Terms of Reference

NZDIAC
NEW ZEALAND DEFENCE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Background

1. The *2025 Defence Capability Plan* (DCP) lists the Government's Defence policy objectives as acting early and deliberately in pursuing and protecting New Zealand's security by:

   (a) protecting and promoting the security of New Zealand and our immediate region;
   (b) enhancing our ANZUS alliance with Australia and our most important security partnerships; and
   (c) contributing to the achievement of New Zealand's global interests.

2. The DCP puts in place an ambitious investment programme aimed at ensuring the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) has the capabilities and supporting infrastructure and services it needs to achieve these objectives.

3. Released in October 2025, the New Zealand Defence Industry Strategy (the Strategy) is intended to support implementation of the DCP and grow New Zealand's Defence industry, including by fostering exports and promoting innovative and advanced technologies.

4. An action item in the Strategy is to re-invigorate the New Zealand Defence Industry Advisory Council (NZDIAC), including with new Terms of Reference (TOR). These are set out below.

Purpose

5. The NZDIAC will function as a non-statutory, Ministerial advisory board. Appointments will be made by the Minister of Defence. Members have no decision-making authority or financial delegation. The NZDIAC will focus its advisory role on ensuring alignment between the Government's defence policy objectives and economic growth agenda. This will be done by providing advice on:

   (a) progress (and industry feedback) on implementing the Strategy, including any updates and/or revisions;
   (b) opportunities for, and barriers to Defence and industry collaboration and innovation;
   (c) strengthening New Zealand's Defence industrial base; and
   (d) industry integration with Australia, and growing exports.

6. The Strategy includes a list of actions. It is expected that the NZDIAC will provide perspectives from a range of different backgrounds, with the intention of ensuring those actions are sound, viable and well-considered.

7. Given the size of the Government's investment in Defence over the next four years, recognising industry excellence in capability and/or service delivery is important. To this end, the NZDIAC will continue to oversee the annual Minister of Defence Awards of Excellence to Industry, including by reviewing the Award categories to ensure they align with DCP priorities.

Term of Appointment

8. A term of appointment will commence from the date of appointment and will run for a period of four years.

Meeting Frequency

9. The NZDIAC will meet at least three times a year. The meeting Agenda will be determined by the Chair and the Assistant Secretary Capability Delivery and the NZDF Director Industry Strategy. It will include a progress report on implementation of the Strategy, any feedback from industry, and an opportunity for members to provide advice and an additional level of assurance on actions and initiatives intended to support the Strategy's objectives.

10. At least one meeting will include consideration of the report on the Minister of Defence Awards of Excellence to Industry and agree the finalists and winners.

11. Meeting support functions will be provided by the Ministry of Defence.

Regular Reporting

12. The NZDIAC will report to the Minister of Defence at an agreed frequency, to be determined by the Chair and the Minister of Defence.

May 2026