

Submission form

New Zealand Space Policy Review Consultation

Submitter information

About you

Name: privacy of natural persons

Email address: privacy of natural persons

Are you making this submission on behalf of a business or organisation?

☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, please tell us the title of your company/organisation.

Would you like to be kept informed of the outcome of the Space Policy Review?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Are you happy for MBIE to contact you if we have questions about your submission?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Release of information

☒ Please tick this box if you do not wish your name and contact details above to be included in any information about submissions that MBIE may publish.

☐ Please tick this box if there is other information within your submission that you want to be kept confidential. If you have ticked this box, please state your reasons and grounds under the Official Information Act 1982 below, for consideration by MBIE.

Section 1: New Zealand interests in space

New Zealand's association with space goes back centuries – the first Māori explorers navigated by the stars to Aotearoa New Zealand, and centuries later they were followed by European navigators whose instruments also looked to the stars. Today, our modern navigation systems are still guided from space.

New Zealanders rely on space assets to do everyday tasks, like banking, transporting goods, travelling by air, and talking with each other. As the world becomes more connected and digitised, our reliance on space to support our daily lives is only going to increase.

The New Zealand government pursues a range of cross-cutting interests in space – including economic development, national security, regulation, international relations, and environmental interests. These interests are often articulated in broader government policies, strategies and assessments and inform our approach to space policy interests.

Question 1. What are your interests and relationship to space? (Pick as many as apply below)

General interest in space	Work in the New Zealand space sector	Cultural connections to space	Academic involvement on space issues	Other (please explain in box below)
☒	☐	☒	☐	☒

Please note any other interests and relationship to space below that you would like to share.

I am a beneficiary/shareholder/landowner and current trustee on the Committee of Management for Tawapata South Maori Incorportation. Because of the tight consultation timeline and deadline for submissions our committee have not considered or had time to develop a collective submission. Therefore the purpose of this submission is:

a. To express my personal feedback and
b. Provide future opportunity for the Committee of Management to provide considered collective feedback.

Section 2: New Zealand values in space

New Zealand's values speak to who we are as a nation and how we act in the world. The following are values that the New Zealand government aims to reflect and promote through space activities, engagements and the use of space technologies. These values are informed by the concept of kaitiakitanga (guardianship) as a guiding framework to ensure that space, and its benefits, remain accessible for all.

- **Innovation** – We value innovation, science, and technology as means of advancing our knowledge about the universe, driving productivity in the economy and improving the wellbeing of New Zealanders. We also want to encourage innovation which is responsible, enables New Zealand to be a good steward of the environment, and enables collaboration with companies and other governments.
- **Responsibility** – Space is a unique domain which is shared by all states. We act responsibly to promote a peaceful, stable, and secure space environment and to inform responsible behaviours on Earth. This includes acting in accordance with the principles in the Outer Space Treaty and other international agreements and arrangements applicable to space, as well as New Zealand's domestic law and policies. We also seek to influence the development of new international instruments, and develop norms and standards with like-minded countries, where there are gaps.
- **Stewardship** – Space offers a unique perspective that is crucial for understanding our environment, including to fight climate change, and better manage our natural resources. At the same time, we take care to act sustainably in space and on Earth to preserve the benefits of these environments for future generations.
- **Partnership** – We are better when we work together. Participation, Partnership, and Protection are key principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and we want to continue to engage with Māori on New Zealand's space activities and engagements. The government works alongside New Zealanders and the space sector in developing policy and regulations that impact them; collaborates with international partners on economic, security and other interests; and within international institutions to promote New Zealand's values.

Question 2. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these values should apply to New Zealand's space activities and engagements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
Innovation	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Responsibility	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stewardship	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Partnership	☒	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Question 3. Are there any other values, or aspects of kaitiakitanga (guardianship), that you think should apply to New Zealand's space activities and engagements (for example, cultural values regarding space).

Section 3: New Zealand's space policy objectives

The New Zealand government supports a range of interests in space (economic, environmental, international, national security and regulatory) by pursuing the following key policy objectives:

- Growing an innovative and inclusive space sector
- Modelling sustainable space and Earth environments
- Promoting the responsible uses of space internationally
- Protecting and advancing our national security and economic interests
- Regulating to ensure space activities are safe and secure

Question 4. Are any of these key policy objectives of particular importance to you?

