



Headquarters  
New Zealand Defence Force  
Defence House  
Private Bag 39997  
Wellington Mail Centre  
Lower Hutt 5045  
New Zealand

OIA-2025-5421

28<sup>th</sup> August 2025

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

I refer to your email of 6 June 2025, requesting under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) documents related to the *Five Eyes15 (FVEY) Combined Digital Leadership Summit... and to 'unifying development of digital and data systems for meeting modern challenges'* and [a]dvice received or given incl to ministers/govt by NZDF related to this for and to 'unifying development of digital and data systems for meeting modern challenges'.

With respect to the email to you of 7 August 2025, there are a total of 11 documents that are withheld in full for the following reasons:

- nine documents where information was generated for, and/or provided by, our international partners under sections 6(a) and 6(b)(i) of the OIA;
- two draft documents under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA.

Enclosed are copies of five New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) documents related to the Combined Digital Leadership Summit and/or the development of NZDF digital and data systems. Where indicated, information has been withheld in accordance with: section 6(a) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand and the international relations of the Government of New Zealand; section 6(b)(i) of the OIA to avoid prejudice to the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government; section 9(2)(a) of the OIA to protect privacy; section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions; and signatures are withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(k) of the OIA to avoid the malicious or inappropriate use of staff information.

With respect to the PowerPoint presentation on Antarctica, the "Security impacts of climate change" graphic is not from the 2025 Defence Capability Plan, it is from the Ministry of Defence and NZDF 2018 document [The Climate Crisis: Defence Readiness and Responsibilities](#).

No advice was provided to Ministers as a result of this Summit. Cabinet material regarding the development of NZDF digital and data systems is publicly available on the NZDF

website<sup>1</sup>. Relevant Cabinet papers are: Defence Force Enterprise Cloud and Enterprise Connectivity; DEV-21-MIN-0205; GOV-23-MIN-0029; EXP-25-MIN-0025.

You have the right, under section 28(3) of the OIA, to ask an Ombudsman to review this response to your request. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or freephone 0800 802 602.

Responses to official information requests are proactively released where possible. This response to your request will be published shortly on the NZDF website, with your personal information removed.

Yours sincerely

**GA Motley**

Brigadier

Chief of Staff HQNZDF

**Enclosures:**

1. Minute 48/2024, 28 Nov 2024
2. Minute 03/2025, 10 Feb 2025
3. CJDS Directive 01/2025, 11 Mar 2025
4. Antarctica presentation, Apr 2025
5. NZ National Digital Initiative Roadmap Overview, May 2025

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nzdf.mil.nz/media-centre/search-our-libraries/documents/?search=cabinet&sort=relevance>

Headquarters, New Zealand Defence Force  
Office Strategic J6

SO1 Joint CIS MINUTE 48/2024

28 Nov 24

CIE (through SJ6)

REQUEST FOR UNPROGRAMMED OVERSEAS TRAVEL – CCEB Q1 ENGAGEMENTS

Reference

- A. DFO 4, Chap 6
- B. CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) Travel Application – [ICP Bid 2317](#)
- C. CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) Travel Application – [ICP Bid 2318](#)
- D. CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) Travel Application – [ICP Bid 2319](#)

Purpose

1. This minute seeks funding approval of up to \$29,910 to support New Zealand's participation in three Combined Communications and Electronics Board (CCEB) engagements in Q1 2025.

Executive Summary

2. The CCEB is a FVEY military communications organisation responsible for leading technical and procedural interoperability from a C5i perspective. This is achieved through routine engagements s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

