

# Defence Policy Review – input from key partners and other interested parties

April 2023

**KANTAR PUBLIC**



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# Background and method

## Background

As part of the Defence Policy Review, the Ministry of Defence and the New Zealand Defence Force sought input from a range of people via an online survey open to all New Zealanders.

Key partners and other interested parties were asked for their input on two broad topics:

1. The relative importance of the Defence Force's roles.
2. Perceived threats to New Zealand's safety and security in the next ten years and perceptions of the Defence Force's readiness to meet the threats.

This document summarises the input provided. A separate document summarises input from defence industry on specific topics.

## Method

Input was sought using an online survey, accessed from the Ministry of Defence's website ([www.defence.govt.nz/engage](http://www.defence.govt.nz/engage)). The survey was promoted through existing channels and via paid promotion.



**SURVEY AVAILABLE TO COMPLETE:**  
23 JANUARY TO 4 APRIL 2023



**MEDIAN TIME SPENT PROVIDING INPUT**  
12.5 MINUTES



**NUMBER OF PEOPLE COMPLETING**  
8,578

# Summary of key findings

1. All of the New Zealand Defence Force's roles are important – at least 50% of participants rated each individual role as extremely or very important.
2. While all roles are seen as important, some are seen as more important than others. Based on the importance ratings the hierarchy of importance is:

Most important	Extremely important	Not as important (but still important)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand</li><li>Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific</li><li>Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific</li><li>Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand's strategic environment</li><li>Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific</li><li>Contribute to advancing New Zealand's international relationships</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support New Zealand's civilian presence in Antarctica</li><li>Support New Zealand government departments in their work</li><li>Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific</li><li>Peace-keeping and security operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific</li><li>Disaster relief, search and rescue operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific</li></ul>

3. Roles closer to New Zealand tend to be more important than those further away. Roles where NZDF is the lead agency tend to be more important than roles where NZDF is providing support.

## Summary of key findings

4. Participants see protecting people and territory as the primary purpose of a defence force and that is why 'defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication' was chosen as the most important role four times more often than the next most chosen.
5. The hierarchy of importance was relatively consistent across demographic groups. There were some small differences by demographics however, for example – women tended to see disaster relief and search and rescue operations as more important than average, while women 35+, men 60+, Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asian peoples see supporting other government departments in their work as more important than average.
6. 40% of participants see China's increase in influence/expansion as one of the greatest threats to New Zealand's safety and security in the next ten years. Other threats identified by more than ten percent of participants are: cyber security/warfare (20%) and climate change (16%).
7. 34% of participants think the Defence Force is at least somewhat ready to face the greatest threats they identified, while 63% think the Defence Force is not that or not at all ready. Perceptions of readiness are slightly higher amongst those who think the greatest threats are related to climate change and natural disasters, and lowest amongst those who think the greatest threats are from other countries.



## Summary of key findings

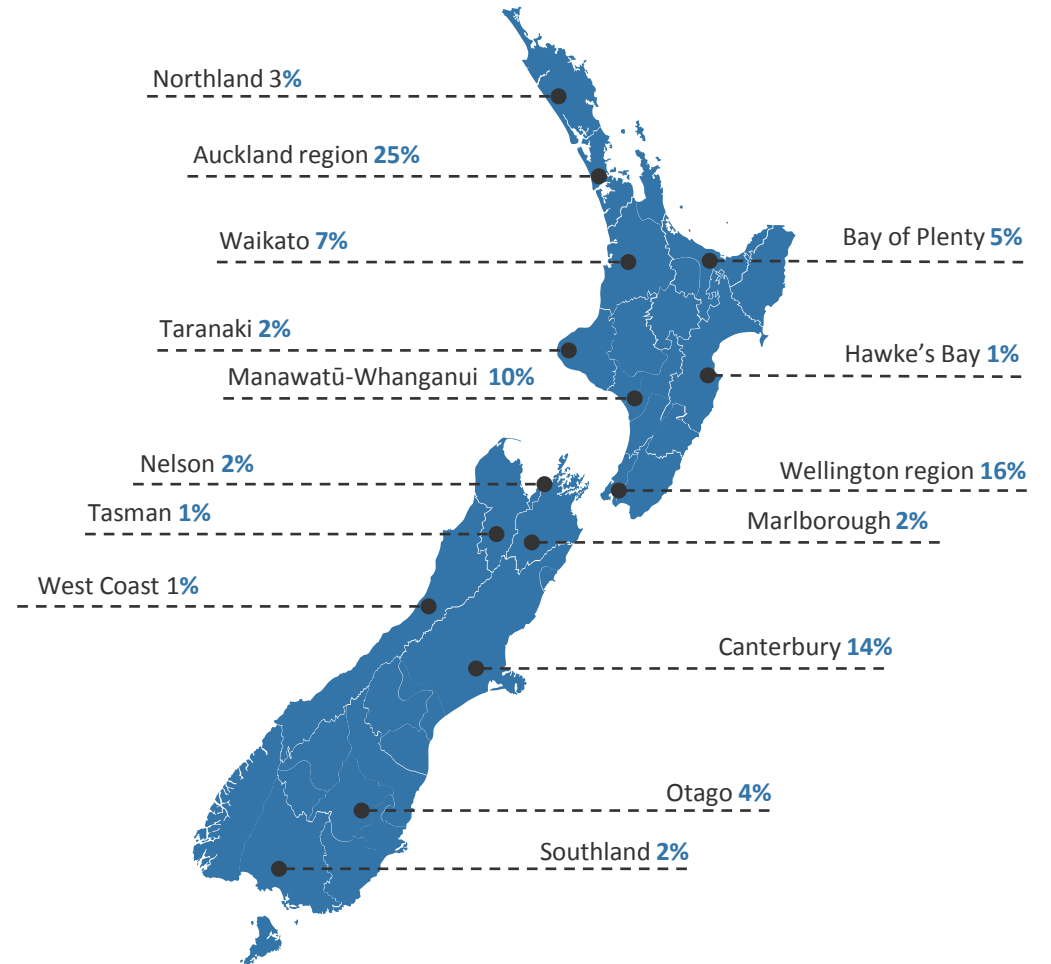
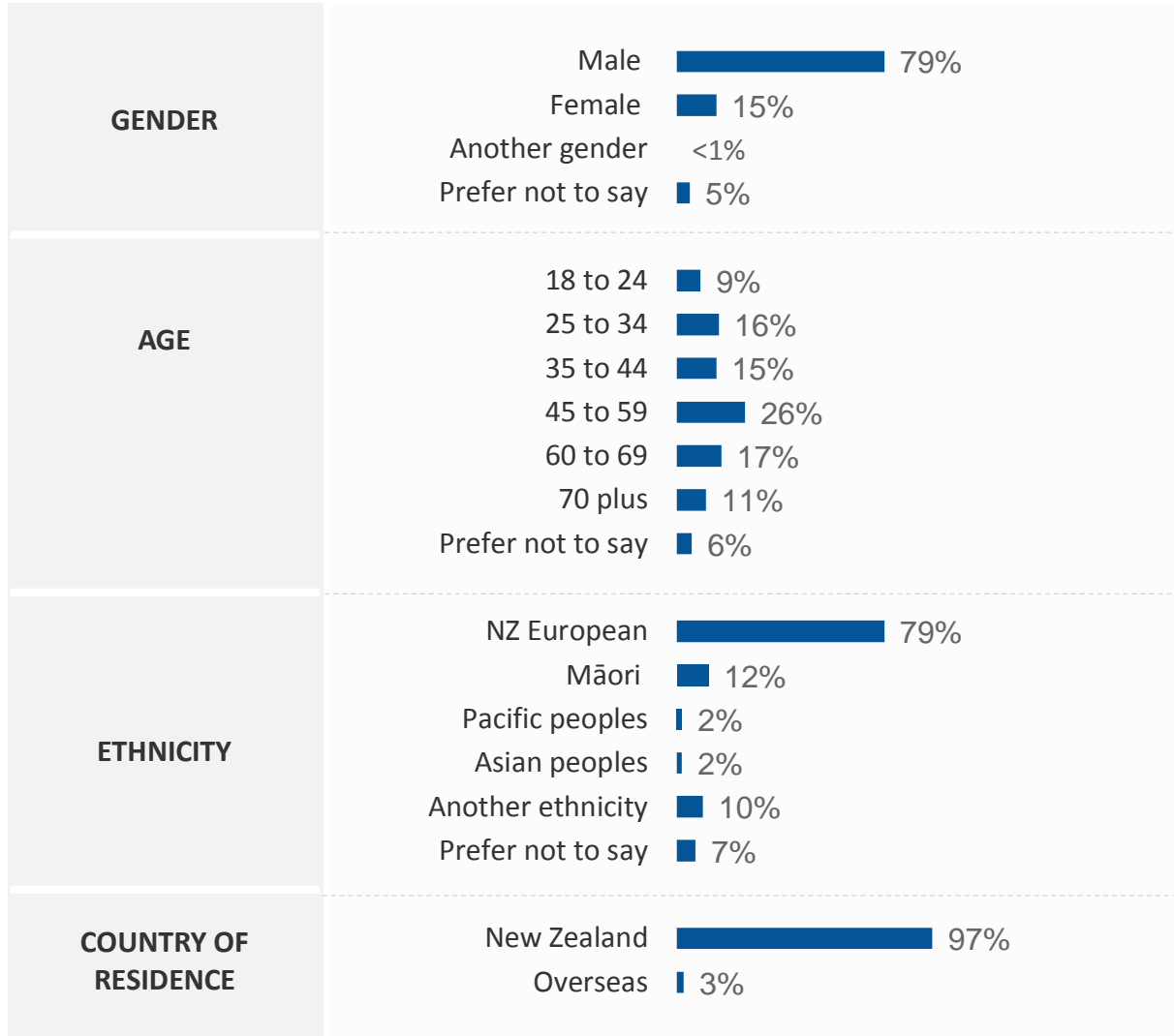
8. Participants were also specifically asked how ready the Defence Force is meet the two greatest challenges identified in the Defence Assessment 2021 – climate change and strategic competition. Few participants think the Defence Force is extremely or very ready (12% of climate change and 8% for strategic competition), while many more think the Defence Force is not that or not at all ready (44% and 64% respectively).
9. The most commonly made suggestions as to how the Defence Force can be more ready to face the threats identified, all involved investing more in defence – both people and equipment.



