



# *Peace Movement Aotearoa*

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## **Submission: New Zealand's Second Emissions Reduction Plan**

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on New Zealand's second emissions reduction plan (ERP2). Our focus is on the urgent need to include a full accounting of New Zealand's military emissions in ERP2, and in all of New Zealand's emission reduction targets and associated budgets.

### **Importance of including military emissions**

All military activity - whether in times of peace or during armed conflict - contributes to climate change, with military emissions worldwide estimated two years ago to be at least 5.5% of the global total, a level exceeded only by three states: China, USA and India.<sup>1</sup>

There is currently no accurate measurement of New Zealand's military emissions, nor is there a coherent plan to reduce them even though this is a sector that is clearly a major source of harmful emissions.

### **What must be counted as military emissions**

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 ERP2, emission reduction targets and associated budgets, and so that a credible plan is developed as a matter of urgency to ensure those emissions are reduced.

At a minimum, this must 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 deployments overseas - whether for 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.

## **Conclusion**

As the above outline indicates, the scope and extent of military emissions is substantial, and it is our view that New Zealand's emissions reduction plans are simply not credible unless this is included.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission, and we are happy to provide further information or discuss the points above if you wish.

## **Reference**

<sup>1</sup> 'Estimating the military's global greenhouse gas emissions', Conflict and Environment Observatory, November 2022, <https://ceobs.org/estimating-the-militarys-global-greenhouse-gas-emissions>