3. Three CCEB engagements occurring in Q1 2025 are requested for approval with a total forecast cost of \$29,910.

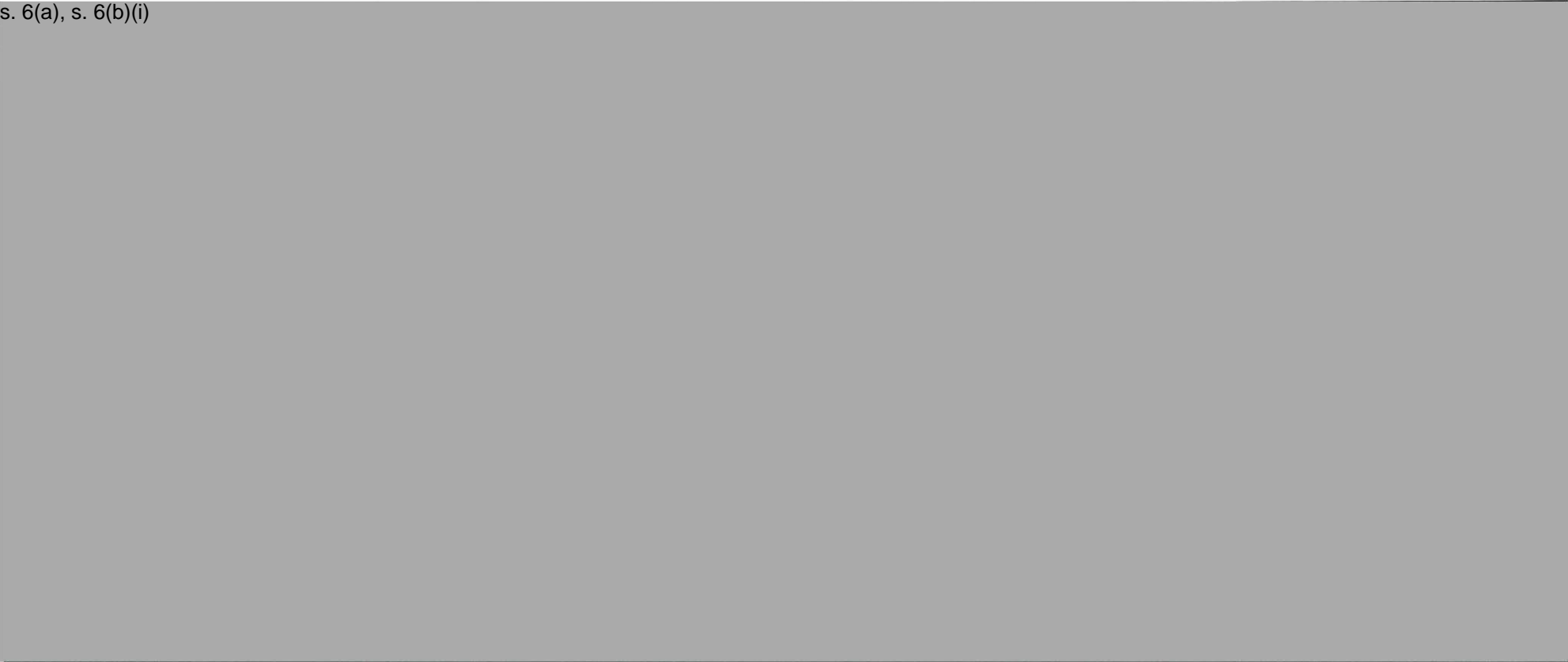
4. The requested funding can be offset against previously approved ICP bids that are no longer proceeding. These bids, amounting to \$30,421, include:

- a. [ICP Bid 1345](#). CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) - \$7,762;
- b. [ICP Bid 439](#). CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) - \$14,724; and
- c. [ICP Bid 1344](#). CCEB s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) - \$7,935.

Proposal

5. The following engagements are proposed in priority order:

s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)



Total  
\$29,910

**Recommendations**

- 6. It is requested that you:
  - a. **Note** the requirement for NZ to have representation at the three listed CCEB commitments occurring in Q1 25;
  - b. **Note** ICP Bid 2319 can be approved as domestic travel if desired IAW DFO 4, Chap 6.
  - c. **Note** that three programmed, CCEB ICP bids will not occur, returning \$30,421.
  - d. **Approve** the unprogrammed overseas travel (estimated \$29,910).

s. 9(2)(g)(i), s. 9(2)(k)




MAJ  
SO1 Joint CIS & Interoperability

Endorsed / ~~Not Endorsed~~

Approved / Not Approved

COL  
s. 9(2)(a)



Digitally signed  
by COLs. 9(2)(a)  
Date: 2024.12.05  
07:57:24 +13'00'

COL  
SJ6

**E.J. HARROP, MNZM**  
BRIG  
CIE

Headquarters, New Zealand Defence Force  
INFOCOM

HQINFOCOM MINUTE 03/2025

10 Feb 25

COMINFO (through DCOMINFO)

REQUEST FOR UNPROGRAMMED OVERSEAS TRAVEL – CDLS s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)

Reference

A. DFO 4, Chap 6

Purpose

1. This minute seeks funding approval of up to \$7,000 to support New Zealand’s participation in a Combined Digital Leadership Summit (CDLS) engagement in Feb-2025.

Executive Summary

2. s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)  
[Redacted]  
[Redacted]. In support of this, the CDLS and its Coordination Group meet to progress its lines of effort through principal’s decision making.
3. Due to the emergence of the CDLS Lines of Effort (LOE) during this ICP period, some engagements to progress the LOEs were not captured in ICP bids.
4. These unprogrammed bids coincide with a period where the NZDF is holding the chairperson role for the CDLS, its constituent forums and main subgroups.

Proposal

5. The following engagement is proposed:

s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)	<b>Cost</b>
	\$7,000

s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i)			
			Total \$7,000

**Recommendations**

6. It is requested that you:

- a. **Note** the requirement for NZ to attend the s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) meeting in Ottawa on the dates of 18 – 20 February 25.
- b. **Approve** the unprogrammed overseas travel for one person to attend the s. 6(a), s. 6(b)(i) meeting in Ottawa (estimated cost: \$7,000)

s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(k)

[Redacted]

**Head of Digital Portfolio**

Endorsed / ~~Not Endorsed~~

*Essential for five year agreed outcomes.*

s. 9(2)(a), s. 9(2)(k)

[Redacted]

**DCOMINFO**

Approved / Not Approved

s. 9(2)(k)

[Redacted]