# 1 Sample profile



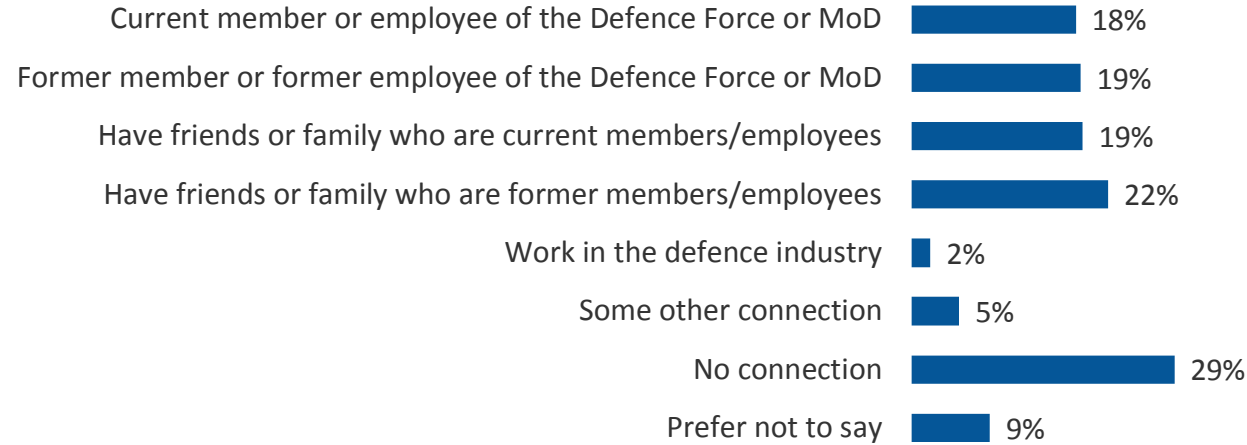
## Demographic make up of the survey sample



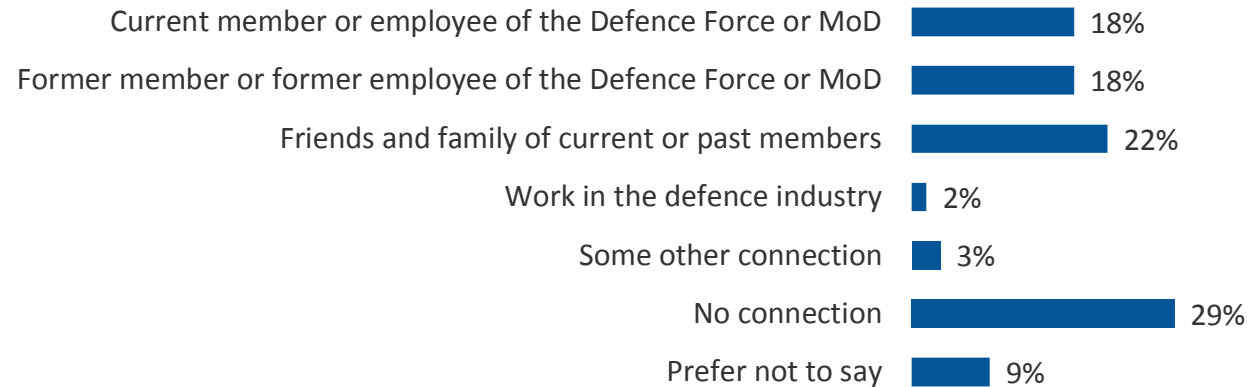


## Connection to the Defence Force and/or the Ministry of Defence

### CONNECTION



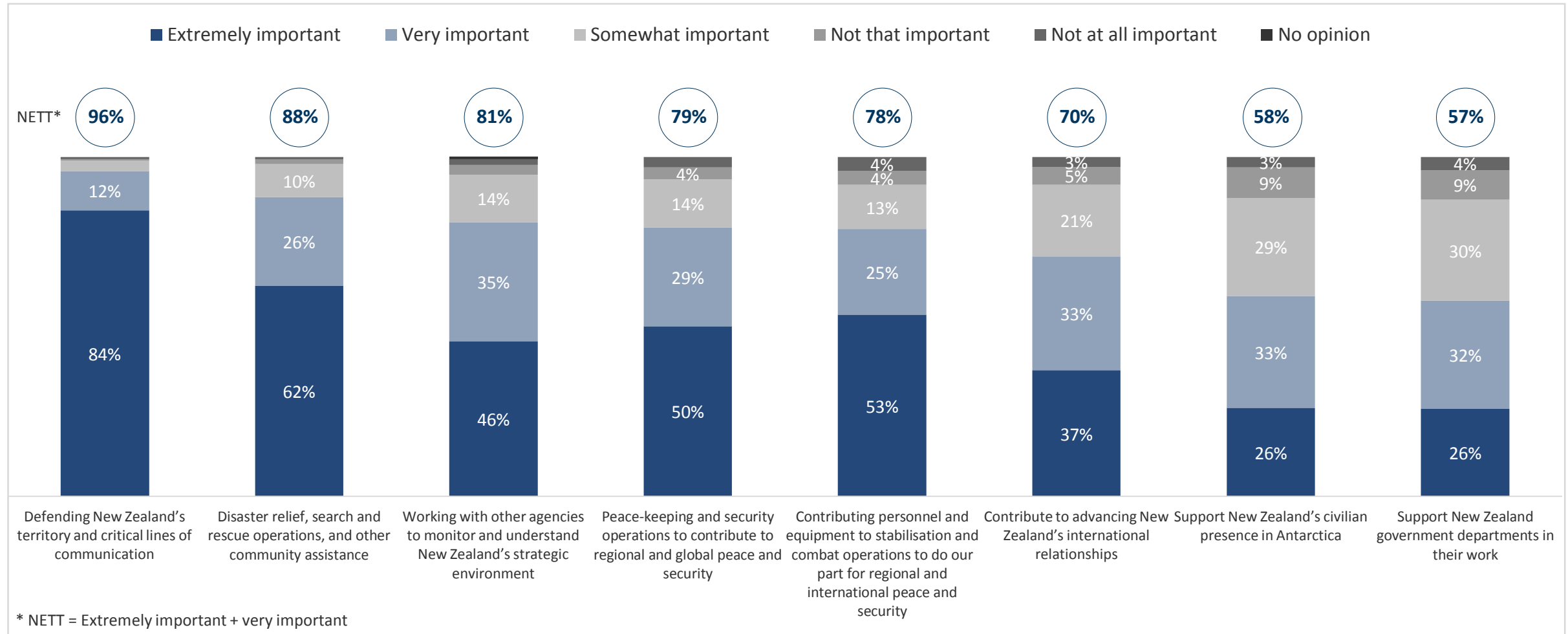
### PRIORITISED CONNECTION (used for subgroup analysis)



2

## Percieved importance of roles

All the Defence Force's roles are considered important – with at least 50% of participants stating each role is extremely or very important. Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication is seen as the most important role, with 84% stating that it is extremely important.



Current and former personnel are more likely than average to consider the Defence Force’s peace-keeping, stabilisation, and international relationship roles to be extremely or very important. Those with no connection to Defence are less likely than the rest of the participants to consider these roles important.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Current NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,500)	Former NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,511)	Friends and family of current/former personnel (n=1,882)	Work in defence industry (n=133)	Other connection (n=283)	No connection (n=2,524)
Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication	96%	98%	98%	96%	96%	96%	95%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	88%	87%	87%	91%	84%	92%	89%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand’s strategic environment	81%	84%	85%	80%	83%	79%	78%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	79%	91%	84%	78%	81%	75%	72%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	78%	89%	85%	77%	77%	76%	71%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand’s international relationships	70%	79%	73%	70%	69%	72%	63%
Support New Zealand’s civilian presence in Antarctica	58%	62%	61%	59%	51%	58%	56%
Support New Zealand government departments in their work	57%	53%	57%	61%	53%	61%	60%

 Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Women are more likely to see disaster relief, and search rescue operations as important than other participants. Women 35+ and men 60+ are more likely to see supporting government departments in their work as important.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Men 18 to 34 (n=1,757)	Women 18 to 34 (n=289)	Men 35 to 59 (n=2,881)	Women 35 to 59 (n=613)	Men 60+ (n=2,002)	Women 60+ (n=374)
Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication	96%	96%	95%	97%	95%	97%	96%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	88%	87%	94%	86%	94%	91%	97%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand's strategic environment	81%	80%	74%	83%	83%	82%	77%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	79%	81%	84%	78%	82%	81%	79%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	78%	79%	75%	80%	74%	81%	71%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand's international relationships	70%	74%	75%	70%	68%	69%	67%
Support New Zealand's civilian presence in Antarctica	58%	57%	54%	57%	61%	62%	65%
Support New Zealand government departments in their work	57%	54%	57%	56%	62%	62%	71%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asian peoples are more likely to consider supporting government departments in their work as important than are other participants.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	NZ European (n=6,763)	Māori (n=1,008)	Pacific peoples (n=165)	Asian peoples (n=181)
Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication	96%	96%	96%	97%	97%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	88%	89%	89%	91%	91%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand's strategic environment	81%	82%	80%	84%	86%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	79%	81%	80%	81%	80%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	78%	80%	77%	79%	72%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand's international relationships	70%	71%	72%	73%	76%
Support New Zealand's civilian presence in Antarctica	58%	59%	61%	58%	58%
Support New Zealand government departments in their work	57%	58%	62%	66%	65%

