



## Defence and Peacekeeping Policy

### Vision

In accordance with its charter principle of non-violence, and acknowledging the interconnection of conflict with social and environmental issues, the Green Party will work towards a goal of a world without armed conflict, where there is a just distribution of global resources, where governments respect human rights and where disputes are settled peacefully.

Until this is achieved, the Green Party supports:

- An Aotearoa New Zealand secure from external threat, working to promote conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution across the globe.
- An Aotearoa New Zealand working closely and taking a leadership role with Pacific nations, and enhancing collective security across the region.
- New Zealand defence forces operating ethically, in accordance with international law and actively working to avoid environmental damage and civilian casualties.
- A professionally competent, well-equipped, trained, and supported New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) complemented by civilian-based defence.

### Key Principles

1. Priority must always be given to conflict prevention and non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries, with armed force used as a last resort.
2. If armed force is necessary to protect Aotearoa New Zealand citizens and public resources, or to help other countries protect their citizens, the use of that force must be sanctioned by the people of Aotearoa New Zealand and international law.
3. The Aotearoa New Zealand Government has a responsibility to ensure that the NZDF does not engage in training or joint military operations with nations who

are using their military to suppress human rights or unjustly seize natural resources in their own or other countries.

4. The NZDF must not maintain or use weapons that create long lasting risks to civilian populations and/or the environment.
5. The NZDF must conduct themselves in an ethical manner and be respectful of the local cultures that they interact with and in a way that is safe and practical and consistent with human rights law.
6. The Aotearoa New Zealand Government should ensure that the NZDF has sufficient resources to enable them to perform a range of operations: from peacekeeping, disaster relief and resource protection through to defensive combat operations.
7. New Zealand should continue to develop an independent defence policy, but remain capable of cooperating with neighbouring countries as appropriate as well as being familiar with key operational areas (such as in the South Pacific).
8. 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.
9. Enlistment in the NZDF must always be on a voluntary basis and the right of citizens to conscientious objection to service in the armed services on the basis of personal beliefs must be respected.

## Specific Policy Points

### 1. The Roles of the New Zealand Defence Force

In order to be effective and maintain preparedness, the roles and responsibilities of the NZDF need to be clearly spelled out.

#### *Policy Positions*

- 1.1 Ensure that the roles for the NZDF comprise the following:
  - a) The promotion and protection of peace, justice and the environment throughout the Pacific and the world through our peacekeeping and peacemaking roles.
  - b) 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.
  - c) Assisting in civil defence emergencies, disaster relief and search and rescue, both within Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas.

- d) Working alongside other Government agencies in maritime border protection work.
- e) 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)

## 2. Reviewing and Transforming Our Capabilities

In order for the NZDF to fulfil its roles properly, the Green Party believes that the Aotearoa New Zealand Government should ensure the NZDF can operate across a range of operations, from peacekeeping through to more conventional defence operations, with a clear strong focus on peacekeeping, disaster relief and resource protection.

New Zealand should also continue to develop an independent defence policy, but be prepared to operate multilaterally with other countries if appropriate. This means having a well trained and appropriately equipped core of professionals and territorials with appropriate equipment, logistic support and transport.

### *Policy Positions*

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Investigate whether some maritime patrol planes and ships could be operated by a civilian agency, like Customs, or whether it would be better to establish a separate, integrated coastguard for sea border control purposes.
- 2.3 Ensure that the NZDF retains and further develops the organisational structure and processes to use their various capabilities in cooperation with civilian agencies, personnel and equipment in civil defence tasks, search and rescue, disaster relief, fisheries monitoring, and sea-border control work.

### **A. Peacekeeping**

New Zealand has played, and can continue to play, an important role as a specialist international peacekeeper. This is in keeping with the Green Party principle that priority must always be given to non-violent means of resolving conflict between countries. Many of the assets required for peacekeeping (e.g. transport planes and ships, helicopters and land vehicles) are also essential for other purposes, such as disaster relief, resource protection and search and rescue. The Green Party supports

Aotearoa New Zealand continuing to have its regular and territorial forces well-prepared for peacekeeping missions, as well for their other roles.