**E.J. HARROP, MNZM  
BRIG  
COMINFO**

*Adk unplanned*

s. 9(2)(k)

[Redacted]

*COMINFO*



**HQ NZDF**  
Defence House  
34 Bowen Street  
Wellington 6011  
NEW ZEALAND

// Mar 2025

See Distribution

### **CJDS DIRECTIVE 01/2025**

### **FIVE EYES COMBINED DIGITAL LEADERS SUMMIT 28 APR – 9 MAY 25: DEVONPORT NAVAL BASE**

#### **Authority**

1. Issued by the Chief Joint Defence Services.

#### **Situation**

2. NZDF will host the Five Eyes (FVEY) Combined Digital Leaders' Summit CDLS 25-1 (CDLS) in Devonport, Auckland over the period 5 – 9 May. Lead up working groups will also be hosted prior to the CDLS over the period 28 Apr – 2 May 25.
3. The CDLS brings together the Defence Chief Information Officer Forum (DCIOF), the Defence Chief Data Officer Forum (DCDOF), and the Combined Communications-Electronics Board (CCEB). All three forums will be chaired by the NZDF and provides the NZDF with a significant opportunity to lead the collective design and delivery of interoperable data and digital solutions for the war fighter.
4. CDLS participants include officers and senior civilian staff equivalents at two- and three-star rank. Up to 100 personnel, including NZDF members, are expected to participate in the Summit.
5. Invitations will be extended to the Minister of Defence to provide the keynote address at the Summit. The Summit's principals will also visit relevant sites in Auckland on Thu 8 May. The Summit's theme will centre on digital interoperability amongst partner forces operating in the Indo-Pacific Region.

#### **Mission**

6. The NZDF is to support the hosting of the CDLS, in order to ensure continued delivery of an interoperable data and digital environment for partnered operations.



## Execution

### 7. CIDS Intent.

- a. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Directive is to provide direction for support to Information Command (INFOCOM) as lead unit for CDLS 25-1.
- b. **Method.** INFOCOM will lead the planning of CDLS 25-1 and the liaison with other NZDF Services and Portfolios and other government agencies that will be invited to contribute to the Summit.
- c. **Endstate.** The NZDF facilitates the successful conduct of CDLS 25-1.

### 8. Planning Guidance.

- a. **Freedoms:** INFOCOM is authorised to liaise directly with HQNZDF portfolios, HQJFNZ, other Government agencies and the Minister's Office, via OCDF, as required.
- b. **Constraints:** Costs associated with CDLS 25-1 are to be from INFOCOM's baseline budget for FY24/25. Any extraordinary costs are to be managed within the CJDS portfolio.

### 9. Tasks.

- a. **VCDF** is requested to arrange for DST to co-ordinate a visit by Summit principals.
- b. **COMJFNZ** is requested to:
  - (1) Provide a JMPU liaison officer to assist with planning and Real Life Support (RLS) and provide dedicated MP support in the lead up and execution of CDLS 25-1
- c. **DSy** is to:
  - (1) Provide appropriate security arrangements for CDLS 25-1, particularly with respect to access to Devonport Naval Base, and to conduct a threat assessment to inform security planning.
- d. **DSSG** is to:
  - (1) Provide appropriate support for the planning and the execution of the CDLS 25-1.
- e. **ODCN** is requested to provide:
  - (1) RNZN Māori Cultural Advisor to provide advice on cultural matters and BPT to lead a Powhiri.
  - (2) Provide DEV facilities support.
- f. **DDPA** is to:
  - (1) BPT provide Public Affairs support as required.

- (2) BPT liaise with the Minister's communications staff on internal and external communications issues related to the CDLS.

**Command and control**

10. **Status of Command.** No change.
11. **Orders.** COMINFO is to issue an Administration Instruction once detailed planning is completed.
12. **Point of Contact.** The HQNZDF POC is DCOMINFO, s. 9(2)(a)

s. 9(2)(k)

