

Defence and Peacekeeping Policy

Vision

An Aotearoa New Zealand secure from external threat, working to promote conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution across the globe.

Values and Principles

Decisions relating to defence and peacekeeping operations must uphold the following values and principles:

- *Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi*: The tino rangatiratanga of all hapū and iwi to take care of their traditional lands and people should be central to the defence of Aotearoa New Zealand.
- *Ecological Wisdom*: The interconnection of conflict and security with environmental issues and inequitable distribution of resources should underpin defence policy.
- *Social Responsibility*: Defence personnel should conduct themselves in an ethical manner which is respectful of the local communities and cultures that they interact with and consistent with international human rights law.
- *Appropriate Decision-Making*: The use of armed force outside of the territories and Exclusive Economic Zone of Aotearoa New Zealand should be sanctioned by the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and international law. Enlistment in the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) should always be voluntary.
- *Non-Violence*: Priority should always be given to conflict prevention and non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries, with armed force only used as a final protective measure.
- *Independence*: Aotearoa New Zealand's defence policy should be independent from the defence policies of states and regions with great military and economic strength.
- *Pacific Cooperation*: Aotearoa New Zealand should partner with other Pacific nations to enhance collective security across the region.
- *Recognition*: The nature of the work carried out by the armed service personnel, and the sacrifices that they and their families are required to make even in peacetime, must be recognised both during and after their terms of service.

Summary

The Green Party supports strategic defence policy that furthers non-violent objectives and supports peace. We will ensure that peacekeeping, disaster relief, humanitarian work and environmental monitoring make up the core of the NZDF's work and that its equipment should

be appropriate to these activities. We will oppose the NZDF assisting 'coalitions of the willing' convened outside of legitimate international legal structures as a subordinate force.

Strategic Priorities

The Green Party commits to action on the following:

"The unprecedented scale and urgency of the ecological crises facing our nation and our planet;

The large and growing scale of local and global inequalities and their role in the ecological crises we face;

The need for healthy relationships, with the natural world, each other, and ourselves if we are to survive the crises we face."

Actions in this policy that address these issues include:

- Ensure that the roles for the NZDF comprise the following:
 - The promotion and protection of peace, justice and the environment throughout the Pacific and the world through our peacekeeping and peacemaking roles;
 - The protection of the territories of Aotearoa New Zealand, including policing of our Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) and supporting the security of the territories of our Pacific neighbours;
 - Humanitarian aid, assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief and search and rescue, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas; and
 - Working alongside other Government agencies in maritime border protection work. (1.1)
- Build a flexible capacity to support communities in likely hotspots of instability and conflict by strengthening the ability of civil defence and other government agencies to assist the NZDF in deploying to climate change-induced significant weather events (including wildfire and heat waves) and natural hazards. (2.1)
- Develop a centre for the training of international peacekeepers and share capacity on conflict prevention and peace mediation support work. (2.6)

Connected Policies

This policy is highly connected to the [Global Affairs](#), [Climate Change](#), and [Privacy and Security Services](#) Policies.

Policy Positions

1. New Zealand Defence Force

Issues

The NZDF should reflect Aotearoa New Zealand's commitment to peace, justice, and environmental protection. Focus on these values is necessary to better define the roles it should undertake, how it looks after those in service and veterans, and whether any of its tasks should be shifted to other agencies.

Actions

- 1.1. Ensure that the roles for the NZDF comprise the following:
 - 1.1.1. The promotion and protection of peace, justice and the environment throughout the Pacific and the world through our peacekeeping and peacemaking roles;
 - 1.1.2. The protection of the territories of Aotearoa New Zealand, including policing of our Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ) and supporting the security of the territories of our Pacific neighbours;
 - 1.1.3. Humanitarian aid, assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief and search and rescue, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas; and
 - 1.1.4. Working alongside other Government agencies in maritime border protection work.
- 1.2. The roles of the NZDF should not include participation in the ANZUS Treaty, the Five Power Defence Arrangement or the UK/USA intelligence agreement (See our [Global Affairs](#) and [Privacy and Security Services](#) policies for additional information).
- 1.3. Review the structure and governance of the NZDF, looking at which functions can be carried out by civilian agencies or put under joint military/civilian control.
- 1.4. Ensure that the NZDF has the organisational structure and processes to cooperate with civilian agencies, personnel and equipment as needed.
- 1.5. Ensure the NZDF's preparedness, operational resilience, and capacity to respond appropriately to the full range of extreme weather events.
- 1.6. Ensure that NZDF is prepared to operate within an environment that has been exposed to weapons that create particular long lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment.
- 1.7. Ensure that veterans who have served in conflict and emergencies and their whānau receive adequate, fair and appropriate support services, including death allowances for whānau, and the long-term provision of support services.
- 1.8. Ensure fair compensation and appropriate support for whānau during active service.
- 1.9. Actively promote equal opportunity within the armed services, so that advancement is not limited by discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation or any other basis.
- 1.10. Support the right of individuals to refuse to serve in the NZDF.
- 1.11. Investigate ways of reducing the environmental impact of the training of the NZDF.

2. New Zealand Defence Capabilities

Issues

Social scientists working in climate change are increasingly seeing conflict arise from the lack of basic resources such as food and water, because of extreme weather events that lead to scarcity of resources, declining crop yields and rising prices. These issues are now aggravating pre-existing problems to function as a 'threat multiplier', causing escalating cycles of humanitarian crises, political instability, forced migrations and conflicts.

Aotearoa New Zealand's defence forces require sufficient capabilities to fulfil their roles. Some forms of equipment that are specifically geared toward military capability (often as subordinate

to 'traditional allies') are not necessary. Dual-purpose equipment that can support a range of operations relating to NZDF's roles is ideal.

Actions

- 2.1. Build a flexible capacity to support communities in likely hotspots of instability and conflict by strengthening the ability of civil defence and other government agencies to assist the NZDF in deploying to climate change-induced significant weather events (including wildfire and heat waves) and natural hazards.
- 2.2. Ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand has sufficient capabilities and appropriate equipment for:
 - 2.2.1. Peacekeeping, search and rescue, disaster relief, fisheries and border control tasks;
 - 2.2.2. Conducting appropriate patrols around the nation's coasts and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), into Antarctic waters, and to assist South Pacific islands states where necessary; and
 - 2.2.3. Rapid action in crisis situations in Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific nations, including special forces (see also our [Privacy and Security Services](#) policy).
- 2.3. Avoid the development of offensive combat capabilities, such as overseas military exercises and launching military hardware into space.
- 2.4. Phase out and oppose the purchase or development of equipment that is not appropriate for, or is excess to, the purposes and capacities specified above, including:
 - 2.4.1. Replacing the ANZAC frigates with more appropriate equipment;
 - 2.4.2. Opposing the purchase and the installation of specialist anti-submarine detection and fighting capability on our maritime surveillance aeroplanes;
 - 2.4.3. Rejecting the development or use of weapons that create particular long lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment, such as nuclear, cluster bombs, depleted uranium weapons, landmines, biological and chemical weapons; and
 - 2.4.4. Reviewing policy on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas.
- 2.5. Reinforce our established role as a leader in new ways of looking at and dealing with conflicts around the world.
- 2.6. Develop a centre for the training of international peacekeepers and share capacity on conflict prevention and peace mediation support work.
- 2.7. Investigate the development of civilian-based defence in which some citizens are trained to resist aggression or usurpation by withholding cooperation and by active non-cooperation rather than military force.