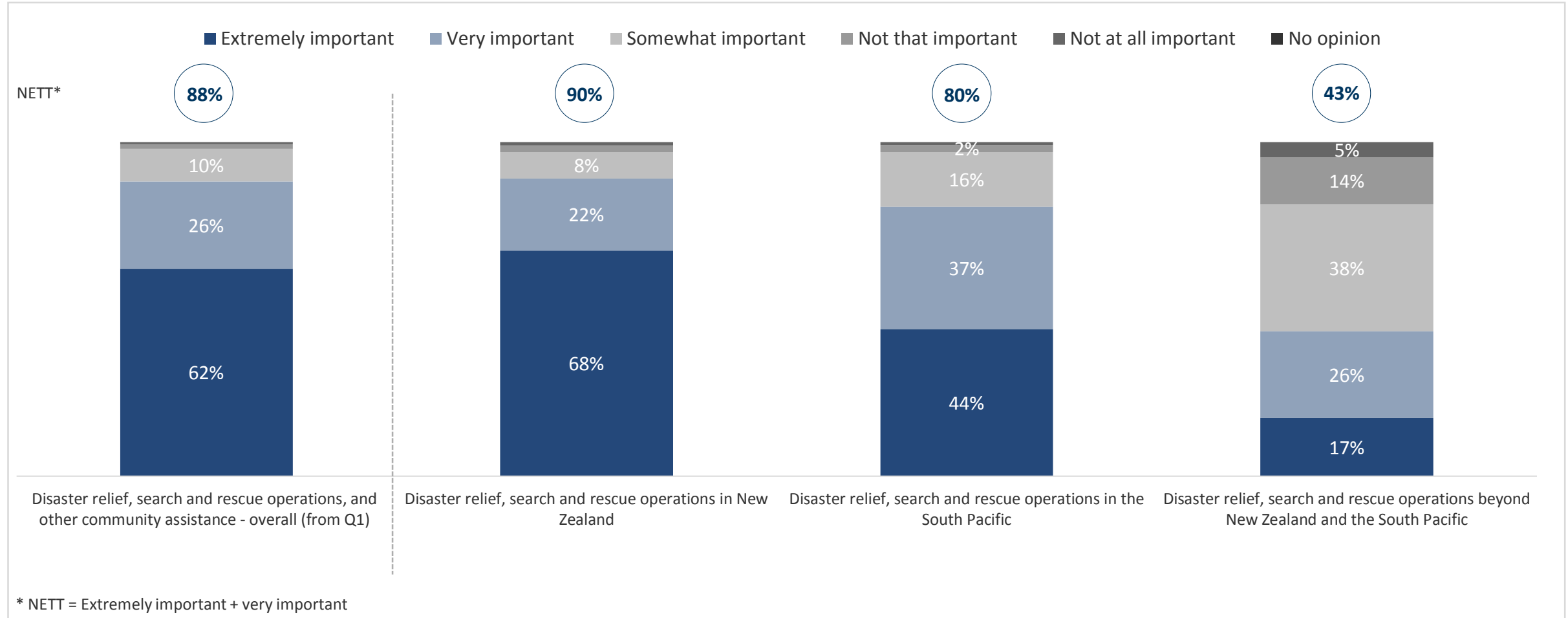
Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

There is very little difference in the perceived importance of the Defence Force's roles across New Zealand.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Northland (n=285)	Auckland (n=2,117)	Waikato / BoP / Gisborne (n=1,038)	Hawke's Bay / Taranaki (n=250)	Manawatū- Whanganui (n=844)	Wellington (n=1,382)	Upper SI / West Coast (n=433)	Canterbury (n=1,228)	Lower SI (n=439)	Overseas (n=226)
Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication	96%	96%	96%	97%	96%	95%	96%	95%	97%	96%	92%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	88%	89%	89%	91%	87%	89%	88%	89%	89%	89%	82%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand's strategic environment	81%	81%	83%	80%	80%	81%	82%	78%	81%	81%	71%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	79%	73%	80%	75%	74%	85%	81%	77%	81%	80%	70%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	78%	73%	79%	75%	75%	83%	79%	76%	80%	78%	67%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand's international relationships	70%	66%	72%	68%	67%	74%	71%	68%	69%	68%	61%
Support New Zealand's civilian presence in Antarctica	58%	56%	58%	59%	58%	59%	58%	60%	61%	59%	45%
Support New Zealand government departments in their work	57%	60%	60%	62%	61%	54%	57%	56%	57%	57%	40%

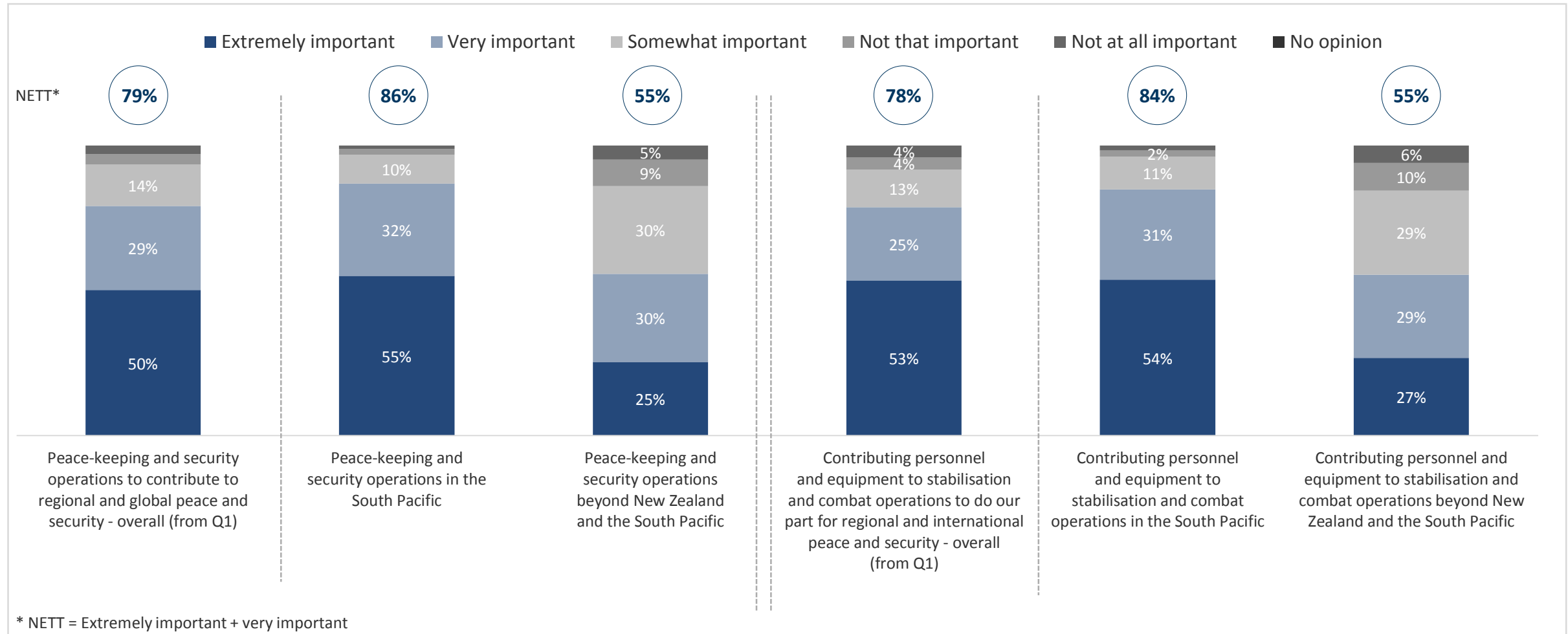
Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

The closer a role is to New Zealand, the more important it is to participants – in this case disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance.





Similar to the previous slide, participants consider peace-keeping and stabilisation operations in the South Pacific are more important than those further away.



Current and former personnel are more likely to consider all the Defence Force’s peace-keeping and stabilisation roles to be extremely or very important than the rest of the participants. Similar to the rest of the participants, current and former personnel think the roles closer to New Zealand are more important.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Current NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,500)	Former NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,511)	Friends and family of current/former personnel (n=1,882)	Work in defence industry (n=133)	Other connection (n=283)	No connection (n=2,524)
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance – overall (from Q1)	88%	87%	87%	91%	84%	92%	89%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	90%	88%	90%	92%	90%	91%	92%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	80%	86%	82%	81%	81%	82%	78%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	43%	47%	45%	43%	38%	39%	42%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security – overall (from Q1)	79%	91%	84%	78%	81%	75%	72%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	86%	93%	91%	85%	88%	86%	82%
Peace-keeping and security operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	72%	61%	51%	54%	51%	44%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security – overall (from Q1)	78%	89%	85%	77%	77%	76%	71%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	84%	92%	91%	83%	89%	84%	79%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	71%	62%	50%	56%	51%	45%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

# Women are more likely to consider disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance important than other participants.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Men 18 to 34 (n=1,757)	Women 18 to 34 (n=289)	Men 35 to 59 (n=2,881)	Women 35 to 59 (n=613)	Men 60+ (n=2,002)	Women 60+ (n=374)
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance – overall (from Q1)	88%	87%	94%	86%	94%	91%	97%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	90%	90%	92%	88%	95%	93%	97%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	80%	79%	86%	79%	86%	83%	81%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	43%	43%	48%	40%	47%	47%	49%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security – overall (from Q1)	79%	81%	84%	78%	82%	81%	79%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	86%	88%	84%	87%	87%	87%	84%
Peace-keeping and security operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	58%	55%	56%	54%	52%	52%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security – overall (from Q1)	78%	79%	75%	80%	74%	81%	71%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	84%	86%	80%	86%	83%	86%	80%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	60%	51%	57%	49%	54%	43%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

# Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asian peoples are more likely to think disaster relief and search and rescue are important.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	NZ European (n=6,763)	Māori (n=1,008)	Pacific peoples (n=165)	Asian peoples (n=181)
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance – overall (from Q1)	88%	89%	89%	91%	91%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	90%	91%	91%	91%	95%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	80%	82%	82%	87%	86%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	43%	44%	50%	57%	55%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security – overall (from Q1)	79%	81%	80%	81%	80%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	86%	88%	88%	87%	90%
Peace-keeping and security operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	56%	61%	62%	60%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security – overall (from Q1)	78%	80%	77%	79%	72%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	84%	86%	86%	88%	83%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	56%	60%	62%	58%

 Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Overseas participants tend to see the Defence Force’s role in New Zealand and the South Pacific as less important than other participants. But when it comes to roles beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific there is less difference between them and other participants.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Northland (n=285)	Auckland (n=2,117)	Waikato / BoP / Gisborne (n=1,038)	Hawke's Bay / Taranaki (n=250)	Manawatū- Whanganui (n=844)	Wellington (n=1,382)	Upper SI / West Coast (n=433)	Canterbury (n=1,228)	Lower SI (n=439)	Overseas (n=226)
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance – overall (from Q1)	88%	89%	89%	91%	87%	89%	88%	89%	89%	89%	82%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	90%	93%	91%	93%	88%	91%	90%	90%	90%	92%	82%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	80%	84%	80%	81%	77%	81%	85%	79%	80%	82%	71%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	43%	40%	44%	44%	44%	48%	40%	40%	44%	46%	38%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security – overall (from Q1)	79%	73%	80%	75%	74%	85%	81%	77%	81%	80%	70%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	86%	87%	87%	85%	83%	88%	89%	82%	86%	88%	77%
Peace-keeping and security operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	46%	57%	50%	50%	62%	55%	51%	56%	53%	50%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security – overall (from Q1)	78%	73%	79%	75%	75%	83%	79%	76%	80%	78%	67%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	84%	84%	85%	82%	82%	88%	86%	80%	84%	85%	76%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	55%	47%	57%	52%	52%	65%	53%	51%	55%	53%	52%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Participants were asked whether they think the Defence Force should be performing any additional roles (to the ones they were shown) now or in the future. Forty-six percent named at least one additional role.