**A. J. WOODS**

AVM

Chief Joint Defence Services

**Distribution:**

VCDF

COMJFNZ

CN

DCN

BCDR PHLBASE

DSY

AC SCE

COMINFO

COMLOG

ACC

LCC

DDPA

**This presentation is  
classified as UNCLASSIFIED**

# The Strategic Importance of Antarctica

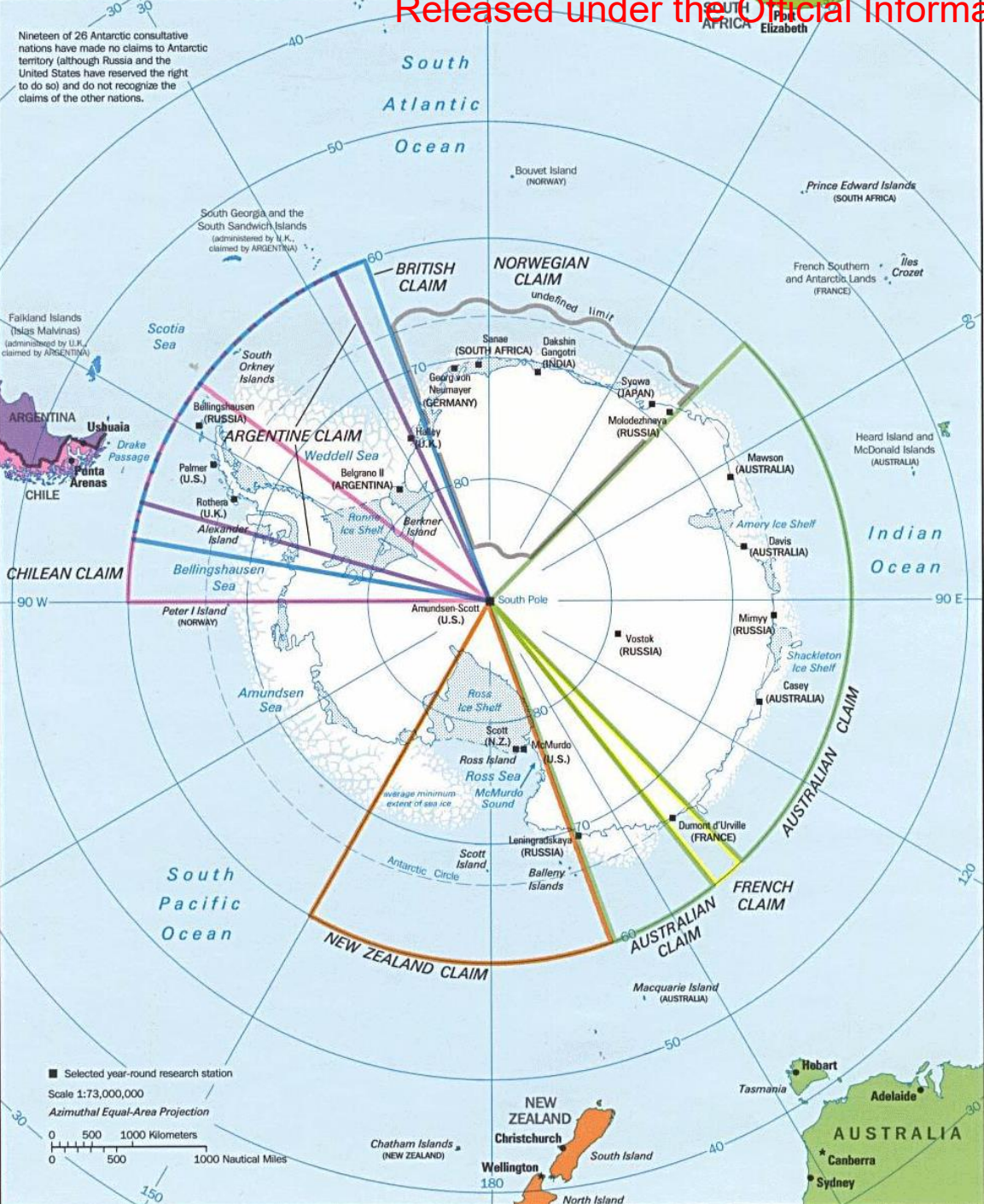


LtCol Andrew Thornton, DSD  
Senior National Officer Operation Antarctica 2019 - 2021

# Presentation Content

- Antarctica
- Brief history
- Antarctic politics
- NZDF in Antarctica
- The future

Nineteen of 26 Antarctic consultative nations have made no claims to Antarctic territory (although Russia and the United States have reserved the right to do so) and do not recognize the claims of the other nations.



14 million km<sup>2</sup> (5<sup>th</sup> largest continent)

90% earth's ice

70% earth's fresh water

-94.7 deg C coldest temp ever recorded

Windiest and driest continent

Highest average elevation

Governed by the  
Antarctic Treaty

“set aside for peace and  
science”