#### *Policy Positions*

- 2.4 Support Ddeveloping a centre for the to training of international peacekeepers in Aotearoa New Zealand and share capacity on conflict prevention and peace mediation support work which will help strengthen regional capabilities in countries working together for peacekeeping.

See also our [Global Affairs](#) policy.

### **B. Ensuring Appropriate Equipment**

#### *Policy Positions*

- 2.5 Ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand has sufficient maritime surveillance capabilities, including airplanes, to properly monitor the waters around New Zealand, and to assist South Pacific island states.
- 2.6 Ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand has sufficient capabilities for peacekeeping, search and rescue, disaster relief, fisheries and border control tasks. Any equipment that is not optimal for such tasks should be phased out.
- 2.7 Ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand has sufficient naval capacity to conduct appropriate patrols: around the nation's coasts, into Antarctic waters, and to assist South Pacific islands states where necessary. This capacity should include sea transport capacity, but from multi-purpose ships, not specialised transport ships.
- 2.8 Ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand has special forces sufficient for rapid action in crisis situations, in Aotearoa New Zealand and Pacific nations (see also our [Privacy and Security Services](#) policy).

### **3. Subordinate Combat Capabilities**

Expenditure on assets and capabilities for major combat situations should be deprioritised. Aotearoa New Zealand's defence forces should, over time, replace capabilities and assets whose primary function is to enable Aotearoa New Zealand to operate as a subordinate part of a combat task force led by the United States, Britain, or Australia. The nation's focus should turn to maintaining a defence force that concentrates on peacekeeping, disaster relief, and the protection of the nation's maritime borders and resources.

### *Policy Positions*

- 3.1 Replace the ANZAC frigates with more appropriate equipment.
- 3.2 Oppose the purchase and the installation of specialist anti-submarine detection and fighting capability on our maritime surveillance aeroplanes.
- 3.3 Reinforce our established role as a leader in new ways of looking at and dealing with conflicts around the world.
- 3.4 Investigate ways of reducing the environmental impact of the training of the NZDF. This could include the appropriate use of technology such as virtual and augmented reality, to both improve training and conserve resources.

## **4. Human Resources**

The individuals who serve in the NZDF and their families face extraordinary risks and sacrifices. They deserve fair remuneration, quality training, career advancement and health services appropriate to the risks they face.

### *Policy Positions*

- 4.1 Ensure that veterans who have served in conflict and emergencies receive adequate, fair and appropriate support services. This should include income support, and treatment and compensation for injuries, psychological and emotional health problems and occupational diseases acquired as a result of their service.
- 4.2 Ensure that the NZDF can provide for any eventuality arising from service. This should include death allowances for partners, family and descendants, and the long-term provision of support services.
- 4.3 Work to retain skilled service personnel by ensuring fair compensation and ensuring that there is appropriate support for families that may be separated for long periods of time.
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Acknowledge that NZDF personnel serving on active operations are fulfilling their obligations to Aotearoa New Zealand, often at the risk of their lives.
- 4.6 Support the right of individuals to refuse to serve in the NZDF.

## 5. Armaments

### *Policy Positions*

- 5.1 Reject 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.
- 5.2 Review NZDF policy on the use of explosive weapons in populated areas
- 5.3 Ensure that NZDF is prepared to operate within an environment that has been exposed to these risks.

## 6. Civilian-Based Defence

The Green Party believes that the NZDF is best qualified to create and maintain the services required to fulfil the proposed roles spelt out in Section 1.

However the Green Party also acknowledges that, as we are a relatively small country with limited resources, we will never be able to counteract overwhelming force by military means alone. This means that we must work on alternative methods of defence.

### *Policy Positions*

- 6.1 Investigate extending the reserve forces and reserve training to a wider section of the population as appropriate to individual abilities and inclinations.
- 6.2 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.