



Aotearoa New Zealand's First National Security Strategy

For a more secure and resilient nation

We want your views on national security

The government is working on Aotearoa New Zealand's first National Security Strategy.

To help develop this Strategy, we want to hear your thoughts and ideas on our long-term approach to National Security.

What is national security and why it matters

New Zealand's concept of national security is focused on protecting New Zealand from malicious threats from those who would do us harm. National security contributes to the wellbeing of New Zealanders, and involves working to identify, mitigate and respond to threats that impact New Zealand and New Zealanders including:

- Terrorism and violent extremism of all kinds
- Interference by another country in our democracy (for example by covertly influencing our election process and voting decisions)
- Cyber incidents that affect important computer networks (for example the loss of access to bank accounts, extraction of data, or disruptions to power supply)

National security is also about opportunities for us to work together to advance New Zealand's national security interests.

Our context and experiences as a country have changed

The Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terror attack on Christchurch masjidain made 44 recommendations that the Government has accepted in principle.

The Report underscored the need for stronger leadership and direction in national security, including recommending a new national security agency. It also highlighted the importance of accountable decision-making, and increased public discussion on national security issues.

One way to give effect to the intent of the Royal Commission of Inquiry Report is through a National Security Strategy.

Our geographic distance and small size no longer protect us in the way they once did. New Zealand faces growing security challenges, and we need to act early to identify, prevent and mitigate these threats.

A National Security Strategy will help us to achieve this and create a more secure and resilient New Zealand.



Working together to protect and advance our national security

The Strategy will focus on national security threats – both now and into the future.

It will outline our national security interests, identify current and future security challenges and describe priority areas for system reform and investment.

The Strategy will set out a plan for how we can work together with te Tiriti o Waitangi partners, communities, private sector and international partners.

The Strategy will:

- Ensure New Zealand can make appropriate national security choices for the nation
- Reflect a commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi and recognise the role of Māori in national security
- Recognise the importance of the Pacific and the deep interconnections between New Zealand and the region.

Developing the Strategy is also an opportunity to have a public conversation about national security and the structures that support this.

You have an opportunity to shape the first National Security Strategy

You will be able to provide feedback on the Strategy until 30 September 2022 through an online submissions process and online hui.

Your feedback will build on what we have already heard from the public through other recent engagements on national security, including on the National Security Long-term Insights Briefing.

The National Security Strategy will carry through the reforms recommended by the Report of the Royal Commission into policy.

We anticipate the Strategy will be finalised by mid-2023.

How to find out more

You can find information about the Strategy and how to make an online submission on the DPMC website - [National Security Strategy](#).

For more information on the Government's response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry Report see [Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)