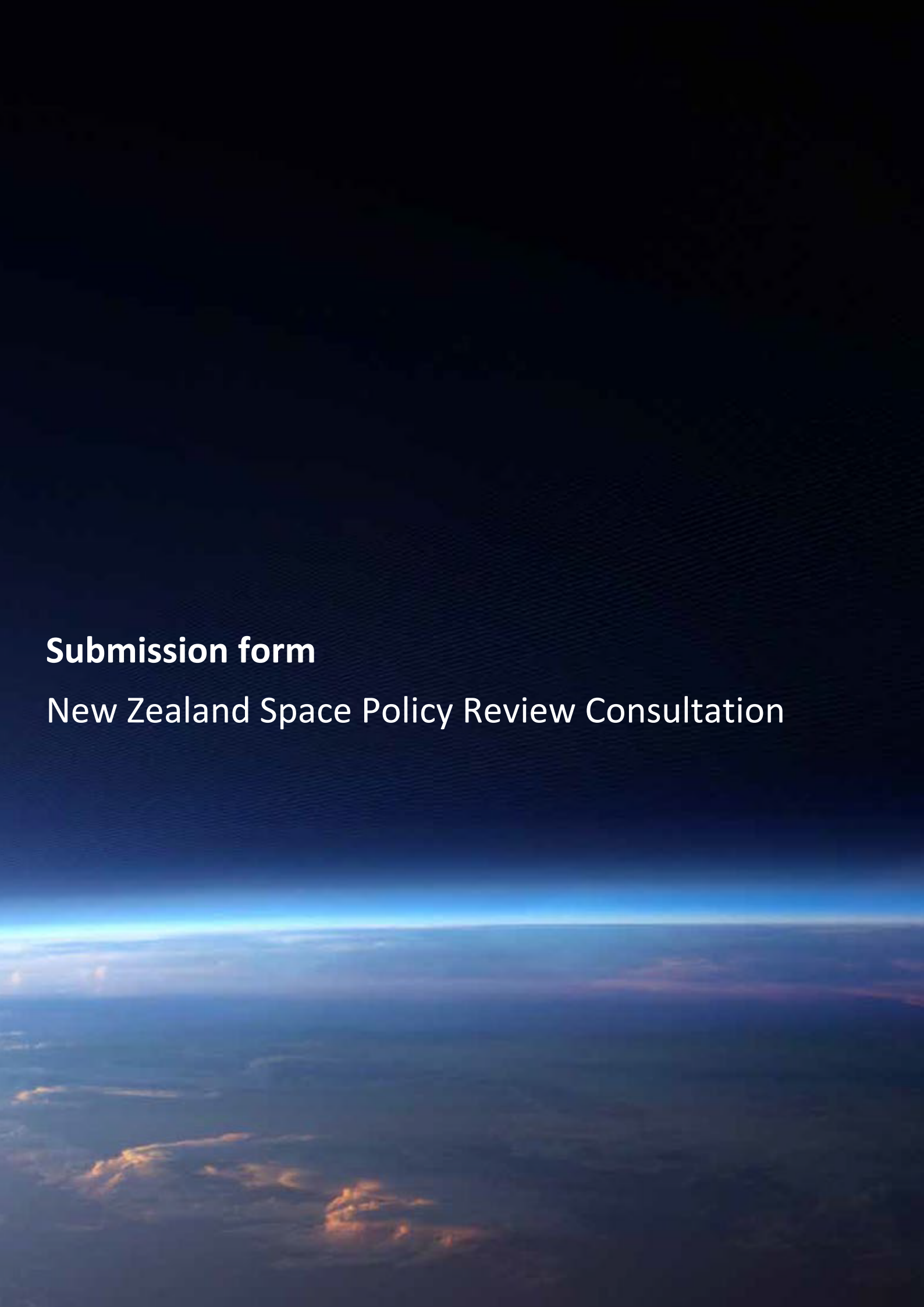

Submission form

New Zealand Space Policy Review Consultation

Contents

How to make a submission

The space policy review consultation is an opportunity to share your interests in space and views on the values and policy objectives that underpin New Zealand's space activities and engagements.

You can make a submission either though this form or the survey linked below.

Submissions close by **31 October 2022**.

