

SCHEDULE 4 FACT SHEET

The following information is sourced from the government's discussion document, *Maximising our Mineral Potential: Stocktake of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act and beyond*.

[Download the discussion document here](#)

What is Schedule 4?

Much of New Zealand is Crown-owned land, with about 40% of the country being public conservation land administered by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Within that DOC-administered land, the Schedule 4 lands have been identified as having particular conservation values.

Schedule 4 lands include all national parks and other specified classes on public conservation land, such as marine reserves and nature reserves. It also includes all public conservation land on the Coromandel Peninsula and surrounding internal waters and most public conservation land on islands in the Hauraki Gulf and islands to the north and east of the Coromandel Peninsula.

About 40% of New Zealand's known mineral potential is estimated to be in Schedule 4 areas¹. Schedule 4 land areas total about 40% of public conservation land or 13% of New Zealand's total land area.

Why do we have Schedule 4?

Schedule 4 was added to the Conservation Management Act in 1997 and restricts mineral related activity in specified public conservation areas. It resulted from two legislative initiatives: one that sought to ban mining in national parks and other high conservation value areas; and another that sought to ban mining on public conservation land on the Coromandel Peninsula and on Hauraki Gulf islands.

What can you do in Schedule 4 areas?

Only the following mineral-related activities are possible in Schedule 4 areas, and only with permission from the Minister of Conservation:

- a) Activities with a very low impact on the area, including,
 - i) "minimum impact activities":
 - **including** geological, geochemical and geophysical surveying; taking samples by hand-held methods; aerial and land surveying
 - **do not include** more than minimal impact on vegetation; the use of explosives; damage to anything on the land; or breach of other rules
 - ii) mining of petroleum or gas underneath the areas by drilling from outside the area
 - iii) mining of other resources by an underground mine, provided any significant surface activities or impacts are outside the Schedule 4 areas and the impact on the surface of the Schedule 4 areas is minor (an example of this is the Pike River coal Mine)
- b) gold fossicking or demonstrating historic mining methods.

Which Schedule 4 areas are of interest to the government?

The government says its stocktake reveals that the areas of mineral interest in Schedule 4 can be broken into two groups:

- a. Areas where the government has enough information to pinpoint specific targeted areas of highest mineral potential.

The discussion document says it is important to note that even with those areas it is proposing be removed from Schedule 4 (and thereby “opened” to the possibility of mining), there would still be a number of steps an organisation would need to take before it could mine the land.

- b. areas where the government knows there is excellent potential for mineralisation but more information is needed to pinpoint targeted areas.

How much land is the government proposing to remove from Schedule 4?

At this time, the government is proposing to remove 7058 hectares from the 4.6 million hectares in Schedule 4 under the Crown Minerals Act. It is also proposing to add a further 12,400 hectares.

For more details on what the government is proposing, read the [discussion document](#).

¹ This is a Ministry of Economic Development (**MED**) estimate based on a number of studies that have been carried out over the last 10 years in relation to various prospective areas around the country.