



Advocate. Educate. Support.

---

PO Box 25259, Featherston Street, Wellington 6146  
Level 6, EMC Building, 5 Willeston Street, Wellington

[pepanz.com](http://pepanz.com) / [energymix.co.nz](http://energymix.co.nz) / [petroleumconference.nz](http://petroleumconference.nz)

Mayor Justin Lester  
PO Box 2199  
Wellington

[mayor@wcc.govt.nz](mailto:mayor@wcc.govt.nz)

7 August 2018

Dear Mr Lester,

I am writing in response to a petition to you from lobby group 350 Wellington opposed to the New Zealand Petroleum Conference being held at any Wellington City Council-owned venues.

As CEO of the Petroleum Exploration and Production Association of New Zealand (PEPANZ) I thought it was important to give you the other side of the story and explain what the conference is actually about.

Every year it brings together around 500 delegates from the oil and gas industry in New Zealand and overseas. This includes senior government officials, regulators, industry leaders, international experts and service providers.

As an industry we are strongly aware of climate change and the challenges it presents. We actually agree with 350 Wellington that coordinated global action is needed to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions.

Reducing our net emissions while at the same time providing enough energy for people to live their lives is one of the big challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and a key theme of discussion at our conference.

At this year's conference in Wellington for example we hosted an environment leaders panel including representatives from the Ministry for the Environment and the World Wildlife Fund. You can view all presentations online at <http://www.petroleumconference.nz/presentations-archive/>

PEPANZ has also created a Net Zero Committee of industry members working to find new ways to reduce our emissions. Some of the tools to achieve this include pricing carbon through the Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS), substituting natural gas for higher-emitting coal, planting more trees, and carbon capture and storage technology.

At the same time, we are proud of our industry and the role it plays in making modern life possible. Oil and gas provide 60% of New Zealand's total energy and helps power homes and businesses in the Wellington region. It provides practical, affordable and reliable energy that is a basic human necessity.

Finally, I note that freedom of speech and association are important human rights. While some protest groups may not agree with the use of oil and gas, that does not entitle them to stop a lawful conference.

In our view, we should be having more debate and discussion on these issues. Shutting down a conference would achieve the opposite of this.



For all of the reasons above I would respectfully recommend against agreeing to the petition.

Please let us know if you have any questions about our industry or would like any further information. Feel free to contact me at any time on 021 674 671 or [cameron.madgwick@pepanz.com](mailto:cameron.madgwick@pepanz.com).

Nāku i runga i aku mihi ki a koe

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Madgwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cameron Madgwick  
Chief Executive Officer