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**Abstract:** New Zealand is a remote group of islands in the SW Pacific whose geology and natural resources are the result of Cenozoic Pacific rim processes superimposed on Paleozoic-Mesozoic Gondwana supercontinent margin and breakup elements.

The term “Zealandia” is used to describe the mainly thinned and submerged continental mass around New Zealand. The limits of Zealandia are defined by the 2000 m isobath, enclose an area about one third the size of the lower 48 U.S. states, and reach as far north as New Caledonia. Basement schists, greywackes and granitoids are exposed on scattered islands and have been sparsely sampled in dredges on the Campbell Plateau, Chatham Rise, Challenger Plateau, Lord Howe Rise, Dampier Ridge and Norfolk Ridge.

No Precambrian rocks are exposed in onland New Zealand. The Cambrian to Early Cretaceous basement rocks comprise at least eight major volcano-sedimentary terranes (Buller, Takaka, Brook Street, Murihiku, Maitai, Caples, Torlesse, Waipapa), three composite regional batholiths (Karamea, Median, Hohonu-Paparua), and three regional metamorphic-tectonic belts that overprint the terranes and batholiths (Fiordland-Westland gneisses, Haast Schist, Esk Head Melange). At its simplest, the Phanerozoic tectonic history of New Zealand can be divided into episodes of Middle Cambrian-Early Cretaceous (510-100 Ma) Pacific-ward growth of Gondwana through terrane accretion and batholith emplacement, Late Cretaceous (100-85 Ma) continental rifting with metamorphic core complexes, Late Cretaceous-Paleogene (85-25 Ma) marginal basin opening with passive drift away from Antarctica and Australia, and Neogene-Recent (25-0 Ma) renewed convergence, arc magmatism, rotation and strike-slip deformation.

Prior to opening of the Tasman Sea and Southern Ocean in the Late Cretaceous, Zealandia lay adjacent to Antarctica and to eastern Australia. On a Late Cretaceous reconstruction, orogenic trends in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania strike along the Lord Howe Rise towards New Zealand and continue through into Antarctica. In terms of basement rock types and belts, New Zealand is potentially as prospective for mineral deposits as the New England and Lachlan Orogens of eastern Australia. Additional geological events that affected New Zealand, but not Australia, include 100-85 Ma magmatism and extensional exhumation, superposition of Neogene

volcanic arcs (with epithermal mineralisation) in the North Island, and localised Neogene exhumation in the South Island along the present day Australia-Pacific plate boundary.