Submission form

This submission form can be accessed via the MBIE consultation portal at www.mbie.govt.nz/have-your-say/new-zealand-space-policy-review. To make a submission through this form you will need to:

1. Fill out the **submitter information** page within this document, including your name, email address, phone number and organisation. If you are representing an organisation, please ensure you have the authority to represent its views.

2. Fill out your **responses to the questions** within this document. You can answer any or all of these questions.

3. Please **send this submission form** either:

    - Via email: to spacepolicyreview@mbie.govt.nz; or

    - Via post: to: Space Policy Review, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, PO Box 1473, Wellington 6140.

Submission survey

Alternatively, you can complete a submission on the same questions within this form using the following link: https://www.research.net/r/spacepolicyreview

How feedback will be used

Your feedback will be collated into a summary of feedback report. This will assist the New Zealand government to create or amend space policies and to look at:

- *Creating a National Space Policy*: a document which outlines New Zealand's values and objectives on space, including for our international partners.

- *Articulating New Zealand's broad interests on space across multiple activities and engagements*: including at United Nations fora and with international space and security partners.

- *Developing future space strategies, policies and regulatory changes*: including adjusting our policies and regulations to meet advancements in space technology.

- *Future engagement on space policy with the New Zealand public*: including on any key areas of interest identified through the consultation.

  Considering whether any legislative changes are required to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017.

MBIE has commissioned PublicVoice to produce a summary of feedback report on the space policy review consultation. PublicVoice will collate all submissions, and other feedback received through the course of the consultation.

All feedback from the space policy review consultation will be collated by PublicVoice for the purposes of producing a summary of feedback report. MBIE will upload the summary of feedback report onto the MBIE website, and may also upload PDF copies of submissions received to MBIE's website in due course.

Private information

The *Privacy Act 2020* establishes certain principles with respect to the collection, use and disclosure of information about individuals by various agencies, including MBIE.

Any personal information you supply to MBIE in the course of making a submission will be used in the collation of feedback on the space policy review consultation, to facilitate the purposes outlined in the "how my feedback will be used" section above.

Release of information

Submissions remain subject to requests under the *Official Information Act 1982* and MBIE will consider you to have consented to the release of your submission in full, unless you clearly specify otherwise.

Release of your submission will include releasing your name in a list of submitters in the report, and as part of uploading submissions in due course to the MBIE website – www.mbie.govt.nz, and in the event of a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

If you do not wish for certain information in your submission to be released, please tick the relevant boxes on the next page and outline which parts you consider should be withheld, together with the reasons for withholding the information.

MBIE will take such objections into account and will consult with submitters when responding to requests under the *Official Information Act 1982*.

Submitter information

About you

Name:	Privacy of natural persons (submitting on behalf of Rocket Lab)
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.

Rocket Lab

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.

Rocket Lab has played a catalysing role in the development and growth of New Zealand's space industry. Founded in New Zealand in 2006, the company now employs almost 600 people in New Zealand and operates facilities in Auckland, Mahia, and Waikato.

Rocket Lab's capabilities span the space economy, including satellite design and manufacture, industry-leading spacecraft software and components, and reliable launch services. Our technology is enabling some of humanity's most ambitious space missions, ranging from complex interplanetary science missions and national security programmes to commercial constellations.

With the development of Electron, the world's first carbon composite orbital launch vehicle, as well as Rutherford, the first 3D printed electric pump-fed rocket engine, Rocket Lab advanced material science and put New Zealand's innovative capability on the world stage. Electron is now the leading small launch vehicle globally and one of the most frequently launched rockets in the world, launching satellites for a broad range of science, education, commercial and government uses.

Rocket Lab's New Zealand operations are supported by a healthy ecosystem of around 1,300 suppliers providing support across engineering services, engineering products, machining, raw products and more. In New Zealand our economic contribution has totalled more than NZD $20 million since 2018 across our suppliers. These suppliers now have proven space industry capability to support new entrants to New Zealand's economy, further bolstering the number of high-skill, tech and aerospace employment opportunities in the country.