Indefinite mining ban –  
can be overturned

High environmental  
standards

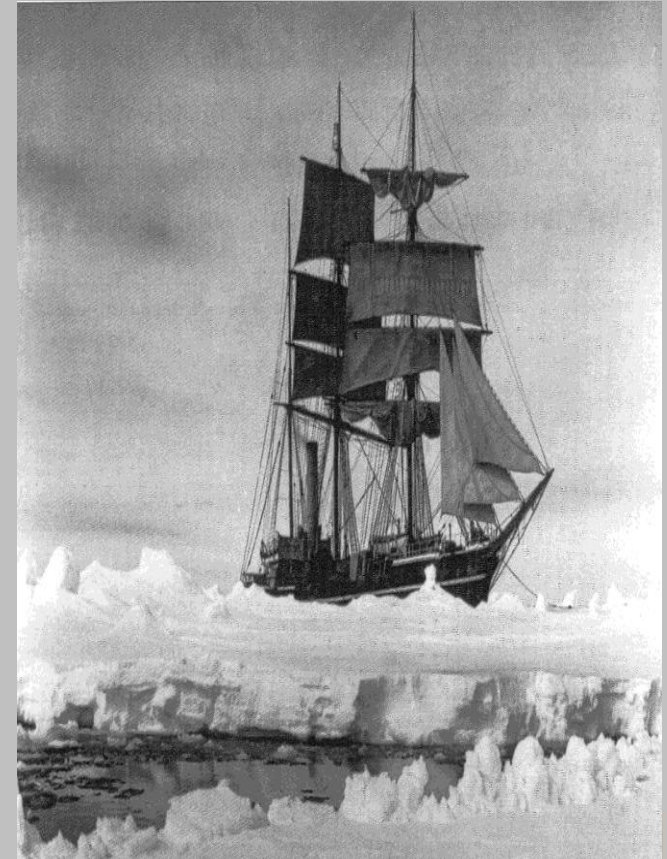
Last place on earth  
unclaimed

Commission manages  
fisheries



# The “Heroic Era”

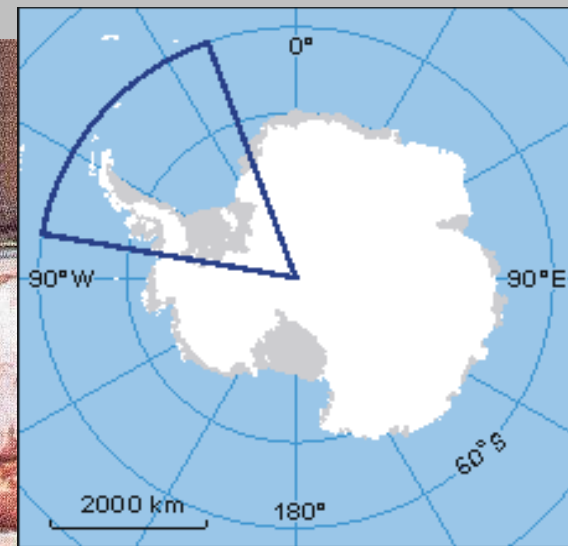
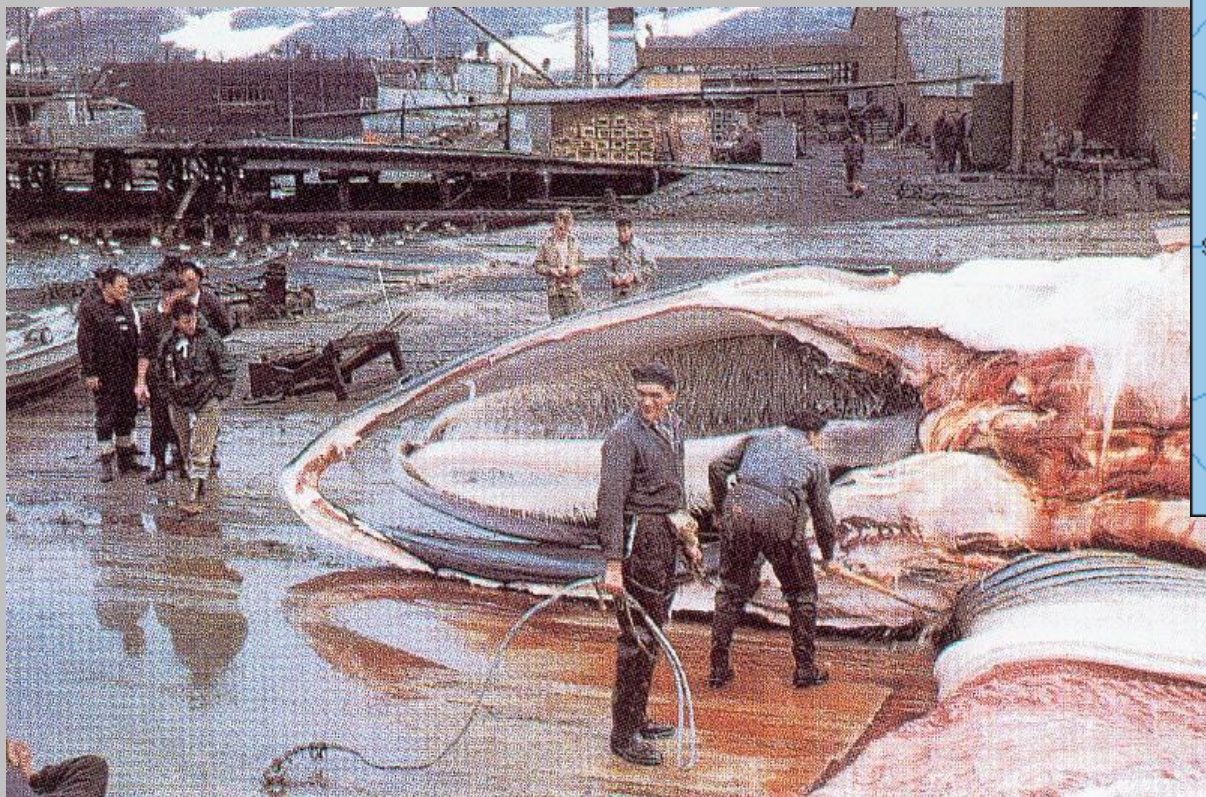
- 1899 – 1900 **Borchgrevink**  
10 man winter party at Cape Adare
- 1901 – 04 and 1910 – 13 **Captain Scott**
- 1910 – 1912 **Roald Amundsen** “The race to the pole”
- 1907 – 09 and 1914 – 16 **Sir Ernest Shackleton** “HMS Endurance expedition”






