australian Government has highlighted geopolitical uncertainty as part of its justification for an ongoing review of its oil supply chain and the appropriateness of its policy settings, given Australia's potential exposure to disruptions. It has determined that it is necessary to keep two refineries operational. What does the NZ government know about security of supply that the Australian government doesn't?

Consultants Hale and Twomey produced 2 reports at a cost of about \$70,000 for MBIE this year. The second report was provided after consultation with the oil companies.

- The first report highlighted an end to the coastal oil tankers - which distribute Marsden Point's products - as a concern, but the second one didn't.
- So too, for the risks of ready-made imports not being up to standard. The second report says this can be dealt with, without needing a refinery.
- The second report does not mention the risk of an end to the local supply of sulphur for fertiliser, or the loss of local skills in oil processing.

No taxpayer money would be required for the government to assume ownership of the refinery. The Government owned Reserve Bank has already created around \$60 billion in the last 18 months and the money needed to purchase the refinery shares would be a drop in the bucket.

“The government can borrow from the Reserve Bank. To be technical, it's literally borrowing from itself. We should not close off any [options] just because somebody told us 30 years ago that it was bad.” **Ganesh Nana, Senior Economist and Research Director of BERL - Radio NZ Morning Report 16.04.20.**

“Issuing money in the current circumstances has impeccable support from mainstream economic thinking. In the current context it is the correct, most efficacious way to proceed. [Govt] should not be prisoners of outmoded, arch-conservative political doctrines.” **Dr Geoff Bertram, former Senior Lecturer in Economics at Victoria University - BERL website 06.04.20; & NZ Herald 13.04.20**

Having the refinery in operation will allow us to blend bio-fuels, fuels from carbon capture, plastic and other options as they come on stream. Find out more about that here - <https://www.socialcredit.nz/green-energy-hub>

Government ownership is key to breaking the stranglehold the oil companies have on fuel retailing. It could become a wholesaler of fuel, selling at a common price, allowing smaller retail operators like Waitomo and Gas to enter the market and provide real price competition at the pump.

Selection of Press Releases About the Refinery

26th June 2022

[Government inaction on refinery closure sparks shortages](#)

12th June 2022

[Refinery petition handling labelled corruption of democratic process](#)

9th June 2022

[Verbal Submission on petition to keep the Refinery operational](#)

24th April 2022

[Speech to Don't Destroy the Refinery public meeting Whangarei](#)

31st March 2022

[Disabling Refinery would be pure economic vandalism](#)

15th March 2022

[Refinery will be dismantled before petition reported](#)

15th March 2022

[Ukraine conflict tests fuel supply security](#)

09th March 2022

[Refinery petition reaches parliament](#)

08th March 2022

[Invited guests should boycott refinery celebration](#)

25th Jan 2022

[Written Submission on petition to keep the Refinery operational](#)

27th Nov 2021

[Refinery petition presented to parliament](#)

26th Nov 2021

[Fuel price will increase with refinery closure](#)

25th Sept 2021

[Chris Leitch wants to retain the Marsden Point oil refinery](#)

Our vision for a Green Energy Hub at Marsden Point - The Future

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