



PERMITTING DECISION SUMMARY

NROL-151

National Reconnaissance Office

1. The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO) is a U.S. government agency responsible for developing, acquiring, launching and operating signals, imagery, and communications satellites. NRO data is used to inform decision making by national policy makers and military and civil users in the U.S. and in U.S. allied nations, including New Zealand.
2. Specifically, NRO systems enable monitoring the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; tracking international terrorists, drug traffickers, and criminal organisations; supporting international peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations, and assessing the impact of natural disasters.
3. NROL-151 carries a payload designed, built, and operated by the NRO to support the agency's national security mission. Further details about the payload are protected.
4. Payloads are permitted in line with the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017](#) and the [Outer Space and High-altitude Activities \(Licences and Permits\) Regulations 2017](#).
5. Each payload has been approved by the Minister for Economic Development, on advice from officials across agencies. When approving payloads, the Minister needs to be satisfied that:
 - a. The applicant has taken and will continue to take all reasonable steps to safely manage the operation of the payload;
 - b. The proposed operation of the payload is consistent with New Zealand's international obligations; and
 - c. The applicant has an orbital debris mitigation plan that meets prescribed requirements.
 - d. Despite being satisfied of these matters, the Minister may nevertheless decline a permit if he is not satisfied that the proposed operation of the payload is in New Zealand's national interest.

Date Granted	Authorisation Number	Payload Name	Owner or Operator	Country of Origin
11 October 2019	190084-PPT	NROL-151	National Reconnaissance Office	United States



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PAYLOAD PERMIT

190084-PPT

I, Hon Phil Twyford, as Minister for Economic Development, acting pursuant to section 17 of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 grant a Payload Permit to:

National Reconnaissance Office

National Reconnaissance Office is authorised to launch and operate NROL-151, for the purpose as described in the application documents.

This permit will take effect upon signature, and will expire (i) two (2) years from that date or

(ii) if the payload is launched, when the payload is no longer in the Earth's orbit.

This permit is granted subject to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 and all regulations under the Act, and the conditions of the permit.

11.10.19

Dated

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister for Economic Development