# Antarctica Claims

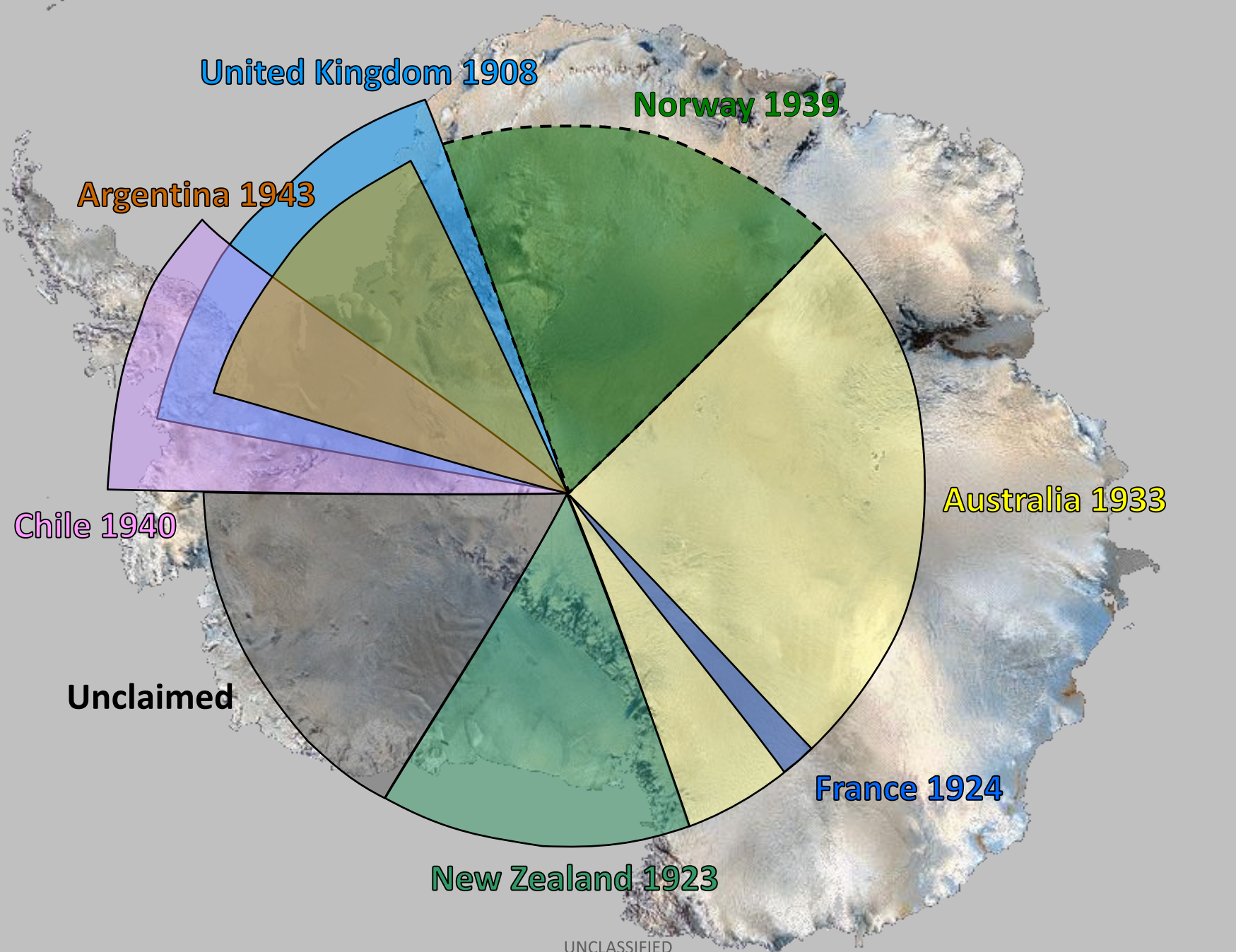
- Britain laid the first claim to Antarctica in 1908
- Revenue gained from whaling and sealing licenses
- But Britain had more “imperial” ambitions.....