Rocket Lab has, and continues to, contribute significantly to supporting the next generation of space talent in New Zealand. Rocket Lab has awarded more than NZD $100,000 in tertiary scholarships and educational support programs. More than 80 people have completed internships at Rocket Lab in New Zealand, most of whom have gone on to full time positions within Rocket Lab. Working with our partner and specialists in aviation industry training Service IQ, Rocket Lab also led the creation of New Zealand's first Aerospace

Apprenticeship. Introduced into the New Zealand Qualifications Authority's (NZQA) framework, the apprenticeship enables apprentices and specialized technicians working in the space sector to become fully qualified in their trade for the first time. Rocket Lab has also sponsored PhD and Masters programmes in New Zealand. In 2020, Rocket Lab created the Space Ambassador programme, in which 80 Rocket Lab team members received specialist training to engage with schools around the country, delivering talks and lessons around STEM, space, entrepreneurialism. As of October 2022, more than 15,000 students have taken part in a Rocket Lab Space Ambassador event.

Rocket Lab actively supports the growth of New Zealand's space capability and has provided launch services at no cost to the Auckland Programme for Space Systems within the University of Auckland. Launched in 2020 by Electron, Te Waka Āmiorangi o Aotearoa APSS-1 was New Zealand's first student-built satellite, creating a hands-on space experience for Kiwi students and paving the way for future missions, research, and international research collaborations with New Zealand universities. Rocket Lab also supports the commercial space start-up community in New Zealand, providing its test facilities and launch services at no cost to innovative companies including Astrix Astronautics.

Beyond education, Rocket Lab has invested heavily in supporting the local communities in which it operates, particularly in Mahia where the company's first launch site is located. More than $80,000 has been donated to community projects, including funding the purchase of a bus for Te Mahia School and providing funds for local sports groups and environmental programmes. Launch Complex 1 now directly employs a team of 21 people with roles in engineering, launch pad operations, logistics, and administrative support, making the Rocket Lab the largest employer in Mahia.

More information about Rocket Lab's economic, educational, social and environmental contributions to New Zealand can be found in our 2021 Impact Report: https://investors.rocketlabusa.com/esg/default.aspx

Rocket Lab has tripled its manufacturing facility footprint in New Zealand since 2018 and expects this to continue growing in the coming years with the development of the Neutron launch vehicle and continued expansion of spacecraft and space systems manufacturing. This expansion is expected to create at least 100 additional roles in New Zealand within the next three years.

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?

Rocket Lab supports all of the policy objectives. Growing an innovative and inclusive sector is critical to attracting and developing highly skilled people who can offer critical skills to New Zealand's economy and can contribute to solving our nation's pressing challenges including environmental and scientific research and action. As a young space faring nation home to a diverse people, New Zealand can offer the global space industry new perspectives and apply unique thinking to challenges and opportunities. Fostering a sector comprised of people of different ages, experiences, genders and cultural backgrounds is key to this.

Modelling sustainable space and Earth environments, promoting the responsible use of space internationally, and ensuring space activities are safe and secure is deeply important to our team. To that end, we support the New Zealand's Government's decision to join the UN Convention on Registration of Objects which requires New Zealand to establish and maintain a register of space objects launched from New Zealand and welcome the work the NZSA has done with commercial companies such as LeoLabs to simultaneously ensure responsible space practices and support the growth of commercial sector development in New Zealand.

The ability to safely launch, operate and monitor spacecraft safely and reliably is crucial to our business. We aim to be industry leaders in this area through initiatives like Rocket Lab's responsible orbit lowering practices with Electron's Kick Stage and our extensive track record of safely conducting launches from New Zealand's first orbital launch site. We welcome to the opportunity to work closely with industry, government and stakeholders to support and maintain New Zealand's reputation as a responsible space actor.

Aotearoa's space industry provides an opportunity to build on the long-standing close relationships that exist between New Zealand and its like-minded nations and allies internationally. The Technology Safeguards Agreement and Outer Space & High-Altitude Activities Act ensure that the industry is grown and regulated in a way that protects and advances New Zealand's national security and economic interests and have established New Zealand as a responsible and trusted participant in the global space industry.

Rocket Lab also supports the introduction of an additional policy objective: To increase New Zealand's understanding of space and its criticality to the nation. Space is of increasing importance to New Zealand's economic, environmental and national security future. New Zealanders' wellbeing is already reliant on space-based and space-enabled technologies, from GPS and Earth-observation, to climate research and communications; and the Space sector offers opportunities from advanced research projects at our universities to high-paying STEM jobs. Yet, in our experience, this is not always clear to most New Zealanders. This both limits economic growth opportunities as New Zealanders often do not consider working in or supplying to the space industry, and it also leads to confusion and misinformation about space activity and how it benefits the nation. Under this additional policy, Rocket Lab supports the development of a strategy to clearly and consistently promote New Zealander's understanding of space and the critical role of space technology.