- Modelling sustainable space and Earth environments
- Promoting the responsible uses of space internationally

Section 3a: Growing an innovative and inclusive space sector

OBJECTIVES

The New Zealand government supports the growth of an innovative and inclusive space sector. This means:

- Promoting New Zealand's natural advantage for conducting space activities, and research and development expertise across the space value chain
- Partnering within New Zealand and internationally to increase research and development capabilities
- Identifying opportunities to increase diversity in the space sector
- Using cutting-edge space technology and space sourced data to support New Zealand's values and interests

Question 5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these policy objectives will help the New Zealand government to grow an innovative and inclusive space sector?

a. Promoting New Zealand's natural advantage for conducting space activities, and research and development expertise across the space value chain

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Partnering within New Zealand and internationally to increase research and development capabilities

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Identifying opportunities to increase diversity in the space sector

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

d. Using cutting-edge space technology and space sourced data to support New Zealand's values and interests î Identifying opportunities to increase diversity in the space sector

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 6. Do you have any comments on these policy objectives (e.g. any suggested change to how they are framed)? Is there anything missing?)

Refer attached

Question 7. Are there any other policy objectives that you think would help the New Zealand government to grow an innovative and inclusive space sector?

Refer attached

Question 8. Do you have any questions or comments about what these objectives would mean in practice?

Refer attached

Section 3b: Modelling sustainable space and Earth environments

OBJECTIVES

The New Zealand government advocates for the sustainable use of space to ensure its benefits remain available to future generations. At the same time we seek to use space, and space technologies, to gain understanding and better protect our environment on Earth. Specifically this means:

- Encouraging inclusive, sustainable space collaborations within New Zealand
- Assessing the cumulative impact of space activities on the Earth environment
- Assisting with solving sustainability challenges through space data, including to better monitor or understand the Earth's environment
- Investing in New Zealand's capability to retain, grow, access and use sustainable space technologies

Question 9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these policy objectives will help the New Zealand government to model sustainable space and Earth environments?

a. Encouraging inclusive, sustainable space collaborations within New Zealand

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Assessing the cumulative impact of space activities on the Earth environment

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Assisting with solving sustainability challenges through space data, including to better monitor or understand the Earth's environment

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

d. Investing in New Zealand's capability to retain, grow, access and use sustainable space technologies

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 10. Do you have any comments on these policy objectives (e.g. any suggested change to how they are framed)? Is there anything missing?)

Refer attached

Question 11. Are there any other policy objectives that you think would help the New Zealand government to model sustainable space and Earth environments?

Refer attached

Question 12. Do you have any questions or comments about what these objectives would mean in practice?

Refer attached

Section 3c: Promoting the responsible uses of space internationally

OBJECTIVES

The New Zealand government promotes the responsible use of space internationally. This means:

- Advocating for effective international rules, norms and standards in space
- Partnering with like-minded launch states to adopt peaceful, responsible and sustainable space practices
- Collaborating internationally to increase New Zealand's influence and capabilities in the global space sector

Question 13. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these policy objectives will help the New Zealand government to promote the responsible uses of space internationally?

a. Advocating for effective international rules, norms and standards in space

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Partnering with like-minded launch states to adopt peaceful, responsible and sustainable space practices

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Collaborating internationally to increase New Zealand's influence and capabilities in the global space sector

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 14. Do you have any comments on these policy objectives (e.g. any suggested change to how they are framed)? Is there anything missing?)

Question 15. Are there any other policy objectives that you think would help the New Zealand government to promote the responsible uses of space internationally?

Question 16. Do you have any questions or comments about what these objectives would mean in practice?

Section 3d: Protecting and advancing our national security and economic interests

OBJECTIVES

To sustainably grow our space sector by having due regard to our national interests we need to:

- Use space assets to protect and advance New Zealand's national security and economic interests
- Manage the broad range of security risks in space to protect New Zealand's space industry
- Collaborate with international space and security partners to pursue New Zealand's national security and economic interests

Question 17. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these policy objectives will help the New Zealand government to protect and advance our national security and economic interests?

a. Use space assets to protect and advance New Zealand's national security and economic interests

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Manage the broad range of security risks in space to protect New Zealand's space industry

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Collaborate with international space and security partners to pursue New Zealand's national security and economic interests

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 18. Do you have any comments on these policy objectives (e.g. any suggested change to how they are framed)? Is there anything missing?)

Question 19. Are there any other policy objectives that you think would help the New Zealand government to protect and advance our national security and economic interests?

Question 20. Do you have any questions or comments about what these objectives would mean in practice?