**“...desirable that the whole of the  
Antarctic should ultimately be included  
within the British Empire...”**

**British Secretary of State for the Colonies, February 1920**

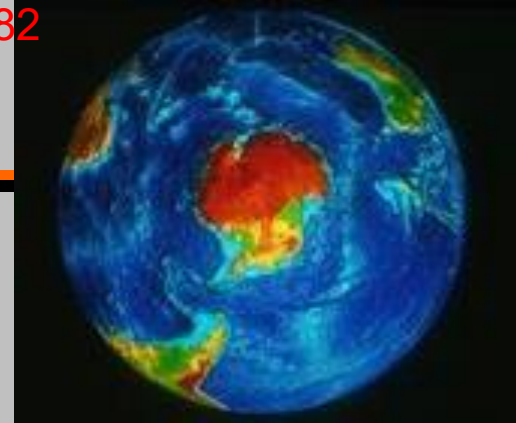


# Increasing tension

- 1940's & 1950's: significant international tension over Antarctica:
  - Counter claimancy tension between Argentina, Chile and UK
  - Superpower confrontation between US and USSR (both reserved their rights to make territorial claims)
  - Security concerns of “neighbouring” states
- Overcome by:
  - Political need and desire to defuse international tensions
  - International Geophysical Year (1957 / 1958) which led to scientific co-operation between 12 nations



# International Geophysical Year



- July 1957 – December 1958
- Triggered intense phase of Antarctic exploration and scientific research
- Numerous bases established around Antarctica
- 1955-56 US commenced “Operation Deep Freeze”
  - Operated from Christchurch
  - Base established on Ross Island (now McMurdo Station)
  - Pole Station established 1956 (Amundsen-Scott Base)
- 1956-57 US / NZ base established at Cape Hallett
- 1957-58 British / NZ Trans-Antarctic Expedition
- 1957 Establishment of Scott Base (NZ)

# Antarctic Treaty Parties

## 7 Claimant States

(Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, UK)

## 12 Original Signatories to the Treaty

(Claimants plus Belgium, Japan, Russia, South Africa, US)

Now:

- 58 Consultative Parties
- 29 Non-Consultative Parties

58 Countries representing 83% of the world's population

# Antarctic Treaty

## What it does:

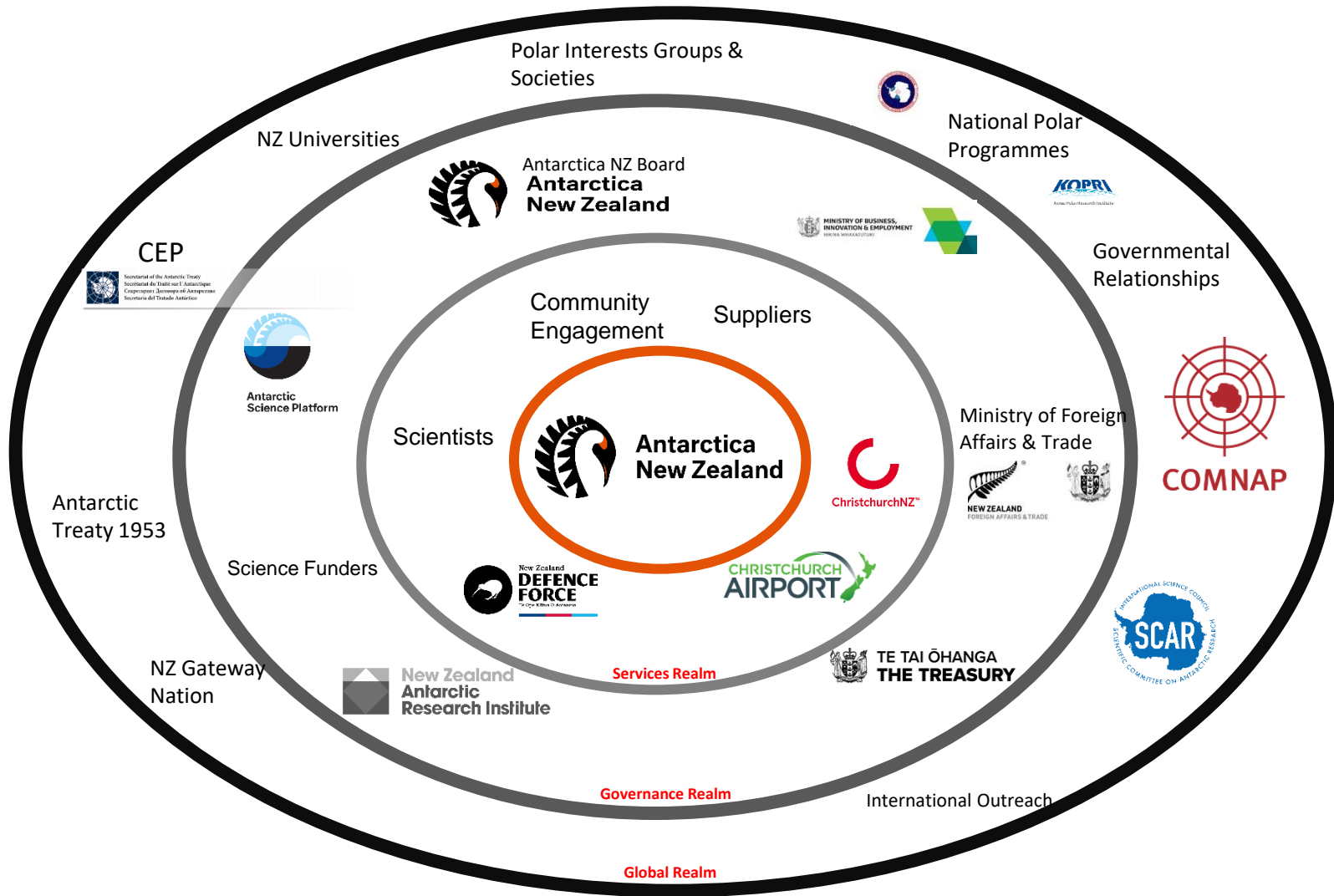
- Demilitarises Antarctica
- Prohibits nuclear testing and dumping of waste
- Puts territorial claims “on ice”
- Provides transparency of operation
- Promotes scientific cooperation

