

# Security and Defence Policy

The Green Party supports strategic security and defence policies that further non-violent objectives and support peace. We will take an independent, Pacific-oriented approach that respects the tino rangatiratanga of Māori over protecting their traditional lands and people. We will build democratic oversight into security, intelligence and defence operations to protect human rights. We will ensure that peacekeeping, disaster relief, humanitarian work and environmental monitoring make up the core of the NZDF's work and prioritise conflict prevention over military force.

## Vision

**Aotearoa New Zealand is secure from external threats and promotes conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution across the globe.**

## Values and Principles

Defence, security and intelligence policy and practices must align with the following understandings:

- *Honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi*: All national protection measures must uphold Māori rights and wellbeing in order to be effective and consistent with international obligations.
- *Ecological Wisdom*: Climate change and environmental degradation exacerbate existing security threats in Aotearoa New Zealand and the wider Pacific region. Environmental restoration and aligning human activity with ecological wellbeing contribute to a peaceful world.
- *Social Responsibility*: Inequitable distribution of resources increases vulnerability and fuels unrest. Addressing inequities contributes to a peaceful world.
- *Appropriate Decision-Making*: Risks of power abuse and exploitation through defence and security activities can be mitigated by democratic oversight, transparency, and independence from the defence and security policies of states and regions with great military and economic strength.
- *Non-Violence*: Peaceful, ethical, and lawful approaches to security challenges must be consistently prioritised and force only used when absolutely necessary for protection. Human rights must be respected.
- *Pacific Orientation*: As a Pacific nation, Aotearoa New Zealand should prioritise the stability and protection of the Pacific region, in a manner that upholds Pacific values such as collectivism, reciprocity, and interdependence.

## Strategic Priorities

In our long-term strategy, 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; and*

*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 national security and defence systems uphold the rights of tangata whenua affirmed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including the tino rangatiratanga of all hapū and iwi over protecting their traditional lands and people. (1.1)
- Safeguard the autonomy and integrity of Aotearoa New Zealand, including its right to set standards, institute protections against abuse of power and privilege and reduce the potential for conflicts of interest in the exercise of authority. (1.4)
- Ensure that the roles for the NZDF comprise the following, and align its operations and resourcing accordingly: (2.1)
  - 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), into Antarctic waters, and supporting the security of the territories of our Pacific neighbours; and
  - Rapid action in crisis situations in Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific nations, including humanitarian aid, assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief, and search and rescue.
- Establish a centre for training international peacekeepers and sharing capacity on conflict prevention and peace mediation support work. (2.8.1)

## Connected Policies

This policy is part of our approach to [Global Affairs](#), key to which is safeguarding the political and economic autonomy and integrity of Aotearoa New Zealand (see also our [Trade and Foreign Investment](#) Policy). A stable [Climate](#) and resilience in [Energy](#), [Food](#) and [Freshwater](#) minimise threats, both overseas and domestically. Our [Emergency Management](#) Policy strengthens the ability of civil defence and other government agencies to assist the NZDF in responding to acute crises, while our [Digital](#) Policy supports cybersecurity.

## Policy Positions

### 1. [Security and Intelligence](#)

#### Issues

Opaque security and intelligence operations risk power abuses, including unlawful or unjustified surveillance or interference operations targeting New Zealanders exercising democratic rights, that can erode public trust and further marginalise communities of colour. Particular concerns arise when democracy is eroded in allied countries.

## Actions

- 1.1. Ensure that national security and defence systems uphold the rights of tangata whenua affirmed by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including the tino rangatiratanga of all hapū and iwi over protecting their traditional lands and people.
- 1.2. Enhance collective security across the Pacific region, including by:
  - 1.2.1. Collaborating with other Pacific nations on shared security challenges; and
  - 1.2.2. Ensuring that security and defence planning is informed by, and prepares for, the security threats inherent in destabilised Earth systems, including the changing climate.
- 1.3. Ensure that security and intelligence agencies support the wellbeing of New Zealanders and do not unreasonably interfere with human rights, by:
  - 1.3.1. Tightening the definition of security in relevant intelligence legislation to include only 'espionage, sabotage and terrorism', each also clearly defined; and
  - 1.3.2. Instructing a Select Committee to review the security and intelligence agencies to establish how existing and potential agencies could best contribute to Aotearoa New Zealand's wellbeing and domestic and international law and order.
- 1.4. Safeguard the autonomy and integrity of Aotearoa New Zealand, including its right to set standards, institute protections against abuse of power and privilege and reduce the potential for conflicts of interest in the exercise of authority, including by:
  - 1.4.1. Abolishing the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) and establishing the National Cyber Security Centre as a separate, independent agency with a comprehensive national cybersecurity mandate;
  - 1.4.2. Withdrawing Aotearoa New Zealand from the Five Eyes intelligence network, the ANZUS Treaty and the Five Power Defence Arrangement; and
  - 1.4.3. Closing the satellite communications interception base at Waihopai and the signals intelligence base at Tangimoana.
- 1.5. Ensure democratic oversight and scrutiny of security and intelligence agencies, by:
  - 1.5.1. Replacing the Intelligence and Security Committee with a multi-party Select Committee, operating under parliamentary Select Committee rules;
  - 1.5.2. Making the Inspector-General of Intelligence and Security (IGIS) and Inspector-General of Defence an Officer of Parliament, with the recommendation for an appointment coming from the Officers of Parliament Committee, not from the Prime Minister;
  - 1.5.3. Repealing the powers of the Minister of Security and Intelligence that limit the IGIS's ability to investigate and fully report on intelligence activities; and
  - 1.5.4. Extending the jurisdiction of the IGIS to all agencies contributing to Aotearoa New Zealand's National Security apparatus.

