HON JUDITH COLLINS KC, MINISTER OF DEFENCE

AUKUS PILLAR II: DEVELOPMENTS AND PROPOSED NEXT STEPS September 2025

This publication provides an update to Ministers on recent AUKUS Pillar II discussions and recommended next steps to inform advice on potential New Zealand participation.

The pack comprises the following document:

• the July 2025 Joint Briefing AUKUS Pillar II: Developments and Proposed Next Steps.

This pack has been released on the Ministry of Defence website, available at: www.defence.govt.nz/publications/.

It has been necessary to withhold certain information in accordance with the following provisions of the Official Information Act 1982. Where information is withheld, the relevant sections of the Act are indicated in the body of the document. Information is withheld where making it available would be likely to prejudice:

- the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand [section 6(a)]
- the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the government of any other country [section 6(b)(i)].

Information is also withheld in order to:

- maintain the privacy of natural persons [section 9(2)(a)]
- maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials [section 9(2)(f)(iv)]
- enable a Minister of the Crown or any department to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations [section 9(2)(j)].

Where information is withheld under section 9(2) of the Act it is not considered that the public interest outweighs the need to protect it.

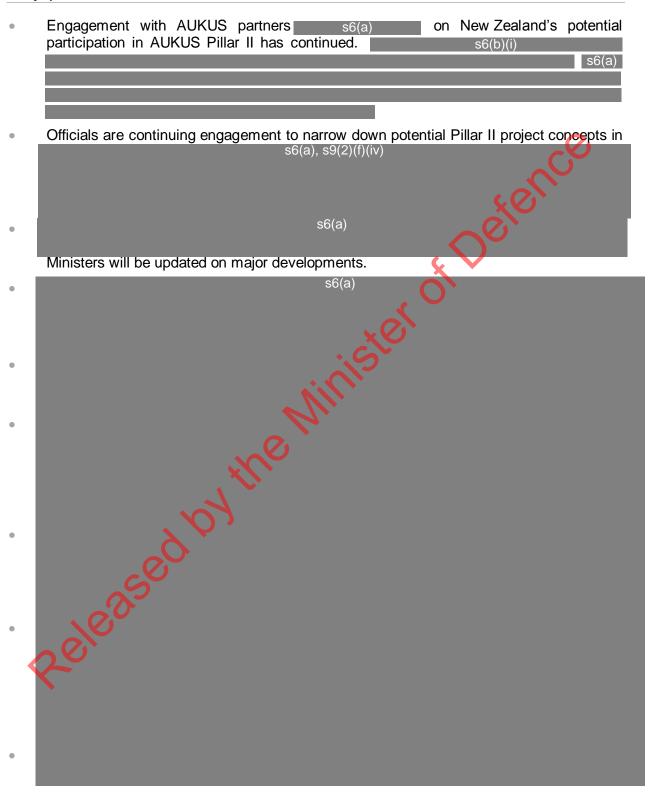


Comments



18 July 2025				
Minister of Foreign Affairs		For approval by	28 July 2025	
Minister of Defence		For approval by	28 July 2025	
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AUKUS Pilla	r II: Developments	and P	roposed Next Steps	
BRIEFING	Decision Submission			
PURPOSE	RPOSE To update Ministers on recent AUKUS Pillar II discussions and recommend ne steps to inform advice on potential New Zealand participation.			
Recommend	led referrals		isis	
Prime Minister			For information by	4 August 2025
		For information by	4 August 2025	
Associate Ministe	r of Defence	F	For information by	4 August 2025
Contact deta	ils			
NAME	ROLE		AGENCY	WORK PHONE
Charlotte Beaglehole		rnational	Ministry of Foreign Affairs &	s9(2)(a)
Chanotte Beaglehole	Security & Disarmament		Trade	
Bronwyn Evans-Kent Director, Defence Policy		Ministry of Defence		
20/00				
Minister's Of	fice to complete			
Approved		Noted		Referred
Needs amen	dment	Decline	ed U	Withdrawn
Overtaken by events See Mi		inister's notes		

