



17 April 2026

Ref: DOIA-REQ-0029578

JJ

Email: fyi-request-34140-b582be0b@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe JJ

Thank you for your email of 18 March 2026 to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

Dear M.B.I.E. - Petroleum and Minerals department

I saw on a gold mining forum that there is an online map but I see that is just a blanket permit maps of a whole property and does not actually show exactly what and where mining activities are planned.

Can I request a copy of the permit including any diagrams and or maps of the specific areas that the following mining prospecting permits have supplied to your department in applications or that you requested to know as part of your assessment of it:

#61428.1, #61384, #61376, #61380, #61296 #61525.1, #61393 ,#61371

If there are no maps or diagrams for a specific permit let me know which ones and if it means they can and want to prospect the whole area applied for.

Is the permit for prospecting just for on land or is it for in the water too? For example, permit 61525.01 seems to be on the south coast by the seal colonies - is it right to the waters edge and in the seabed too?

What exactly is "prospecting" these days? Is there a website that describes it? If not - please supply a list of the descriptions of the work that can be done under a prospecting permit

Maps are attached for permit numbers 61376 and 61380 showing where the permit holder intends to recover samples. Please note, however, that a prospecting permit gives its holder the right to prospect for specified minerals across the whole of the permit area, so prospecting activities may occur outside of the areas indicated (subject to land access, see below).

Prospecting

Prospecting is generally the very first stage in the search for a mineral deposit. It involves low impact work such as geological mapping, taking rock chip and soil samples by hand, and geophysical surveys.

You can find out more about prospecting on the New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals (NZP&M) website: <https://www.nzpam.govt.nz/nz-industry/nz-minerals/phases/prospecting>.



Mining is not permitted to be undertaken under a prospecting permit. If you are concerned that illegal mining activities are taking place, you can contact the MBIE Compliance team via NZPAM@mbie.govt.nz.

Land access

A permit generally does not give its holder the right to access land and would need to enter into a land access agreement with the landowner and occupier before work can begin.

The exception to this is land access to carry out minimum impact activities.

You can find out more about land access arrangements

here: <https://www.nzpam.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/our-industry/factsheets/permits-land-access-new-zealand.pdf>

If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request or this response, or if you require any further assistance, please contact OIA@mbie.govt.nz.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



John Buick-Constable

National Manager Petroleum, Minerals and Offshore Renewable Energy
Resource Markets