



# Peace Movement Aotearoa

PO Box 9314, Wellington 6141, Aotearoa New Zealand. Tel +64 4 382 8129

Email [icanz@xtra.co.nz](mailto:icanz@xtra.co.nz) Web site [www.converge.org.nz/pma](http://www.converge.org.nz/pma)

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Climate Change Commission,  
<https://haveyoursay.climatecommission.govt.nz>

20 June 2023

## **Submission: Draft Advice on the Second Emissions Reduction Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the draft Advice on the Second Emissions Reduction Plan (draft Advice).

We have little expertise on the technical issues around climate change and climate resilience, so our brief submission below relates to one area of our work where we do have expertise: the impact of military activity on climate change and climate justice.

### **What is missing from the draft Advice**

The draft Advice was released for consultation at the end of April 2023 with a media release stating: “*Aotearoa New Zealand must accelerate the transition to a low emissions, climate-resilient future*”.

While we agree that the *transition to a low emissions, climate-resilient future* must be accelerated, this is less likely to be achieved if military activities are not included. We are deeply concerned that there is no reference in the draft Advice to the activities of the New Zealand armed forces (army, navy and air force) or to the Ministry of Defence, and that the military sector’s emissions profile, environmental footprint, and use of non-renewable resources (including fossil fuels) continue to be ignored.

Given the urgency of the climate emergency, it is deeply disturbing that an area where the government could make a substantial contribution towards ensuring its low emissions and climate resilience objectives are met is being excluded from the discussion and planning for the future.

All military activity, whether in times of peace or during armed conflict, contributes to climate change, with the overall military carbon footprint estimated as 5.5% of the global total. The draft Advice is simply not credible unless it includes such activity, as we have pointed out in previous submissions to the Climate Change Commission around its advice to government.

## **What must be included in the draft Advice**

There must be a comprehensive analysis of the carbon footprint of both the Ministry of Defence and the NZDF so that New Zealand's military activity can be included in the Plan.

At a minimum, this should include:

- the emissions profile of the day-to-day activities of the Ministry of Defence and NZDF here in Aotearoa New Zealand, such as the operations of military bases and assets, fuel and energy use, the operations of Ministry of Defence offices and civilian staff, domestic and overseas travel, research and development projects, construction, waste management, destruction of surplus / used / expired supplies and hardware, use of military vehicles, vessels and aircraft;
- the emissions profile of military procurement, that is, all supplies and equipment (including military hardware) used by the Ministry of Defence and NZDF, whether produced here in Aotearoa New Zealand or imported; and
- the emissions profile of all military activities both here and overseas - whether military training, peacekeeping, or combat - and associated emissions such as those caused by fire or damage from weapons use or the operation of military vehicles, damage to infrastructure, land degradation, deforestation, and the disposal of munitions and other military waste.

We are happy to provide further information about the impact of military activity on climate change and climate justice, and what must be done about it, on request.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.