

# Submission on developing the Aotearoa New Zealand Aerospace Strategy

## Your name and organisation

Name	Marie Laufiso
Organisation (if applicable)	

## Overview of the Aerospace Strategy

- Question 1:** Do the four areas above provide the right basis for the Aerospace Strategy?
- Question 2:** What are the critical factors that you see for aerospace sector development?
- Question 3:** How would an Aerospace Strategy help you?

Please type your submission below. If applicable, please indicate the question(s) to which you are responding.

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION 2: WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL FACTORS THAT YOU SEE FOR THE AEROSPACE STRATEGY?** Economic development, economic benefits, “productivity” and “the global aerospace economy” appear to be of the greatest value. There is not a single reference however to three fundamentally critical areas:

A) **Peaceful uses of space:** there is no reference to Aotearoa New Zealand’s commitment to peaceful uses of space, both generally as a member of the international community and specifically as a member of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space since 2016. The Committee was established in 1959 “to govern the exploration and use of space for the benefit of all humanity: for peace, security and development” and to promote “international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space”.

B) **Disarmament obligations:** there is no reference at all to Aotearoa New Zealand’s domestic or international disarmament obligations, which is a particular concern with regard to prohibited weapons, including nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, as well as cluster munitions and other weapon systems with inhumane and indiscriminate effects that are prohibited by law. Related to this, there is no reference in the draft Strategy to Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations under humanitarian and human rights law.

C) **Disarmament policy:** there is no reference to Aotearoa New Zealand’s disarmament policy, which includes both a commitment “to show leadership in the development of new rules, norms and standards around the use of outer space”, and a commitment to “new international law to ban and regulate autonomous weapons systems” (also known as killer robots) - this is particularly pertinent to this Strategy given the references to “autonomous aerial vehicles”, to “safely integrate all forms of autonomous aerial vehicles” and, disturbingly, “significant work has already been undertaken to establish New Zealand’s leadership in this area, which we will progress further for 2030”.

Aotearoa New Zealand’s obligations and commitments to ensuring that space is used only for peaceful purposes must be upheld and protected. Therefore, aerospace companies based in here in Aotearoa New Zealand must not be permitted to develop - or contribute to the development of - any technologies, aircraft or spacecraft that contravene these obligations.

## Area One - A strategy for building our aerospace sector

- Question 4:** Is the 2030 Future State set out in a way that enables New Zealand to build on its existing advantages to develop a leading place in the global aerospace economy?
- Question 5:** Will the 2030 Future State support your ambitions for growth and participation in the sector?
- Question 6:** What barriers are there to optimising sector growth?
- Question 7:** How could the government and the sector work together to achieve the 2030 Future State?
- Question 8:** How can the Government enable Māori ambitions for the sector?

**Please type your submission below. If applicable, please indicate the question(s) to which you are responding.**

### **RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS 4: IS THE 2030 FUTURE STATE SET OUT IN A WAY THAT ENABLES NEW ZEALAND TO BUILD ON ITS EXISTING ADVANTAGES TO DEVELOP A LEADING PLACE IN THE GLOBAL AEROSPACE ECONOMY?**

I find the overview's reference to "Our nation's history...being intertwined with the sky and stars" deeply cynical and insulting. For you to discuss voyaging and celestial navigation and their deep cultural and historical roots for Māori and Pāsifika while at the same time down here on Papatūānuku many Tāngata whenua and Pacific whanau and communities are suffering economically, spiritually and physically. Their lack of overall well-being can in my opinion be traced directly to the never-ending era of colonisation by the British empire – loss of land, language, political and economic power and ability to determine their own destinies – further compounded by the neo-liberal "Rogernomics" and "Ruthanasia" years since 1987.

I do not believe – because of the ongoing deprivation and incarceration (including state care and its corresponding abuse) inflicted on Māori children and their whanau as well as on Pāsifika and other materially-impooverished families and communities – that "this government" is at all genuinely interested in – let alone - capable of achieving its "ambitious goals to build a more sustainable and inclusive economy that works to improve the lives of **all New Zealanders.**"