## 2. New Zealand Defence Force

### Issues

Global conflict trends are marked by intensifying and overlapping crises concentrated in specific hotspots, complex conflicts that resist easy resolution, proxy wars, and a rise in cyberwarfare. Conflict arising from a lack of basic resources such as food and water is exacerbated by climate change, because of extreme weather events that lead to scarcity of resources, declining crop yields and rising prices, causing escalating cycles of humanitarian crises, political instability, forced migrations and conflicts. Competition over diminishing resources, including fossil fuels, heightens strategic risks.

### Actions

- 2.1. Ensure that the roles for the NZDF comprise the following, and align its operations and resourcing accordingly:
  - 2.1.1. The promotion and protection of peace, justice and the environment throughout the Pacific and the world through our peacekeeping and peacemaking roles;
  - 2.1.2. The protection of the territories of Aotearoa New Zealand, including policing of our Economic Exclusion Zone (EEZ), into Antarctic waters, and supporting the security of the territories of our Pacific neighbours; and
  - 2.1.3. Rapid action in crisis situations in Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific nations, including humanitarian aid, assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief, and search and rescue.
- 2.2. Devolve defence-related functions to civilian agencies or joint military/civilian control, where appropriate.
- 2.3. Ensure that security and defence operations and personnel operate ethically and in accordance with international law, and actively work to avoid harm, by:
  - 2.3.1. Supporting security and defence personnel to conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of the communities and cultures they interact with;
  - 2.3.2. Requiring the NZDF to work cooperatively with civilian agencies, including sharing personnel and equipment, as appropriate; and
  - 2.3.3. Rejecting any development or use of weapons that create particular long-lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment, and ensuring policy on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas is fit for purpose.
- 2.4. Prioritise conflict prevention and non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries, with armed force only used as a final protective measure, by:
  - 2.4.1. Requiring the use of armed force outside of the territories and Exclusive Economic Zone of Aotearoa New Zealand to be sanctioned by the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and international law.
- 2.5. Ensure that the NZDF has sufficient capabilities and appropriate equipment to fulfil the above roles, including by:
  - 2.5.1. Ensuring the NZDF's operational resilience to the full range of natural disasters;

- 2.5.2. Avoiding the development or adoption of primarily offensive combat capabilities, such as long-range striking equipment and malware; and
- 2.5.3. Prioritising dual-purpose equipment that can support a range of operations relating to NZDF's roles and phasing out and opposing the purchase or development of equipment that is not appropriate for, or is in excess of, the above roles, including:
  - 2.5.3.1. Replacing the ANZAC frigates with more appropriate equipment; and
  - 2.5.3.2. Opposing offensive military capability on our maritime surveillance aeroplanes.
- 2.6. Ensure that the nature of the work carried out by armed service personnel, and the sacrifices that they and their families are required to make even in peacetime, are recognised both during and after their terms of service, including by:
  - 2.6.1. Ensuring fair compensation and appropriate support for whānau during active service; and
  - 2.6.2. Supporting the right of individuals to refuse to serve in the NZDF.
- 2.7. Ensure that the NZDF prioritises the health, workplace safety, and wellbeing of current and former service members, by:
  - 2.7.1. Actively promoting equal opportunity within the armed services, so that participation and advancement are not limited by discrimination on the grounds of gender, race, religion, ethnicity or sexual orientation or any other basis; and
  - 2.7.2. Providing veterans who have served in conflict and emergencies and their whānau with adequate, fair and appropriate support services, including death allowances for whānau, and the long-term provision of support services.
- 2.8. Develop new ways of looking at and dealing with conflicts around the world, including by:
  - 2.8.1. Establishing a centre for training international peacekeepers and sharing capacity on conflict prevention and peace mediation support work; and
  - 2.8.2. Investigating 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.
- 2.9. Reduce the environmental impact of the training and operations of security and defence operations, including by:
  - 2.9.1. Ending further investments in energy-intensive military capability and activity, such as exporting military goods and space intelligence.