Key points



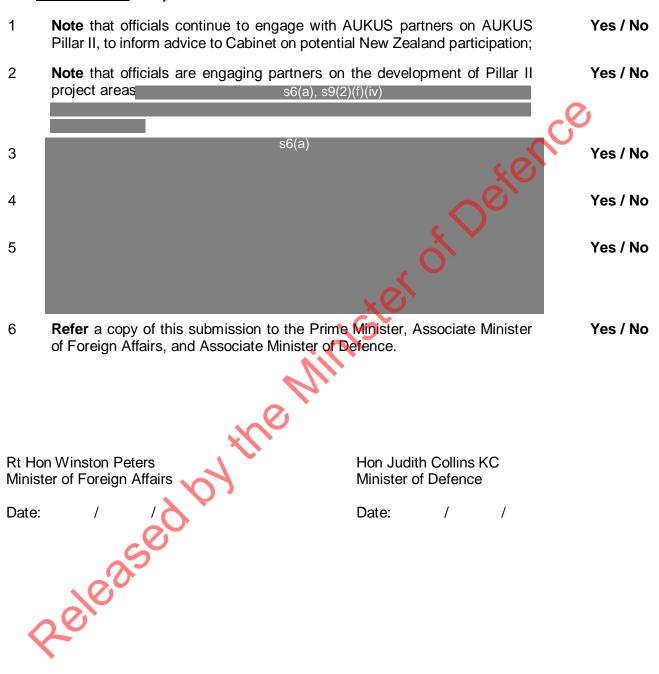
Taha Macpherson for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Richard Schmidt for Secretary of Defence

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

Date:

