



Focusing on Our Core Strengths and Capabilities

National's Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Discussion Paper

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National's Discussion Paper on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade includes the following proposals to ensure New Zealand has a consistent and effective foreign policy platform into the future.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY

Our foreign affairs policy must reflect New Zealand's more independent assessment of its external environment.

- There will always be some global political issues requiring a New Zealand policy position, but we should have a stronger focus on the Asia Pacific region.
- Our development assistance should be more focused on our immediate neighbourhood and its needs.
- National will seek an early opportunity to move the US bilateral relationship forward on areas of common interest.
- The nuclear-free legalisation has become an iconic part of New Zealand's national identity and will remain in place.

DEFENCE POLICY

Defence policy must recognise that New Zealand's key priority is having a highly effective, if necessarily small, defence force focused on maintaining security in the Pacific region and in a limited way further afield.

- The defence force should concentrate on maximising its effectiveness in a relatively narrow range of military and intelligence areas where we know we are good at what we do.
- National will publish a White Paper in its first year in government to take a fresh look at our defence capabilities and requirements.
- National recognises the importance of working with international partners in the defence arena, particularly Australia.

TRADE POLICY

Free and open trade is essential to New Zealand. As such, bilateral and multilateral trade agreements must be aggressively pursued.

- National will boost New Zealand's export performance and will aim to increase the ratio of exports to GDP from around 30% to 40% by 2020.
- We will aggressively and actively pursue all multilateral and bilateral trade opportunities with a particular focus on Japan, the United States & Korea.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade should support and promote our exporters as its number one priority.
- National will pursue a whole sector approach to exporting with initiatives on both a domestic and an international level to increase export performance.
- NZTE should be less bureaucratic and more focused on exporting.

For more information on these proposals and to see the Discussion Paper in full go to www.national.org.nz or contact your local National MP.