The most commonly mentioned additional role was having an air combat force.

### **Have an air strike force – 9%**

*“Offering our region Fighter aircraft protection and not relying on our partners to do it.”*

*“NZ requires a capable Air Combat force as we are so exposed.”*

### **Cyber security capability – 3%**

*“Cyber defence from criminal groups and state actors targeting NZ public and private infrastructure, including offensive operations.”*

*“Enhanced cyber capabilities - both offence and defence.”*

### **Protection of New Zealand’s Exclusive Economic Zone – 3%**

*“Continued maritime patrols to ensure sovereignty of our EEZ.”*

*“Patrol and Enforcement of NZ fishing rights to protect local fish stocks from foreign illegal operations.”*

### **More training with our allies – 2%**

*“Overseas training and exercises to ensure compatibility or integration with partner nations.”*

*“Military manoeuvres and simulations with allies.”*

### **More preparedness for combat / more combat – 2%**

*“Combat missions to better NZ’s interest and global citizenship position.”*

*“Preparedness for combat operations onshore and offshore.”*

### **Support for the police – 2%**

*“Assisting the NZ Police in maintaining stability, security and monitoring of threatening groups, organised anti Govt groups.”*

%s are calculated on a base of all participants, not a base of only those who provided an additional role.

Other additional roles mentioned by at least one percent of participants include a greater role in disaster relief, greater presence in the South Pacific, youth development, and a greater ability to defend New Zealand.

### **A greater role in disaster relief / civil defence – 2%**

*“Aiding civil defence capability after disasters, aiding response team, Red Cross and other agencies with comms and other logistical support.”*

*“Communications infrastructure, protocols, and operations in emergency situations.”*

### **Greater presence in the South Pacific – 1%**

*“Increased presence through the Pacific through deployment of tangible assets.”*

*“Greater co-operation with Pacific Island nations for their security, economic development and disaster relief.”*

### **Youth development and training – 1%**

*“Contributing to young development programs, especially youth at risk.”*

*“Youth engagement, things like the old army cadets and ATC. I felt it kept a lot of young people on the right path (myself included).”*

### **Greater ability to defend New Zealand – 1%**

*“Able to assertively protect and defend NZ territory and strategic interests.”*

*“Military manoeuvres and simulations with allies.”*

%s are calculated on a base of all participants, not a base of only those who provided an additional role.

When participants were asked to identify a single role as the Defence Force’s most important, defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication was chosen most frequently. This is consistent with the earlier overall ratings of importance, where this role had a much greater proportion of participants choosing it as extremely important than was the case with the other roles.





Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication is seen as the most important role for the Defence Force no matter the participants connection to Defence.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Current NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,500)	Former NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,511)	Friends and family of current/former personnel (n=1,882)	Work in defence industry (n=133)	Other connection (n=283)	No connection (n=2,524)
Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication	42%	33%	43%	44%	44%	45%	47%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	10%	17%	13%	7%	13%	9%	6%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	5%	5%	4%	5%	6%	5%	7%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	4%	7%	4%	3%	1%	4%	3%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	3%	2%	2%	4%	4%	1%	4%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	1%	2%	1%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand’s international relationships	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand’s strategic environment	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Other	7%	5%	5%	6%	5%	12%	7%
No single most important role	23%	23%	23%	25%	19%	19%	21%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Women are more likely to say that the Defence Force has no single most important role than they are to choose defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication as the most important role.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Men 18 to 34 (n=1,757)	Women 18 to 34 (n=289)	Men 35 to 59 (n=2,881)	Women 35 to 59 (n=613)	Men 60+ (n=2,002)	Women 60+ (n=374)
Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication	42%	38%	22%	47%	33%	46%	36%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	10%	14%	6%	10%	5%	10%	5%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	5%	6%	6%	3%	5%	3%	2%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	4%	6%	13%	4%	5%	6%	8%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	3%	3%	6%	2%	4%	3%	5%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand’s international relationships	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand’s strategic environment	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Other	7%	7%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%
No single most important role	23%	18%	36%	21%	39%	21%	37%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication is seen as the most important role for the Defence Force across all ethnicities.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	NZ European (n=6,763)	Māori (n=1,008)	Pacific peoples (n=165)	Asian peoples (n=181)
Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication	42%	42%	36%	28%	49%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	10%	10%	12%	10%	8%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	5%	6%	5%	3%	6%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	2%	2%	1%	3%	1%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	1%	2%	1%	5%	2%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	1%	1%	1%	3%	0%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand’s international relationships	1%	1%	1%	4%	1%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand’s strategic environment	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Other	7%	6%	8%	11%	7%
No single most important role	23%	22%	25%	24%	17%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Similarly, defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication is seen as the most important role across all regions.

% extremely / very important	Average (n=8,578)	Northland (n=285)	Auckland (n=2,117)	Waikato / BoP / Gisborne (n=1,038)	Hawke's Bay / Taranaki (n=250)	Manawatū- Whanganui (n=844)	Wellington (n=1,382)	Upper SI / West Coast (n=433)	Canterbury (n=1,228)	Lower SI (n=439)	Overseas (n=226)
Defending New Zealand’s territory and critical lines of communication	42%	43%	43%	44%	42%	34%	42%	44%	43%	42%	44%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security	10%	7%	11%	7%	9%	14%	11%	10%	9%	9%	14%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations, and other community assistance	5%	4%	5%	7%	3%	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	2%
Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security	4%	2%	3%	3%	4%	5%	5%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in New Zealand	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations in the South Pacific	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%
Peace-keeping and security operations in the South Pacific	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations beyond New Zealand and the South Pacific	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	3%
Contribute to advancing New Zealand’s international relationships	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Working with other agencies to monitor and understand New Zealand’s strategic environment	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Disaster relief, search and rescue operations in the South Pacific	1%	0%	1%	0%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Other	7%	7%	6%	7%	7%	6%	5%	6%	6%	8%	12%
No single most important role	23%	29%	21%	25%	23%	24%	22%	24%	22%	23%	16%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

The main reasons given for selecting defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication as most important, are that protecting people and territory is most important and that it should be considered the primary purpose of a defence force.

### Reasons for choosing 'Defending New Zealand's territory and critical lines of communication' as most important

#### Protecting our people and territory is most important – 44%

(of those choosing 'Defending New Zealand's territory ...' as most important)

*"A military exists to defend its people first and foremost. Everything else is outside of this one prerogative."*

*"Keeping NZ's people safe and to ensure it remains a sovereign state."*

*"We need to make sure New Zealand is protected under trying times."*

#### Primary purpose of a defence force – 33%

*"It is the whole rationale for having a defence force."*

*"This is the core business of a defence force."*

#### Maintaining lines of communication is critical – 8%

*"Because NZ's critical lines of communication are long by the nature of our geographical distance from economic and security partners many other issues come into play."*

*"We are an isolated nation that to survive needs to keep all lines of communications and shipping open."*

#### No other role is possible without this – 7%

*"Without a stable defensive platform i.e., NZ, none of the other options are feasible."*

*"Because without this, we have no precedence or ability to do everything else important."*

### Reasons for choosing 'Contributing personnel and equipment to stabilisation and combat operations to do our part for regional and international peace and security' (in general or for a particular location) as most important

#### We need support from our allies – 26%

(of those choosing 'Contributing personnel ...' as most important)

*"Because we can't defend NZ on our own. We need to have a syndicated defence policy....i.e. we help friends and allies elsewhere, so they will help us in our time of need."*

*"We desperately need friends."*

#### We need to be a good global citizen – 14%

*"We need to make a contribution to peace, stability and democracy globally. This is under threat and needs protecting by all like-minded nations."*

*"We are all humans and the whole world needs to fight for those who cannot."*

#### We need to keep our region safe – 14%

*"The South Pacific is very important to us in terms of geography and our relationship with to the people. The likelihood of conflict within the South Pacific has been increased with the advent of climate change ..."*

*"Because by doing this we not only help our neighbours but also protect our own territory and lines of communication."*

#### We need to play our part – 12%

*"Pulling our weight in the international arena and not being freeloaders."*

*"We have to do our bit and not be dependent on others."*

Those who choose disaster relief and search and rescue operations as the most important role tended to do so because they see it as a role that needs to be done and that the Defence Force is well positioned to do it. Those who chose peace-keeping as the most important role did so because they want to prevent trouble coming to New Zealand and think we should be a good global citizen and should support our allies.

