

CONSULTATION ON THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE'S LONG-TERM INSIGHTS BRIEFING TOPIC

29 April – 20 May 2025

The Ministry of Defence is seeking your feedback to help develop a Long-term Insights Briefing that explores **how technology innovations are likely to influence New Zealand's defence capabilities beyond 2035.**

Who we are:

The New Zealand Ministry of Defence is a civilian agency that provides advice to the Government on Defence matters. Under the Defence Act 1990, the Ministry headed by the Secretary of Defence, is a separate legal entity to the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF).

The Ministry purchases major equipment which becomes a capability when it is used by the personnel of the NZDF, and currently has \$6 billion of major Defence capability projects in delivery. We also provide Long-term assessments and advice on New Zealand's defence interests and challenges.

Our Long-term Insights Briefing:

The Ministry of Defence is required under the Public Service Act 2020 to produce a Long-term Insights Briefing (LTIB) every three years. The briefings provide the public with:

- Information about medium and Long-term trends, and risks and opportunities that affect or may affect New Zealand and New Zealand society
- Information and impartial analysis, including policy options for responding to these matters.

LTIBs are not government policy and are developed independently of Ministers. The subject matter of an LTIB is the sole discretion of Chief Executives.

This is a think piece on the future and not part of the policy development process.

This LTIB will build upon engagements and research previously conducted, such as those that informed the recent [Defence Policy Review](#).

As per the Public Service Act 2020, agencies are required to consult with the public on both the topic and the draft LTIB. We expect to consult on our draft briefing later in 2025.

The Public Service Act requires that the final briefing will be presented to the House of Representatives and subject to Parliamentary scrutiny via a select committee hearing. This is planned to occur towards the end of 2025.

The Public Service Act requires that all LTIBs are made available in the public domain.

Why focus on technology innovation?

The insights gained through this research will help us as civilian defence advisors to Government and the purchasers of major defence equipment for New Zealand.

New Zealand is facing its most challenging and dangerous strategic environment in decades. Recent geopolitical developments demonstrate the increasing and compounding nature of threats to our national security interests. New Zealand's geographic isolation no longer shelters us from threats to the extent it once did.

At the same time, breakthroughs in technology and innovation are rapidly changing the capabilities available to defence forces. The rise of emerging disruptive technologies are providing both opportunities and challenges to New Zealand's ability to protect and promote its national interests.

What issues will our LTIB explore?

This LTIB seeks to understand how technology innovations are likely to influence New Zealand's Defence capabilities beyond 2035.

We propose to examine technology innovations that are particularly relevant for the tasks that New Zealand's Defence Force will be expected to conduct.

An assessment of how technology innovations influence the changing nature of conflict and warfare will necessarily inform this briefing.

The LTIB will build upon research and engagements that supported the Defence Policy Review and the Government's recently announced Defence Capability Plan, to help inform future planning activity.

The LTIB consultation is not focussed on issues currently before government. Specifically, this LTIB will not:

- provide specific capability recommendations or specific advice on defence capability investments
- consider or discuss New Zealand's role in international coalitions working on defence capability innovations
- consider technologies that are illegal to possess under current New Zealand or international law
- assess current NZDF capabilities
- directly consider investments planned under the Government's current Defence Capability Plan

We want to hear what you think:

- Should we explore this topic? i.e. will this topic provide insights into an issue that is important for the future of our country?
- How do you think technology innovations are likely to influence the future of war, conflict, and other tasks required of the NZDF beyond 2035?
- Are there technology innovations that are particularly relevant for New Zealand's Defence context? How are these likely to influence New Zealand's future defence capabilities?
- Are there other issues relevant to this topic that we should consider?
- Do you have suggestions that may help us explore this topic?

Please email your response to engage@defence.govt.nz by 20 May 2025. With your answers, we would appreciate if you included:

- Your views on the above questions.
- Your organisation (if relevant)
- Why you are interested in this topic
- Whether you would like to be notified of the planned second round of consultation later in 2025 (on the draft briefing).

Next steps:

- Your feedback will help inform the research direction for our LTIB.
- A summary of submissions may be published on our website once the consultation period has closed in the interests of transparency, and to inform public discussion on these topics. Any personal or identifying details will be removed from submissions that are published on our website. If you do not want your submission to be released, please request that when you make your submission.
- The Public Service Act requires us to undertake a second round of consultation on the draft LTIB. We intend to do that later in 2025. If you are interested in being involved in the second round of consultation, please let us know.
- The Public Service Act requires us to present the final briefing to the House of Representatives.

How we will store your feedback and details

We will collect the information you provide, which could include your name and email address, to help inform the development of our LTIB and to provide you with updates on the outcomes of this consultation.

All submissions, or a summary of, may be published on our website once the consultation period has closed in the interests of transparency and to inform public discussion on these topics. Any personal or identifying details provided will be removed if we publish information on our website.

We will keep your name (if you provide it) and email address secure by storing it in restricted files and only allowing certain Ministry staff who are supporting the LTIB to access it. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is wrong. If you'd like to ask for a copy of your information, or to have it corrected, please contact us at info@defence.govt.nz or phone +64 4 496 0999.

Submissions are official information

Submissions you make become official information, and the content of submissions can be asked for under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA). Under the OIA, we must make information available unless there is good reason for withholding it in part or in full.