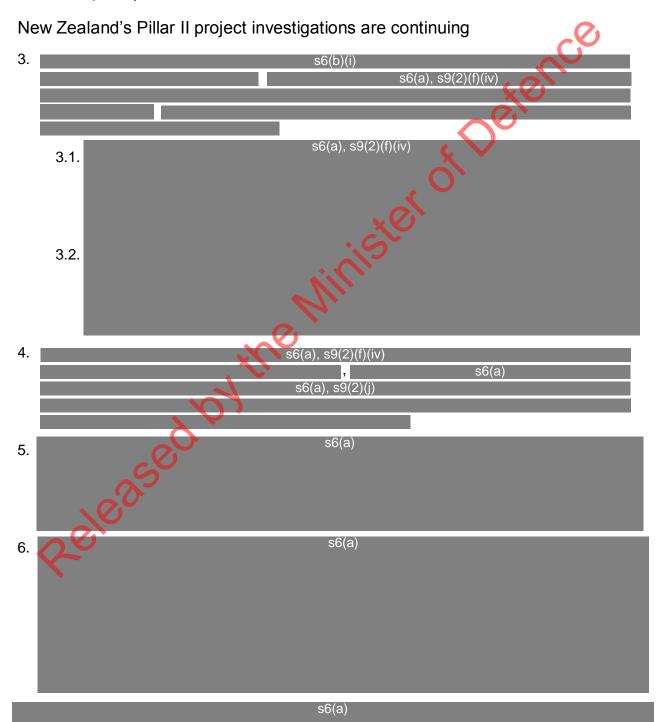


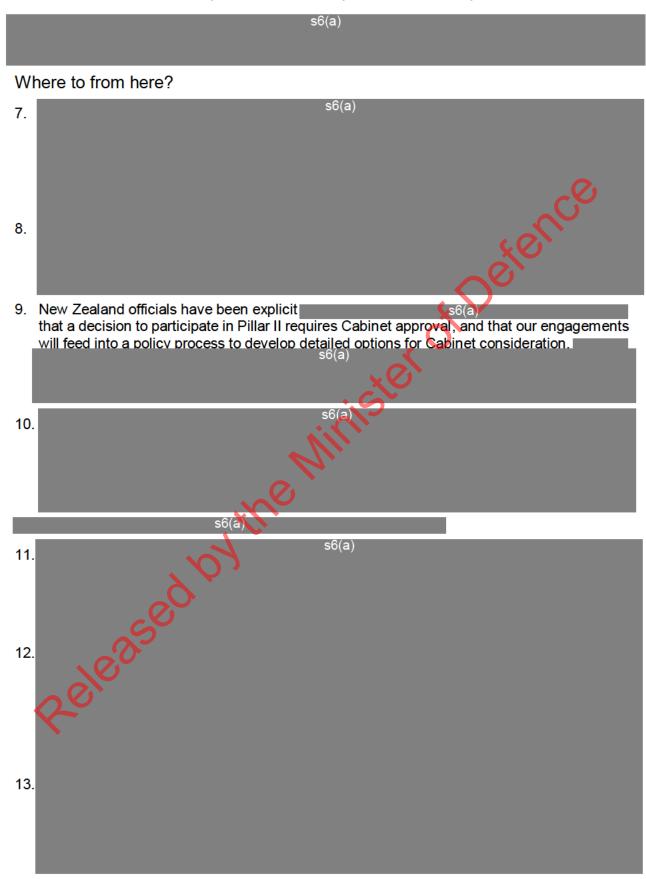
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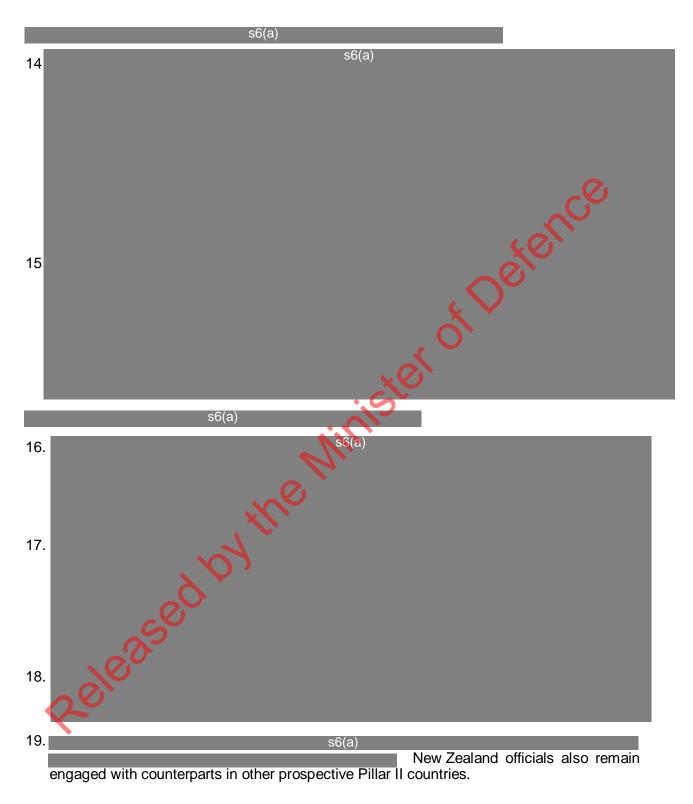
Report

- 1. Since officials' last submission to you in October 2024, engagement to consider potential participation in AUKUS Pillar II has continued. This has included two officials' engagements with AUKUS partners in Canberra to discuss technical and policy considerations.
- 2. This submission outlines developments since our last update to Ministers and recommends next steps for your consideration.



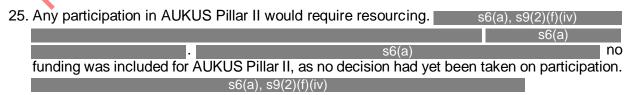


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Resourcing



26. As part of officials' ongoing analysis of potential Pillar II project options, officials would provide further advice to Ministers on the scope of potential resourcing requirements.