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EECA  
PO Box 388  
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18 February, 2002  
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APP1034

Attention: Strategy Team

Dear Sirs

**New Zealand Geothermal Association  
Submission on Draft National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy**

The New Zealand Geothermal Association welcomes the opportunity to provide initial comments on Release 1 of the Sustainable Energy Supply background paper for the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. The Association is very supportive of the aims of the Strategy, and we wish to continue to be involved in the consultation process. Our aim is to see that maximum advantage is taken of the positive benefits of geothermal energy in the National Strategy.

Generally we consider the thrust of the paper is appropriate. All factors need to be incorporated in costs of production of each form of energy, taking into account CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, etc. A means of doing this should be established. The general goal of a sustainable energy supply will benefit geothermal development.

Turning to some specifics on the paper:

1. Geothermal should be in the "Overview", i.e. NZ produces 104 PJ of energy from geothermal. (From p4). From this around 10 PJ of electricity is produced. Some of the remainder is used as direct heat, mainly at Kawerau, but the rest is lost in conversion. This emphasises the huge advantages of using geothermal in direct-heat

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is a big difference between “renewable” and “sustainable”, and, with the greatest possible respect, can we point out that your objectives are for sustainable rather than renewable energy supply. We consider that current geothermal energy use *is* sustainable in terms of the definitions in the Resource Management Act (preserving the needs of future generation) and that a greatly expanded use of geothermal energy would still be sustainable.

4. Refining technology and exporting it applies (and has applied) to geothermal as much as to other renewables. (p6).

5. Similarly, the access to resources/sites and the ability to gain approvals applies equally to geothermal as to other energy sources. Possibly more so, without an overarching national policy. (p7). We thoroughly support the comments in this regard.

6. New geothermal should be listed under the "Existing & Emerging Opportunities" - along with hydro, wind, etc. (p9).

I have enclosed a copy of a series of papers from a recent public seminar we held: there is a great deal of background information expanding on many of the above points therein. In this context I draw your attention particularly to the papers by Dunstall, and Maitland et al.. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like any more information or we can contribute in any way to the Strategy process.

Yours sincerely

**Jim Lawless**  
*Chairman, Education and Information Committee, NZGA*

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