### Reasons for choosing 'Disaster relief, search and rescue operations and other community assistance' (either in general or for a particular location) as most important

#### **There is a need – 21%**

(of those choosing 'Disaster relief ...' as most important)

*"When I think of NZDF, I think of the work they do every year supporting communities hit by disasters. I still remember seeing the work they did during the Christchurch earthquake, and am proud we have a defence force capable of that kind of response."*

*"Because disasters seem to be happening more often, more help in those areas will benefit our country."*

*"It directly helps New Zealand citizens and that is what Government departments are there to do."*

#### **No one else can do it – 12%**

*"There is no one else with the capability and resources to do it."*

*"In most cases of search and rescue the Air Force is the only agency capable of doing the job successfully."*

#### **We need to look after ourselves first – 9%**

*"Given what we are experiencing at present I believe it is essential that we maintain the well-being and safety of our own population first."*

*"Look after own backyard before looking after neighbours."*

### Reasons for choosing 'Peace-keeping and security operations to contribute to regional and global peace and security' (either in general or for a particular location) as most important

#### **Protecting our people and territory is most important – 21%**

(of those choosing 'Peace-keeping and security ...' as most important)

*"These are actions to will contribute to creating a safe zone around New Zealand and support our allies."*

*"Because maintaining the peace and security of the front yard is the most important thing for any nation."*

#### **We need to be a good global citizen – 15%**

*"Global peace and security is a community job. We need to play our part in helping others."*

*"Just because things are happening on the other side of the world, doesn't mean we should ignore it or just say "we condemn it"."*

#### **We need support from our allies – 14%**

*"Maintaining strong relationships with allied forces, Demonstrating our capabilities as an armed force."*

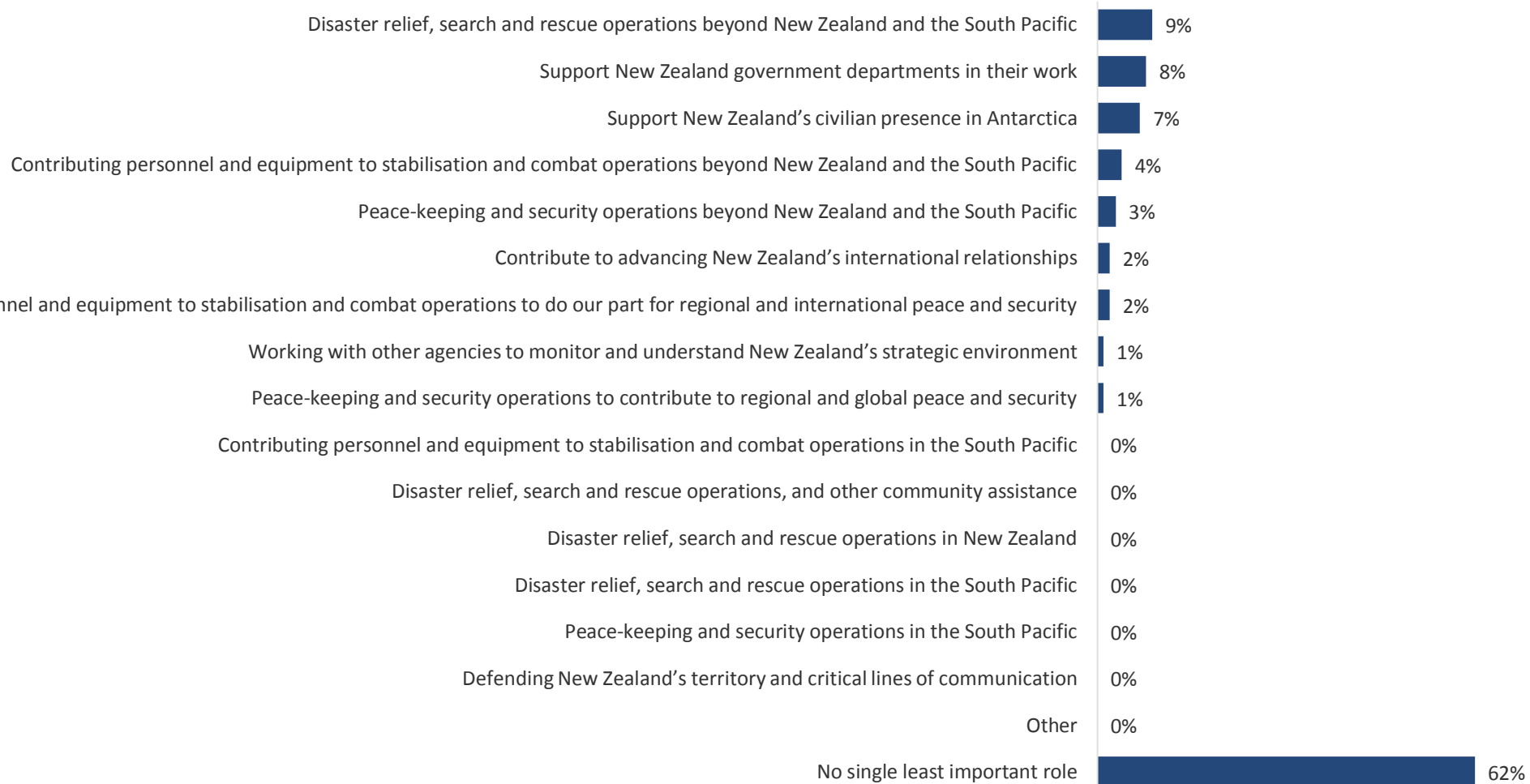
*"To ensure we assist our allies and the Commonwealth. To give New Zealanders a sense of security when they are home and abroad."*

#### **To keep our region safe – 12%**

*"We need to keep our region safe and prevent great power competition in our region."*

*"Because it is my belief that a safe and open indo-pacific equals a safe and prosperous New Zealand."*

Less than half of the participants selected one of the Defence Force's roles as the least important. This reinforces the earlier finding that generally people consider all the Defence Force's roles important.

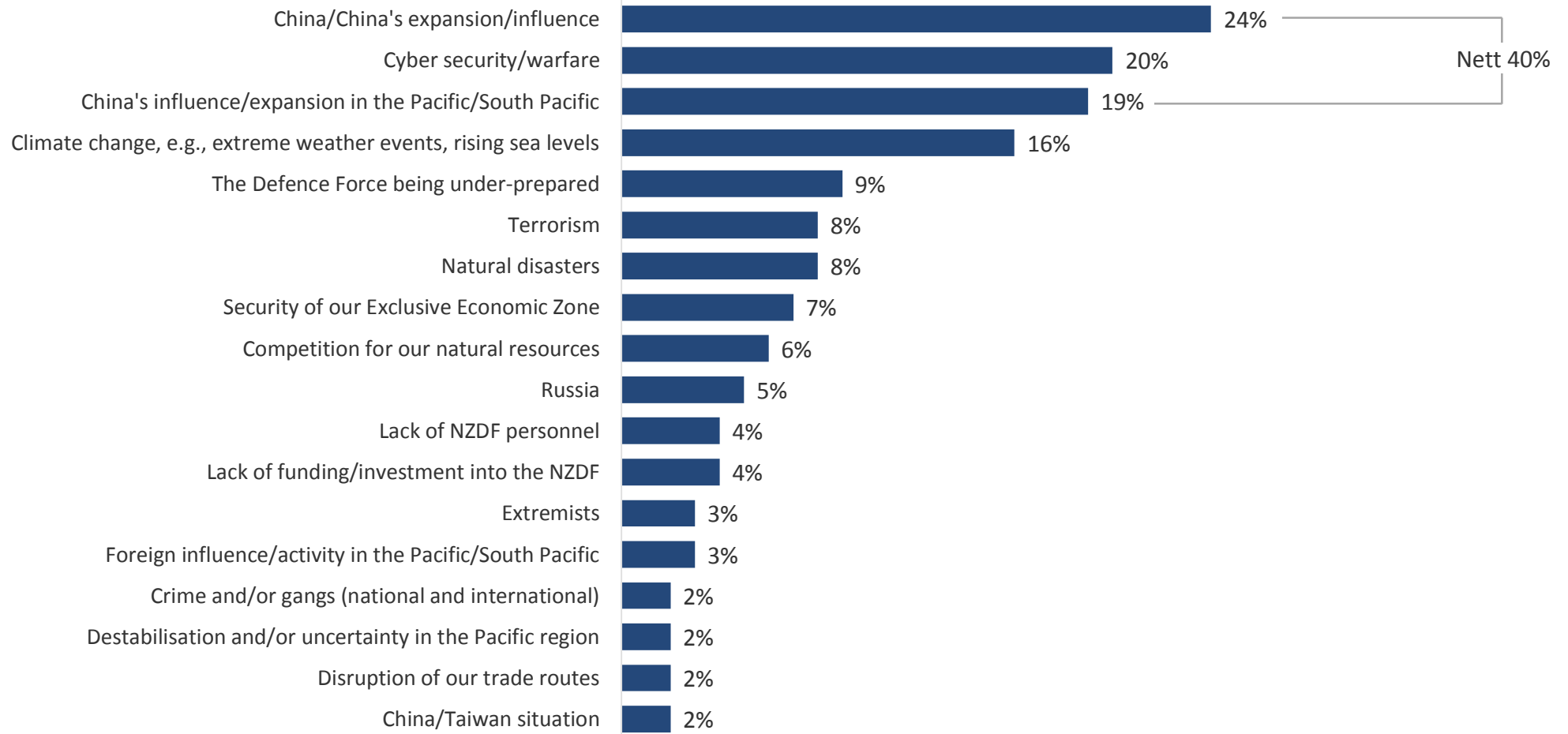


3

# Readiness for future challenges



China's expansion/increase in influence is seen as the greatest threat to New Zealand's safety and security over the next ten years. Cyber security/warfare and climate change are also seen as greatest threats by more than 10% of participants.



Note. Only the threats mentioned by at least 2% of people are shown.

Source: Q8. One of Defence's roles is to anticipate how New Zealand's safety and security situation might change over the coming years. When you think about New Zealand's safety and security situation over the next 10 years, what do you think are the greatest threats to our safety and security?

Base: A random selection of 3,547 participants.

Examples of how people actually stated the greatest threats to New Zealand’s safety and security that were summarised on the previous page.