Due to the wide-reaching impacts of space on all New Zealanders, every government department is a participant in the industry. This necessitates a whole of government approach to space literacy, including public outreach. This will ensure space is factored into decision making across whole of government, and the responsible space minister is provided with broad, holistic advice.

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 ȓ 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?)

Regarding the objective of growth of an innovative and inclusive space sector, Rocket Lab welcomes the New Zealand government's proactive approach to promoting and facilitating this. As a fast-moving and rapidly growing industry, New Zealand's advantages in the global space industry, and the cutting-edge space technology that the government aims to use to support the nation's values and interests, will continue to evolve. The government should ensure it engages closely with industry, researchers and end users of space data to ensure the government's promotional efforts accurately reflects the state of the industry and the opportunities available. This could be managed by the development of a national space advisory group or similar organisation charged routinely providing expert advice and insight to the New Zealand government to ensure it capitalises on opportunities presented by Aotearoa's space activities as they arise, and can address the challenges facing the industry.

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?

Aotearoa's association with space goes back centuries, but the introduction of commercial activities such as orbital space launch and satellite tracking, as well as government-level international partnerships like MethaneSAT and the NZ-DLR Joint Research Programme, are relatively nascent having only emerged within the past five years. In order to support the growth of an innovative and inclusive space sector, the public needs to have a greater understanding of the sector, how it contributes to our wellbeing, its opportunities, its career pathways, and these need to be understood within a global context of where New Zealand's capability and achievements sit internationally, not just in a domestic context. As such, a policy objective to promote awareness of and education about the space industry would be beneficial, supported by stronger proactive and reactive efforts to dispel misinformation that has at times permeated public discussion around space activity.

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

New Zealand's space opportunity is vast, and our established capabilities are sought after globally, so we encourage the government to set ambitious goals to build upon these foundations. This could be achieved by government investment into a national mission of global significance. This mission would take advantage of New Zealand's existing capabilities in mission design, launch, spacecraft manufacturing, spacecraft tracking, and environmental research. The mission would be designed to support the objectives in the Space Policy and

Aerospace Strategy and play a role in engaging and informing New Zealanders about space, the role in plays in our lives, and the potential it has to support our economy and environment., It also offers the opportunity to showcase our values and capabilities on the world stage, solidifying partnerships and investments with international space agencies for years to come.

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?)

Rocket Lab agrees with these policy objectives and we would welcome additional information around how these objectives would be delivered. With regard to the "assessing the cumulative impact of space activities on the Earth environment," in-depth consultation with industry, mana whenua, and environmental impact researchers should be undertaken to determine the scope, methods, administration and associated costs of assessment work.

Regarding the objectives below, Rocket Lab would welcome a study and report that identifies New Zealand's most pressing sustainability challenges, provides recommendations around the space data that can be used to address them, and identifies opportunities for investment into these capabilities within New Zealand.

- **3b,c**: Assisting with solving sustainability challenges through space data, including to better monitor or understand the Earth's environment
- **3b,d:** Investing in New Zealand's capability to retain, grow, access and use sustainable space technologies

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

N/A

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

Refer to question 8 response for detail on how a national mission could support the objectives within the sustainable space and Earth environments values.

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?)

N/A

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?

N/A

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

Rocket Lab supports international collaboration focused on the development and implementation of international obligations and norms. Rocket Lab supports an expansion of this policy objective to include the government's responsibility to identify and address barriers or impediments to New Zealand's participation in the space industry, both domestically and internationally.

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?)

The Technology Safeguards Agreement and Outer Space & High-Altitude Activities Act ensure that the industry is grown and regulated in a way that protects and advances New Zealand's national security and economic interests and have established New Zealand as a responsible and trusted participant in the global space industry.

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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?)

N/A

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?

N/A

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

N/A

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?

The OSHAA and supporting principles provide clear guidance on the space activities permitted in New Zealand and we welcome continued communication with industry stakeholders and the public to ensure these are well understood.

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

N/A