

## SUBMISSION TO NEW ZEALAND SPACE POLICY REVIEW CONSULTATION

To: spacepolicyreview@mbie.govt.nz

### Submitter information:

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We make this submission on behalf of Te Kuaka NZA (<https://www.nzalternative.org/>)

We would like to be kept informed of the outcome of the Space Policy Review.

We are happy for MBIE to contact us with questions about our submission.

### Submission:

Based on the response to our recent requests under the Official Information Act, there is no evidence that, prior to signing the Artemis Accords or the US-NZ Space Framework Agreement, the New Zealand government:

- received any advice on the potential risks to New Zealand associated with the commercialisation of outer space;
- received any advice on whether these agreements would lead to the commodification of outer space;
- provided for any meaningful Māori engagement in the decision to sign these agreements;
- received any advice on the implications of these agreements for the connections between Māori and outer space;
- received any advice on the compatibility of these agreements with Te Tiriti o Waitangi;
- received any advice on the compatibility of these agreements with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

It is our submission that these apparent failures to consider Māori and te Tiriti o Waitangi pose significant challenges to the legitimacy of the government's decisions to sign the Artemis Accords and the US-NZ Space Framework Agreement.

More broadly, there is no evidence to indicate that New Zealand's space policy is being developed and administered in a way that is consistent with te Tiriti o Waitangi.

These considerations should of course be fundamental elements of any legitimate process of national policy making in New Zealand.

These apparent failures are particularly striking during a year in which the country has celebrated its first nationally legislated public Matariki holiday. The connections between Māori and the celestial bodies above us were rightly celebrated by the government and public agencies. Sadly these connections do not appear to have been as highly valued in the government's development of its own outer space policy.

It is also our submission that there is insufficient consideration of the commodification of outer space and of the militarisation of outer space. These two risks should be at the forefront of New Zealand's national consideration of outer space policy and our engagement in international forums. It is only through the active prevention of commodification and militarisation of outer space that countries can keep outer space peaceful and stop it from being traded away to the highest bidder.

New Zealand should play a clear and unequivocal role in this regard and this should start with tighter regulation and public scrutiny of the actions within New Zealand's own space industry.

We would welcome the opportunity to present on the elements we have submitted above.

ENDS