### **China/China’s expansion/influence**

*“China’s expansionist and aggressive policies.”*

*“China expansion.”*

### **Cyber security/warfare**

*“Cyber campaigns designed to disrupt the way of life of our citizens.”*

*“Cyber attacks by foreign states or non-governmental groups.”*

### **China’s influence/expansion in the Pacific/South Pacific**

*“Chinese influence in Pacific.”*

*“China’s expansion into the South Pacific.”*

### **Climate change, e.g., extreme weather events, rising sea levels**

*“Climate change, coastal inundation, more floods and fires.”*

*“Climate change resulting in storm catastrophe.”*

### **The Defence Force being under-prepared**

*“Inability to safely respond through lack of equipment, training or experience.”*

*“Lack of defence capability may lead to other nations trying to acquire us.”*

### **Terrorism**

*“Foreign and domestic terrorism.”*

*“Terrorism both from within & outside of Aotearoa.”*

### **Natural disasters**

*“Natural disasters.”*

*“Earthquakes.”*

### **Security of our Exclusive Economic Zone**

*“Incursions into our EEZ, and that of Pacific Island nations, to pillage fishing resources.”*

*“Increased interest in the exclusive economic zone of New Zealand from parties wishing to use resources illegally.”*

### **Competition for our natural resources**

*“Increasing international competition for resources.”*

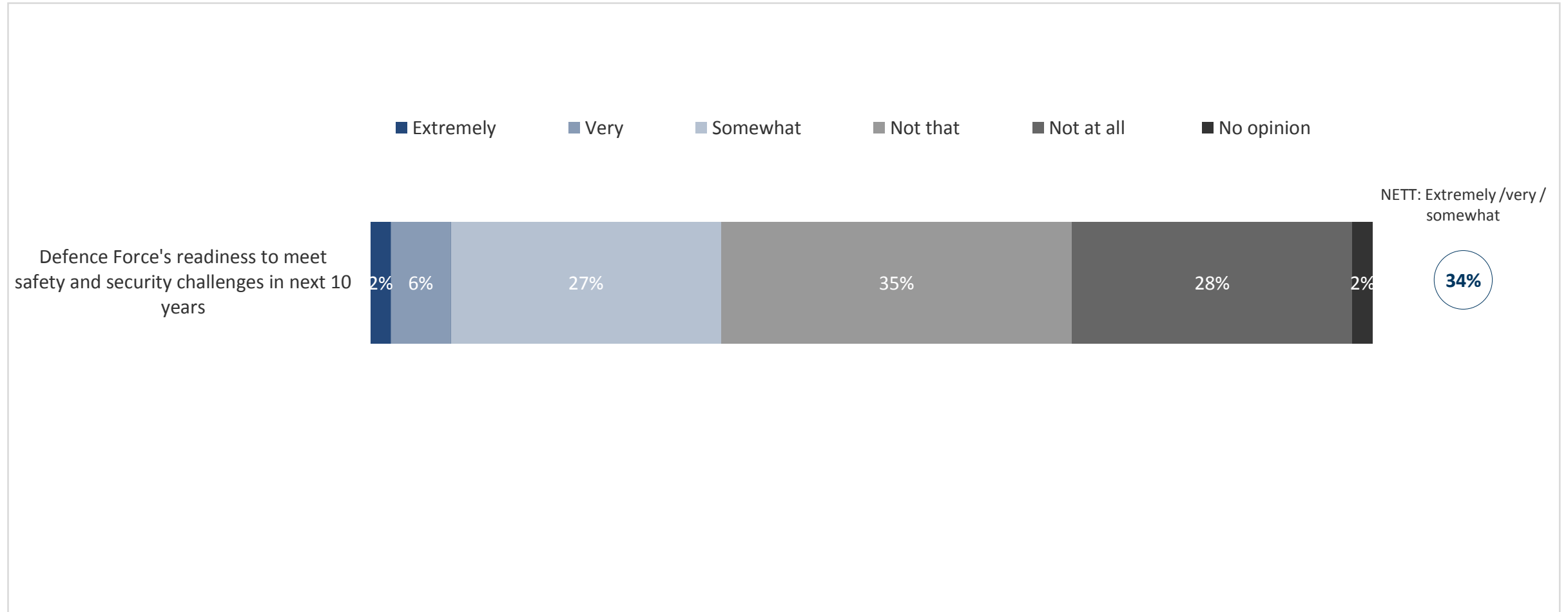
*“Protection of our natural resources, e.g., water.”*

### **Russia**

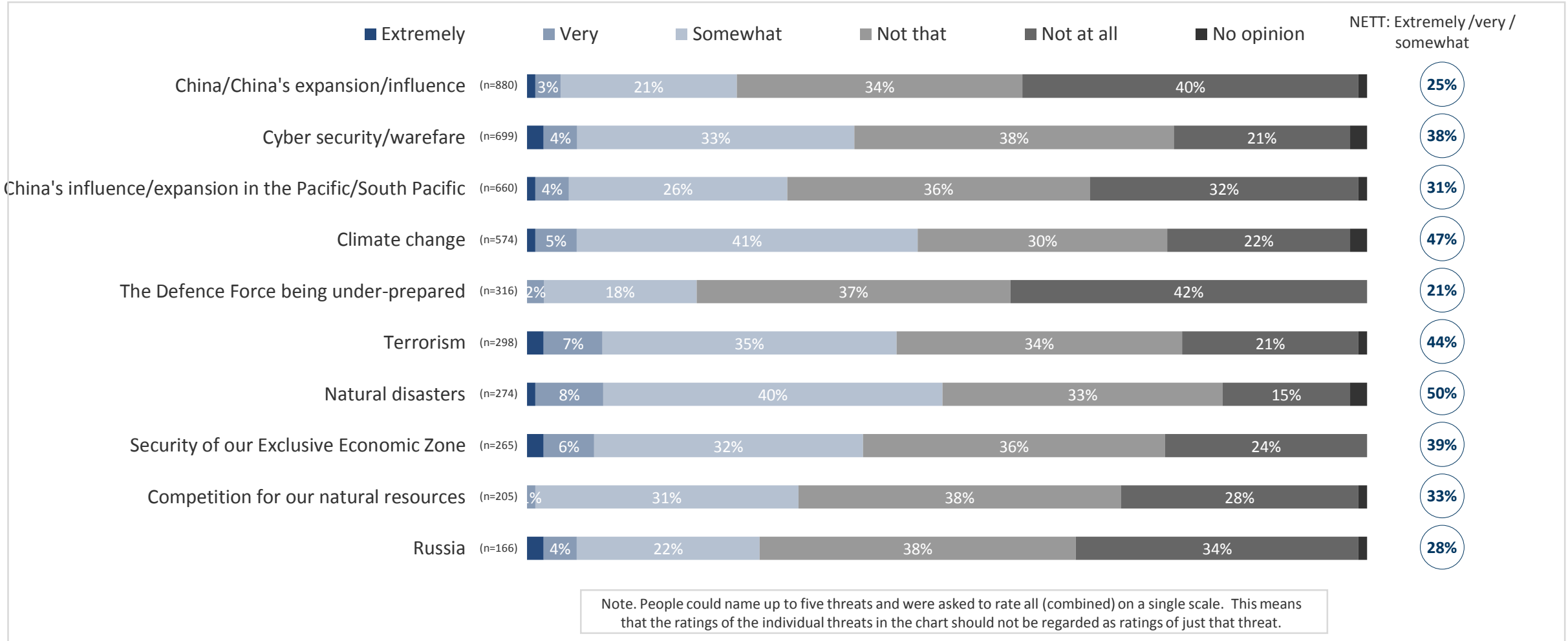
*“Russia at the moment.”*

*“Russia.”*

Only a third of participants think the Defence Force is at least somewhat ready to face the greatest threats they identified to New Zealand's safety and security, while most of the remainder say the Defence Force is not that or not at all.



Participants think the Defence Force is most ready to face climate change and natural disasters and least ready to face threats from other countries.



The main suggestions for being more ready for the threats participants identified all involved more investment into Defence. Three quarters (76%) of participants mentioned something directly related to more investment.

### **Retention of existing staff/members and/or more recruitment – 39%**

*“Increase numbers but also focus on retention.”*

*“Need more personnel, so that more vessels can be manned and patrol in the South Pacific and beyond.”*

*“Increased number of personnel with the appropriate training, qualifications, and experience to operate the current and incoming platforms and equipment.”*

*“Invest heavily in personnel, REM and conditions of service, talent management rather than career management.”*

*“Attract youngsters into the profession, training them well and inspiring them to devote a good chunk of their life and health to serving the country.”*

*“Invest in its people to address high levels of attrition. Remuneration alone will not be sufficient to solve this. Some solutions could include an increase to defence housing allowances to provide housing security, reinstating admin trades to reduce workload, and investigating a peace-time 4-day work week to improve work-life balance.”*

### **Invest more in Defence – 33%**

*“For starters, drastically increase the military budget. Australia did this in 2015 in response to the Chinese island-building threat IIRC.”*

*“More investment from Government. Stop using Defence as a cash cow to take when ever they need money for other things.”*

*“Increase our investment in defence to 2% of our countries GDP.”*

*“Increase defence spending to 3% of GDP.”*

*“More investment in key platforms enabling critical capabilities that would enable us to genuinely influence operations.”*

### **Upgrade/more equipment – 30%**

*“Modernise equipment and resources.”*

*“Gear up: physical and personnel assets. Have a genuine plan to provide and enable the capabilities to respond appropriately. Accept our role is not just transport and domestic/regional HADR.”*

*“Invest in high-end war fighting equipment that could operate with close partners against a sophisticated adversary, particularly in the maritime, air and space domains.”*

*“Invest in sea mines like Australia are doing. Spend less on the army and more on the Navy. Also buy some submarines.”*

*“Significant overhaul of equipment, modernising all forces to ensure we are able to win the modern fight.”*

Other frequently made suggestions included focusing more on the military function of defence, increasing capabilities generally, and increasing and/or improving training.

