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Merrin Macleod  
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Dear Merrin

### OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT REQUEST

Thank you for your email dated 29 June 2011 requesting the coordinates and details of mines currently operating in New Zealand, not unlike the files available on the Australian Mines Atlas that can be viewed online.

I am unable to provide you with the information that you are seeking as operating mines in New Zealand are not recorded in a point reference dataset such as that available for Australian mine sites. While I acknowledge that such a dataset is an effective way to locate mine sites, an alternative permit based system is used in New Zealand. The spatial details of each permit to prospect, explore or mine Crown-owned minerals and coal are publicly available via a web-based GIS viewer. This information, which is updated daily, can be sourced on the New Zealand Petroleum & Minerals website at: <https://data.nzpam.govt.nz/permitwebmaps/default.aspx?commodity=minerals>

I encourage you to visit this site. You will find that the search facilities on the GIS viewer enable mineral and coal permits to be located by number, owner, permit type and/or mineral. Specific permit details can also be sourced from the site and, in addition, each permit can be downloaded as a shape file. One of the major benefits of New Zealand's permit based system over a single point reference system is that it better displays the land area that that is to be subject to prospecting, exploration or mining activity.

Thank you for your enquiry.

Yours sincerely



Josh Adams  
**Acting Director, Minerals**