Section 3e: Regulating to ensure space activities are safe and secure

OBJECTIVES

The New Zealand government regulates to ensure New Zealand space activities are safe and secure. This means:

- Facilitating the safe and secure use of emerging space technologies from New Zealand
- Clarifying what New Zealand space activities are inconsistent with the national interest
- Promoting and protecting New Zealand's interests through permitting space technologies

Question 21. To what extent do you agree or disagree that these policy objectives will help the New Zealand government to ensure space activities are safe and secure through regulation?

a. Facilitating the safe and secure use of emerging space technologies from New Zealand

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

b. Clarifying what New Zealand space activities are inconsistent with the national interest

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

c. Promoting and protecting New Zealand's interests through permitting space technologies

Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't know
☐	☐	☐	☐	☒	☐

Question 22. Do you have any comments on these policy objectives (e.g. any suggested change to how they are framed)? Is there anything missing?)

Question 23. Are there any other policy objectives that you think would help the New Zealand government with regulating to ensure space activities are safe and secure?

Question 24. Do you have any questions or comments about what these objectives would mean in practice?

Section 3e(i): Regulating in line with our national interests

Under the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017, the Minister for Economic and Regional Development may decline a licence or permit if they are *not satisfied* that it is in the national interest. The Minister may take into account when considering the national interest: economic or other benefits to New Zealand; risks to national security, public safety, international relations or other national interests; risks that cannot be mitigated by conditions of the licence or permit; and any other relevant matters.

As part of policy to inform the language in the Act, Cabinet has agreed to principles that will inform the consideration of national interest for space activities, as well as what is not in New Zealand's national interests. These principles are:

- **Responsibility**: that space activities from New Zealand should be conducted with due care and in such a way as to promote an orbital environment where actors avoid causing harm or interference with the activities of others.
- **Sustainability**: New Zealand should promote sustainable space practices that preserve the benefits of space for future generations.
- **Safety**: space activities from New Zealand should be conducted in a way that does not jeopardise human safety (including the safety of people in space).
- **Aligning with New Zealand's values and interests:** space activity from New Zealand should uphold the policies and values supported by New Zealanders and align with broader policy settings.

The following space activities are ***not*** *in New Zealand's interests*; i.e. the Minister will not authorise space activities:

- that contribute to nuclear weapons programmes or capabilities
- with the intended end use of harming, interfering with, or destroying other spacecraft or space systems on Earth
- with the intended end use of enabling or supporting specific defence, security or intelligence operations that are contrary to government policy
- where the intended end use is likely to cause serious or irreversible harm to the environment.

Question 25. Are there any comments you would like to make about these criteria that inform consideration of the national interest?

Question 26. What questions do you have about how the national interest is considered in practice?

Independent and Personal Submission

privacy of natural persons

I'm a beneficiary/shareholder/landowner and current trustee on the Committee of Management for The Proprietors of Tawapata South Māori Incorportation. Because of the tight consultation timeline and deadline for submissions our committee have not considered or had time to develop a collective submission. Therefore, these are my personal views. The purpose of this submission is:

a. Provide personal feedback for both Aerospace Strategy and Space Policy Review.
b. To provide an option for Tawapata Inc to submit future collective feedback.
c. Nurture new partnerships locally and internationally.

Objectives for this personal submission:

To be recognised, valued, and acknowledged.

The agreement between Rocket Lab and Tawapata Māori Incorporation gives Rocket Lab access to New Zealand's natural attributes. Our varied landscape, remote location, clear skies, and seas, offers one of the world's widest selections of launch angles (azimuths) for rocket launches. This partnership was the real catalyst for the creation of the New Zealand Space Agency (NZSA) in 2016. It is also the catalyst for all future growth, development, and innovation of the space sector locally and internationally.

I believe Tawapata Inc is a key stakeholder in the national space sector. We are ideally positioned and seek to be included in future discussions with government agencies to develop or regulate policies that impact us a Tiriti partner and Maori landowner.

We aim to contribute to the leadership group including government and sector representatives.

Seek to be more active and visible as a sector representative in targeted workshops and requests.

Seek membership and participation in the Māori Stakeholders Group

For protection of ownership and protection of our land used for launch activities.

As kaitiaki our whakapapa binds us to the land. Our matauraga and cultural histories connect us deeply with earth and space environments.

I believe opportunities exist in Mahia to develop aerospace activities and R&D facilities that have the potential to generate significant and sustainable economic opportunities through job creation, capital investment and collaborations with adjacent sectors (e.g., academia, R&D, and science) serving the aerospace economy. All whilst protecting and rejuvenating our environment for future generations.

We look to develop inclusive, sustainable space collaborations within New Zealand that supports economic growth and international interests in space.

Advocate effective rules and laws (Māori Land Court) to protect land ownership used for launch activities.

Identify resources and access funding

Supporting these activities will involve modernising our existing systems and immediately build additional capacity, and capability to keep up with technology developments, including personnel. Failure to resource adequately will compromise chances of achieving goals, also damage New Zealand's reputation as an aerospace nation, making it difficult to maintain pace with this fast-moving sector.