### **More focus on military competence/core functions of defence – 18%**

*“A more combat ready force. Shift the mentality away from being a HDAR force and back into a warfighting mentality.”*

*“Focus on more combat and security roles, operations and exercises..”*

*“We need to reinstate some form of combat deterrence to pull our own weight in protecting against international aggressors and stop piggybacking off Australia and the United States for security.”*

*“A proper fighting force, not one developed for peace keeping nor relying on the SAS for dangerous missions.”*

### **Increase capabilities – 17%**

*“Expand capabilities and capacity. Reduce focus on non-military type responses or outputs i.e. disaster response, ceremonial activities that do not contribute to military preparedness.”*

*“Increase capability in a way that aligns with a unified vision - and making sure that vision is realistically within capability.”*

*“Improved/upgraded air movement capacity. Greater ability to monitor our EEZ and protect resources within that. Improved deployable resources that support security operations (combat and peace keeping).”*

*“More investment in key platforms enabling critical capabilities that would enable us to genuinely influence operations.”*

*“Increase capabilities. The Army and Navy are hollow, not helped by poor pay and conditions.”*

### **Increase/improve training – 13%**

*“NZDF needs training in cyber defence and in defending military initiated social attacks. Also, intelligence gathering.”*

*“A focus on training in those areas.”*

*“Undertake training and the acquisition of special equipment deployed to ready response units located in proportion to population centres.”*

*“More training in dealing with all of the challenges, more specialist equipment such as construction and earth moving machines.”*

*“Be trained and prepared for immediate action.”*

Participants also suggested more engagement with allies, improving pay, restoring the strike capability of the Air Force, and more deployments and/or training.

### **Engagement with allies – 12%**

*“Allying with Five Eyes and other partners to work with them in relation to what we can offer, so that in return they will help us when needed.”*

*“More allies/support agreements while we rebuild NZDF (which won’t be quick).”*

*“Increased partnership and understanding of allies capabilities in the Pacific e.g. joint activities with Australia and USA.”*

### **Improve pay – 9%**

*“Seriously overhaul the NZDF pay, rank and systems. Clearly, the current defence force is experiencing alarming rates of attrition and major recruiting issues. To retain personnel and become attractive to new recruits, the entire defence force needs to seriously consider WHY people would rather be jobless than work for this organisation.”*

*“Address the Remuneration of staff and focus on future the future operating environment.”*

*“Better pay for lower ranks and junior leadership.”*

*“Pay their personnel more to curb attrition rates and ensure we grow NZDF numbers to support all key operations and outputs.”*

### **Strike capability for the Air Force – 7%**

*“I think we have most bases covered but we need a strike wing for the Airforce.”*

*“Make the case strongly for the reinstatement of the RNZAF Air Combat Wing. Airpower is key to all. Our previous force may have been small, but was far more capable the average Kiwi was aware of.”*

*“An active air strike force that can react quickly to detected threats or need for surveillance over NZ extensive economic zone.”*

### **More deployments/training – 7%**

*“Increase the volume of operations and exercises.”*

*“More real-time deployments of our skilled soldiers and tradesman internally and externally to gain the experience and knowledge. Training can only take you so far, but once trained you need to do the job.”*

*“Running more exercises with island nations and showing them that they have our support.”*

Some participants specifically mentioned improving the capability of one of the arms of the Defence Force.

### **Improve capability of Air Force – 5%**

*“Rebuild the Airforce so it actually has some defence capability.”*

*“It would be great to have a fully functional Air Force.”*

### **Improve capability of the Navy – 4%**

*“We need a strengthened Navy to ensure regional sea lines of communication, especially against submarines, and a credible anti-shiping capability for the Air Force would be useful.”*

*“Need more naval ships, of larger sizes and well actually all sizes, we need a big boost in spending.”*

*“Needs more maritime assets, four frigates with organic helo and both drone helos and boats to allow enhanced sensor ranges. Use of drones for strategic surveillance and sea sensors.”*

### **Government support – 4%**

*“Gain political support and funding.”*

*“More support morally and financially from government.”*

*“Bipartisan political support to deliver the required capabilities and uplift that is required.”*

### **Clear focus/strategy – 4%**

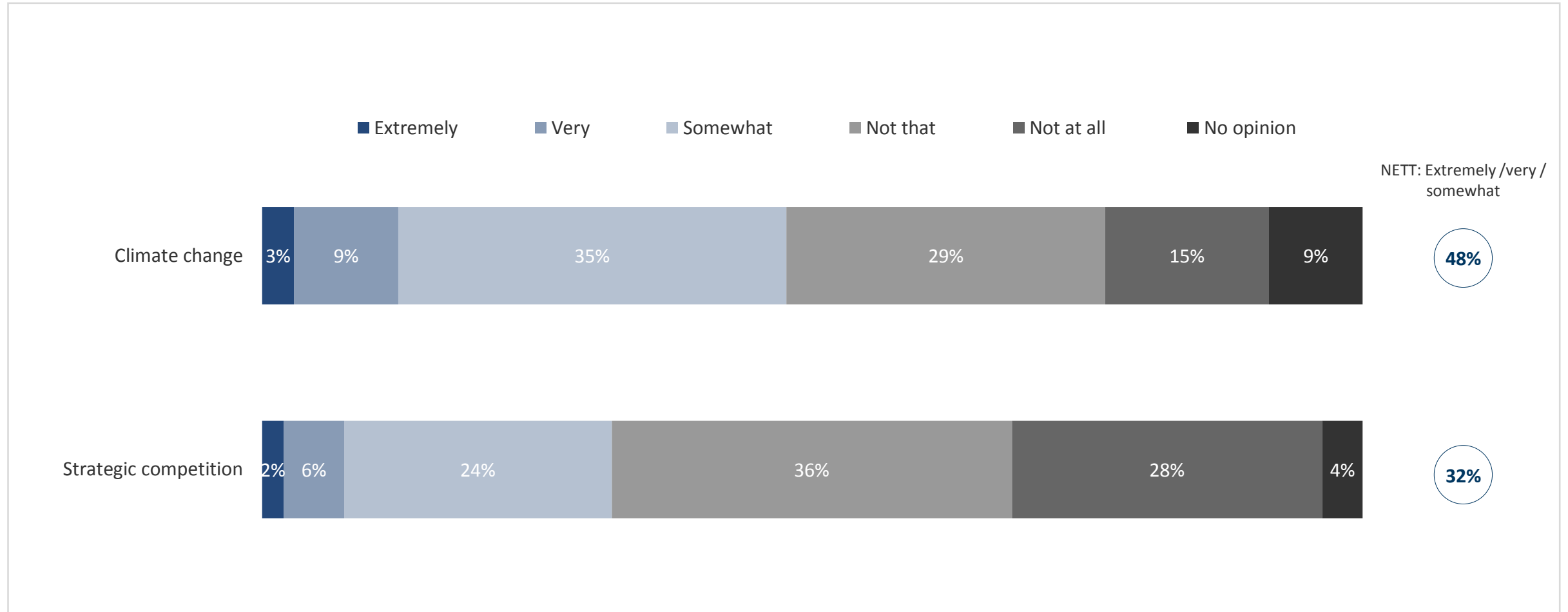
*“It needs to have a clear purpose in terms of where it is expected to operate within the spectrum of conflict and in what environments; and it needs to be appropriately structured and resourced.”*

*“First and foremost NZDF needs a strategy that it will work towards. Currently the force lacks direction and the motivation to be effective war fighters.”*

*“Cohesive Security strategy from Government which has shapes agreed to military capabilities that are fully appropriated.”*



Participants think the Defence Force is more ready to face threats arising from climate change than it is to face threats from strategic competition – but few think the Defence Force is extremely or very ready for either.



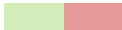
Friends and family of those currently in or previously in Defence are more likely to think that the Defence Force is ready to face the threats posed by climate change and strategic competition.

		Average (n=8,578)	Current NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,500)	Former NZDF/MoD personnel (n=1,511)	Friends and family of current/former personnel (n=1,882)	Work in defence industry (n=133)	Other connection (n=283)	No connection (n=2,524)
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	48%	46%	45%	55%	47%	47%	48%
	Extremely	3%	2%	2%	3%	5%	4%	4%
	Very	9%	7%	9%	11%	9%	10%	10%
	Somewhat	35%	37%	34%	40%	34%	33%	35%
	Not that	29%	35%	32%	25%	29%	28%	27%
	Not at all	15%	16%	16%	11%	17%	16%	14%
	No opinion	9%	4%	7%	9%	6%	9%	11%
<b>STRATEGIC COMPETITION</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	32%	28%	33%	37%	29%	31%	32%
	Extremely	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Very	6%	4%	6%	6%	8%	7%	6%
	Somewhat	24%	23%	26%	28%	19%	22%	24%
	Not that	36%	39%	38%	36%	34%	40%	35%
	Not at all	28%	32%	27%	23%	37%	26%	27%
	No opinion	4%	1%	2%	4%	1%	4%	6%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Women 60 and over and men 18 to 34 think the Defence Force is more ready for the threats posed by climate change than average. Women and men 60 and over think the Defence Force is more ready for strategic competition than average.

		Average (n=8,578)	Men 18 to 34 (n=1,757)	Women 18 to 34 (n=289)	Men 35 to 59 (n=2,881)	Women 35 to 59 (n=613)	Men 60+ (n=2,002)	Women 60+ (n=374)
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	<b>48%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>57%</b>
	Extremely	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	2%	2%
	Very	9%	12%	8%	7%	10%	9%	14%
	Somewhat	35%	39%	39%	36%	39%	32%	41%
	Not that	29%	25%	33%	30%	27%	32%	21%
	Not at all	15%	13%	14%	15%	12%	16%	8%
	No opinion	9%	7%	4%	9%	8%	8%	14%
<b>STRATEGIC COMPETITION</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	<b>32%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>49%</b>
	Extremely	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
	Very	6%	5%	7%	4%	8%	6%	10%
	Somewhat	24%	19%	30%	22%	34%	29%	36%
	Not that	36%	35%	37%	38%	33%	38%	31%
	Not at all	28%	36%	20%	31%	17%	22%	9%
	No opinion	4%	2%	4%	3%	6%	3%	12%

 Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

Māori, Pacific peoples, and Asian peoples think the Defence Force is more ready for strategic competition than average. Asian peoples also think the Defence Force is more ready for the threats posed by climate change than other participants.

