

#27

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Page 3: Submitter Information

Q1

Personal Information

Name

Lucy Stewart

Email Address



Q2

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

Yes (Please tell us your company/organisation):
Disarmament and Security Centre

Page 4: New Zealand's interests in space

Q7

What are your interests and relationship to space? Pick as many as apply below:

General interest in space,

Other (please specify):

At the Disarmament and Security Centre we are interested in ensuring that New Zealand's interests and relationships in space are of a peaceful nature and not contributing to the weaponization of space. We would like to ensure that all of New Zealand's activities in space are clearly in line with our international legal obligations including such Treaties as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in which New Zealand has agreed not to "assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in activities prohibited... under this Treaty". The feedback I have set out below comes from discussions within our organisation and a number of colleagues across the country.

Q8

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

At the Disarmament and Security Centre we are interested in ensuring that New Zealand's interests and relationships in space are of a peaceful nature and not contributing to the weaponization of space.

We would like to ensure that all of New Zealand's activities in space are clearly in line with our international legal obligations including such Treaties as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in which New Zealand has agreed not to "assist, encourage or induce, in any way, anyone to engage in activities prohibited... under this Treaty".

The feedback I have set out below comes from discussions within our organisation and a number of colleagues across the country.

Page 5: New Zealand's values in space

Q9

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

Innovation	Agree
Responsibility	Strongly agree
Stewardship	Strongly agree
Partnership	Agree

Q10

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.

As above, our kaitiakitanga of our space activities must ensure that our activities are of a peaceful nature and not contributing to the weaponisation of outer space. We must ensure that all payloads are assessed alongside our international legal obligations (and these be explicitly stated and understood by officials assessing payloads) to ensure that we are not inadvertently contributing to activities which are prohibited under NZ domestic and international law. There is currently tension between the main space actors – China, Russia and the US to gain dominance in space and New Zealand must be careful not to exacerbate these tensions through launching specific payloads that may contribute to one nation's dominance over another.

Page 6: New Zealand's space policy objectives

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

Rank these key policy objectives in order of importance to you: Click and drag to reorder the objectives from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)

Page 7: Growing an innovative and inclusive space sector

Q12

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?

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

Partnering within New Zealand and internationally to increase research and development capabilities **Agree**

Identifying opportunities to increase diversity in the space sector **Agree**

Using cutting-edge space technology and space sourced data to support New Zealand's values and interests **Agree**

Q13**Respondent skipped this question**

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

Q14**Respondent skipped this question**

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

Q15**Respondent skipped this question**

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

Page 8: Promoting the responsible uses of space internationally

Q16

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?

Advocating for effective international rules, norms and standards in space **Strongly agree**

Partnering with like-minded launch states to adopt peaceful, responsible and sustainable space practices **Strongly agree**

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

Q17

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

As above – at the Disarmament and Security Centre, we are concerned about some payloads that have been launched for overseas military clients. We have not been satisfied with the information released by MBIE, relevant Ministers and the Government about assessment processes for these specific payloads as they have lacked transparency about how the payload has been assessed, and by whom (individually and which agencies have been involved). They have also lacked detail on the possible dual-use nature of the various payloads which leaves the public concerned that NZ may be inadvertently launching payloads that may eventually be operational parts of other nations’ nuclear weapons programmes – such as command and control, geo-positioning etc.

While the NZ space industry is often discussed as helping to advance various communications, environmental etc. monitoring, it appears that in reality a large number (if not most) of the payloads being launched are for overseas military clients.

Q18

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

As of 2022, the peaceful and equitable use of space is being threatened by growing military competition among major powers (China, Russia, United States) and that smaller states with space launch capabilities such as New Zealand are being drawn in. Ensuring the peaceful use of space requires working proactively to prevent the weaponisation of this global commons. This is of paramount importance and could be better reflected in these policy objectives outlined in the consultation document. MBIE should reflect New Zealand’s strong commitment to not only “safe and secure” access to and use of space, but to work for “a space environment that is sustainable, peaceful, and free from conflict,” as MFAT stated in its May 2021 submission to a study by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Q19

Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 9: Protecting and advancing our national security and economic interests

Q20

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?

Use space assets to protect and advance New Zealand’s national security and economic interests	Agree
Manage the broad range of security risks in space to protect New Zealand’s space industry	Neither agree nor disagree
Collaborate with international space and security partners to pursue New Zealand’s national security and economic interests	Neither agree nor disagree

Q21

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

It is in New Zealand's National interest to ensure that space is peaceful and that weaponization of space is kept to a minimum (acknowledging that already some weaponization has taken place that we likely cannot reverse). In that vein, New Zealand must work hard to not contribute to the current race for space dominance as outlined above and ensure that all payloads launched from our shores are for peaceful purposes only.

Q22

Respondent skipped this question

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?

Q23

Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 10: Modelling sustainable space and Earth environments

Q24

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?

Encouraging inclusive, sustainable space collaborations within New Zealand **Agree**

Assessing the cumulative impact of space activities on the Earth environment **Strongly agree**

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

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

Q25

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 11: Regulating to ensure space activities are safe and secure

Q28

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?

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

Agree

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

Strongly agree

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

Neither agree nor disagree

Q29

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

Aotearoa NZ needs to be explicit about its commitment to not contributing to the weaponsiation of space in our regulations and policies guiding space practices. We need to be explicit as to what legislation applies – international Treaties and domestic legislation and ensure both clients and officials assessing payloads are fully aware of these laws. When assessing the payloads, officials must not only take into account the black and white letter of the law, but also the spirit and values of the legislation – such as the NZ Nuclear Free Zone Act and the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

Q30

Respondent skipped this question

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

Q31

Respondent skipped this question

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

Page 12: Regulating in line with our national interests

Q32

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

The current processes of ensuring that all of New Zealand's activities in space are consistent with our international legal obligations are to adopt a convenient "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" attitude to an ally who has declared that they are going to dominate space through military activity in order to ensure their freedom to pursue their own national interests whether or not those interests are good for the planet. (See: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2018/jun/18/we-must-have-american-dominance-in-space-says-donald-trump-video>). MBIE has not employed staff with the appropriate experience, competence, orientation or background to deal with these matters deep questions concerning the morality of war and peace. Nor is there a canvassing/polling business in the country offering the services necessary to give an adequate account of the deep public concern in this area.

Q33

Respondent skipped this question

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