		Average (n=8,578)	NZ European (n=6,763)	Māori (n=1,008)	Pacific peoples (n=165)	Asian peoples (n=181)
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	48%	49%	50%	54%	59%
	Extremely	3%	2%	5%	4%	4%
	Very	9%	10%	9%	12%	13%
	Somewhat	35%	37%	36%	38%	41%
	Not that	29%	29%	30%	24%	25%
	Not at all	15%	14%	14%	16%	11%
	No opinion	9%	8%	6%	5%	6%
<b>STRATEGIC COMPETITION</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	32%	32%	37%	45%	42%
	Extremely	2%	2%	3%	5%	6%
	Very	6%	5%	7%	7%	8%
	Somewhat	24%	25%	28%	33%	28%
	Not that	36%	38%	32%	29%	30%
	Not at all	28%	27%	28%	21%	25%
	No opinion	4%	3%	3%	5%	3%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

There are few differences in perceptions of the Defence Force's readiness by region.

		Average (n=8,578)	Northland (n=285)	Auckland (n=2,117)	Waikato / BoP / Gisborne (n=1,038)	Hawke's Bay / Taranaki (n=250)	Manawatū- Whanganui (n=844)	Wellington (n=1,382)	Upper SI / West Coast (n=433)	Canterbury (n=1,228)	Lower SI (n=439)	Overseas (n=226)
<b>CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	<b>48%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>47%</b>
	Extremely	3%	2%	3%	4%	5%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	4%
	Very	9%	10%	10%	10%	11%	8%	9%	7%	11%	12%	7%
	Somewhat	35%	35%	34%	35%	32%	35%	39%	40%	37%	33%	36%
	Not that	29%	28%	30%	28%	27%	30%	31%	28%	28%	26%	21%
	Not at all	15%	14%	15%	13%	16%	17%	13%	15%	14%	14%	22%
	No opinion	9%	9%	8%	10%	9%	8%	6%	8%	8%	13%	10%
<b>STRATEGIC COMPETITION</b>	NETT: Extremely / very / somewhat	<b>32%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>26%</b>
	Extremely	2%	1%	2%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	2%
	Very	6%	9%	5%	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%
	Somewhat	24%	28%	23%	25%	22%	24%	26%	28%	25%	26%	18%
	Not that	36%	34%	36%	37%	36%	38%	37%	39%	37%	33%	31%
	Not at all	28%	24%	30%	24%	28%	28%	27%	25%	28%	25%	40%
	No opinion	4%	4%	4%	5%	2%	2%	3%	3%	3%	7%	4%

Green/red shading indicates at least 5 percentage points higher or lower and statistically significantly different (at the 95% confidence interval) from the average.

The most common suggestions for how the Defence Force can be more ready to meet the challenges of strategic competition and climate change all involved more resources for the Defence Force.

### **Purchase more and better equipment – 20%**

*“Be better equipped, more up to date gear and training.”*

*“Some equipment that wasn't made in the 60s might be handy.”*

*“Update vehicle fleet to be more economic and better suited for operations in the South West Pacific.”*

*“An increase in military procurement so that we can help defend our allies, not just have a minimum force to deter an invasion of New Zealand. Two frigates isn't stopping any hostile power from encroachment of territory, and neither is a 1.4% military budget/GDP ratio.”*

*“Acquire much more equipment and infrastructure.”*

### **Increased recruitment/more personnel – 18%**

*“Modernisation and increasing the size of the Defence Force to help cope better with climate change related disasters, Cyclone Gabrielle identifying that the work the Defence Force does is invaluable in these sorts of situations, but that a bigger force is required if these sorts of large scale events are going to happen more often. These same improvements will also help with strategic competition challenges.”*

*“Increase size of manpower x 10.”*

*“Recruit far more reservists in order to have a fighting force which can be mobilised quickly in event of a situation change in the South Pacific.”*

*“Sufficient personnel, suitably trained to fulfil the role expected of them.”*

*“May need more people particularly in the Navy.”*

### **Increased funding – 17%**

*“More funding from the government - we need to stop taking advantage of our friends and accept that we have a responsibility to play.”*

*“They need the budget - at this point it's piecemeal with the government (and previous governments) only paying it lip service.”*

*“Fully fund combat capability. This means we are prepared for the worst but also means any lessor response requirement is well covered.”*

*“A bigger budget - minimum of 2% of GDP expenditure.”*

*“Further investment in the RNZN to maintain a permanent presence in the pacific and patrol our EEZ.”*

Note. Only suggestions mentioned by at least 3% of participants are shown on this page and the following ones.

Source: Q12. What do you think the Defence Force needs to do to get ready to meet the [ ... climate change challenge / strategic competition challenge / climate change and strategic competition challenges ... ]?

Base: A random selection of 733 participants who think the Defence Force is not ready to meet the challenges climate change and/or strategic competition will present in the next ten years.

The next most common suggestions for improving readiness involved improving capability of different, specific, parts of the Defence Force.

### **Improve Air Force capability – 11%**

*“Availability of more air assets to reach isolated communities.”*

*“Investment in air defence and monitoring capabilities to ensure we can survey our entire territorial waters constantly.”*

*“Replenish the Air Force.”*

*“For climate change, better equip the Defence Force’s Air Force, helicopters and airlift aircraft such as the C-130 Hercules would be instrumental in providing aid to disaster stricken areas, invest into being able to quickly set up relief areas for civilians who have their homes destroyed, the ability to evacuate large amounts of people would also be a good thing to ensure you have ...”*

*“Re-establish RNZAF 75 Squadron and the air combat wing and improve 40 Squadron's and 3 Squadron's capability to assist areas affected by climate change.”*

### **Increase the size/capability of the Navy – 10%**

*“Invest in amphibious landing craft and strategies.”*

*“Be supplied with state of the art frigates, destroyers, and offensive aircraft. And Army Equipment.”*

*“Increase coastal patrols by the navy. Small boats would do.”*

*“More offshore boats that can stop and board other vessels. More drone technology for monitoring vessels.”*

*“For these specific issues maritime patrol capability needs to be enhanced as a first priority.”*

### **Invest in training and technology – 10%**

*“Relevant information and adequate training to be able to respond.”*

*“Upskill, educate, share knowledge and resources.”*

*“Technology and personnel are lacking and the NZDF should be on the cusp of cutting edge tech that support our missions domestically and abroad.”*

*“Greater focus on HADR training.”*

Note. Only suggestions mentioned by at least 3% of participants are shown on this page and the following ones.

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Partnerships, planning, and consultation were also frequently mentioned suggestions for improving readiness.

### **Increase strategic cooperation/partnerships – 9%**

*“Work closely with international partners and work hard with the countries we have security agreement with.”*

*“Re-engage with traditional allies and re-join strategic alliances. We can no longer afford, or expect, these allies to defend us if need be..”*

*“We need to strengthen our alliances with other countries in our region especially Australia and invest significantly more in our defence capability so that we become a genuine contributor/partner instead of relying on other countries to do all the investment and work.”*

### **Improve planning, strategy, and capabilities – 9%**

*“Build capability. Climate change is less relevant, provided access to infrastructure required to operate is maintained.”*

*“A working outline plan and implementation.”*

*“Be on the ground in these areas to get the feeling of the situation and become proactive.”*

### **Expand the services – 7%**

*“We would need an actual defence force for that. Not a handful of helicopters, some cargo planes and a couple of ships.”*

*“Prepare for it by building up the forces again.”*

*“Get bigger and stronger.”*

### **More disaster relief training and planning – 6%**

*“Training for disaster recovery.”*

*“More disaster relief stores as they hold multiple purposes for different situations.”*

*“Create master plans for all sorts of circumstantial events to save time when disaster strikes.”*

### **Consult experts – 4%**

*“Investing in and engaging with those in New Zealand who are subject matter experts.”*

*“Seek an unbiased source of information.”*

*“Specialist to a greater degree in land based disaster recovery for the army rather than land based warfare. If we are ever fighting a land based enemy in NZ the battle is already over.”*

Note. Only suggestions mentioned by at least 3% of participants are shown on this page and the following ones.

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Other suggestions mentioned by at least three percent of participants included better understanding of climate change, more intelligence gathering, and reducing turnover of personnel.

### **Better understanding/monitoring of the effects/impact of climate change – 3%**

*“Monitor changes frequently.”*

*“Better educated look at what is actually happening.”*

### **Reduce personnel turnover – 3%**

*“NZDF needs to improve retention and asset capabilities which will be done through increased financial support and benefits to entice people to stay employed within the NZDF.”*

*“Retain it's talented personnel, particularly at the middle rank brackets (Sergeants- Warrant Officers, Captains - Lieutenant Colonel). These are experienced doers for Defence.”*

### **More data intelligence gathering – 3%**

*“Increase focus on intel gathering from human and digital sources.”*

*“Regular, confidential intel briefings to most/all elected politicians and top bureaucrats.”*

### **Climate change is not a role for defence forces – 3%**

*“Climate change is not a role for defence force, it a role for other government and civilian organisations.”*

*“Is this a climate change questionnaire? Defence policy should be defending the population of New Zealand and neighbouring countries.”*

Note. Only suggestions mentioned by at least 3% of participants are shown on this page and the following ones.

Source: Q12. What do you think the Defence Force needs to do to get ready to meet the [... climate change challenge / strategic competition challenge / climate change and strategic competition challenges ...]?

Base: A random selection of 733 participants who think the Defence Force is not ready to meet the challenges climate change and/or strategic competition will present in the next ten years.

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# Additional input

Some key partners and interested parties provided input on the Defence Policy Review direct to Defence. This additional input covered a broad range of topics in varying levels of detail. It isn't possible to succinctly summarise this input in a way that re-creates the diversity and richness of this input, so instead we highlight some of topics in the additional input below and suggest that the additional input be read in the original for a full understanding.

The additional input included:

- Suggestions for new/replacement equipment that may be better than what the Defence Force is currently using.
- Suggestions for how to re-structure the Defence Force, including ideas for how to get the personnel the Defence Force needs.
- Offers to assist the Defence Force in a number of different areas.
- The identification of additional safety and security threats to New Zealand.
- Requests for greater support to ex-service people.
- Suggestions to keep New Zealand out of AUKUS and also keep nuclear free.
- Suggestions for strategic alliances and partnerships.
- Concerns about the scope and efficacy of the Defence Policy Review.
- Messages of thanks to the Defence Force for all the work that they do.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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