## What it does not do:

- Deal with resources (e.g. minerals, fish)
- Address environmental issues



# ECOSYSTEM



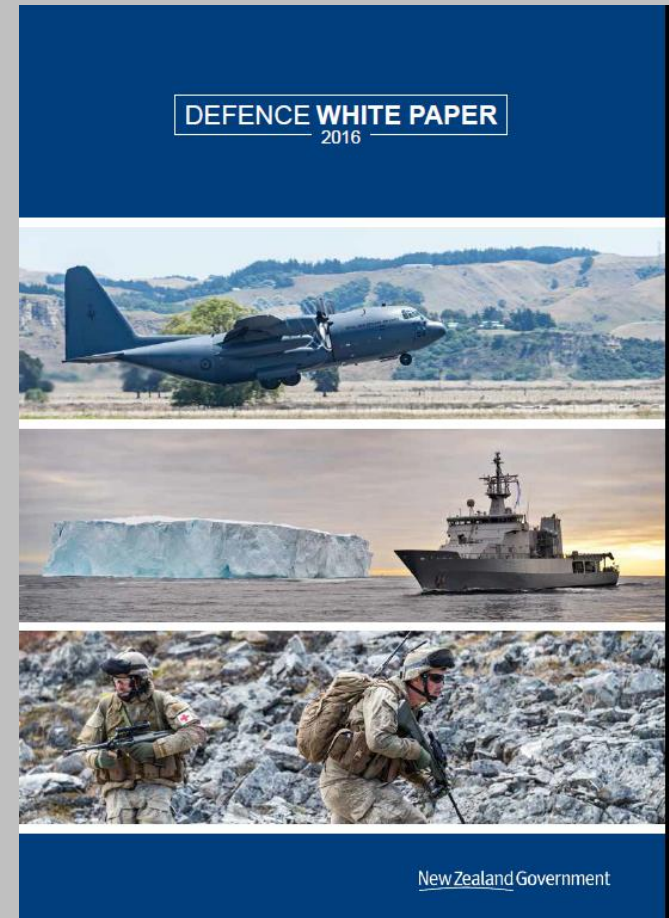


## How are we doing – national importance

- Significant contribution to the NZ economy
- \$183m to NZ economy - \$103m to Canterbury
- 84% of NZers rate NZ activity in Antarctica as “important” or “very important” (Colmar Brunton 2015)
- NZers highest outcome in Antarctica is protecting the Antarctic environment
- Scott Base is a microcosm of New Zealand’s values

# 2016 Defence White Paper (DWP)

- DWP reiterates that the NZ Defence Force must be able to:
  - Support NZ's civilian presence in the Ross Dependency of Antarctica
  - Participate in whole of government efforts to monitor and respond to activity in the Southern Oceans.



# 2023 Strategic Defence Policy Statement

## “A stable, secure and resilient region”

- Defence promotes a safe, secure and resilient New Zealand, including at its border and approaches
- Global implications: Strategic competition and compounding disrupters
- Complexity and disruption at home and in our neighbourhood
- Supporting New Zealand’s Antarctic presence, and operating in the Southern Ocean
- Current and planned Defence Force Capabilities: Expeditionary



# 2025 Defence Capability Plan

- Preserving the Southern Ocean and New Zealand's marine living resources
- Future Strategic Air Capabilities:
  - Replacement B757
  - Long Range remotely piloted aircraft (drones)
  - Space capabilities
- Future Strategic Maritime Capabilities
  - Southern Ocean Patrol Vessel
  - Persistent surface Surveillance (unscrewed autonomous vessels)

## Security impacts of climate change

### Climate effects

- Rising temperatures
- Melting ice
- Sea level rise
- Ocean acidification
- Intensifying cyclones
- More or less rainfall
- Floods / droughts
- Heatwaves

### Environmental impacts

- Coral bleaching
- Decreasing fish stocks and marine life
- Coastal erosion
- Increase in soil salinity
- Unproductive land (non cultivable and eventually uninhabitable land)

### Social impacts\*

- Loss of livelihood
- Water and food scarcity
- Increase in malnutrition
- Loss of jobs / education opportunities
- Loss of cultural identity
- Damage to community infrastructure
- Climate migration

### Security implications

- Human security challenges
- Health-related crises
- Resource competition (food and water security)
- Violence from mismanaged adaptation or migration
- Land disputes

**Magnified by weak governance**

# NZ Defence – “Operation Antarctica”

- New Zealand Defence involvement since 1955.



# Defence Forces in Antarctica - Today



# What's the future?

- Antarctic Treaty
- Geopolitics
- Resource race



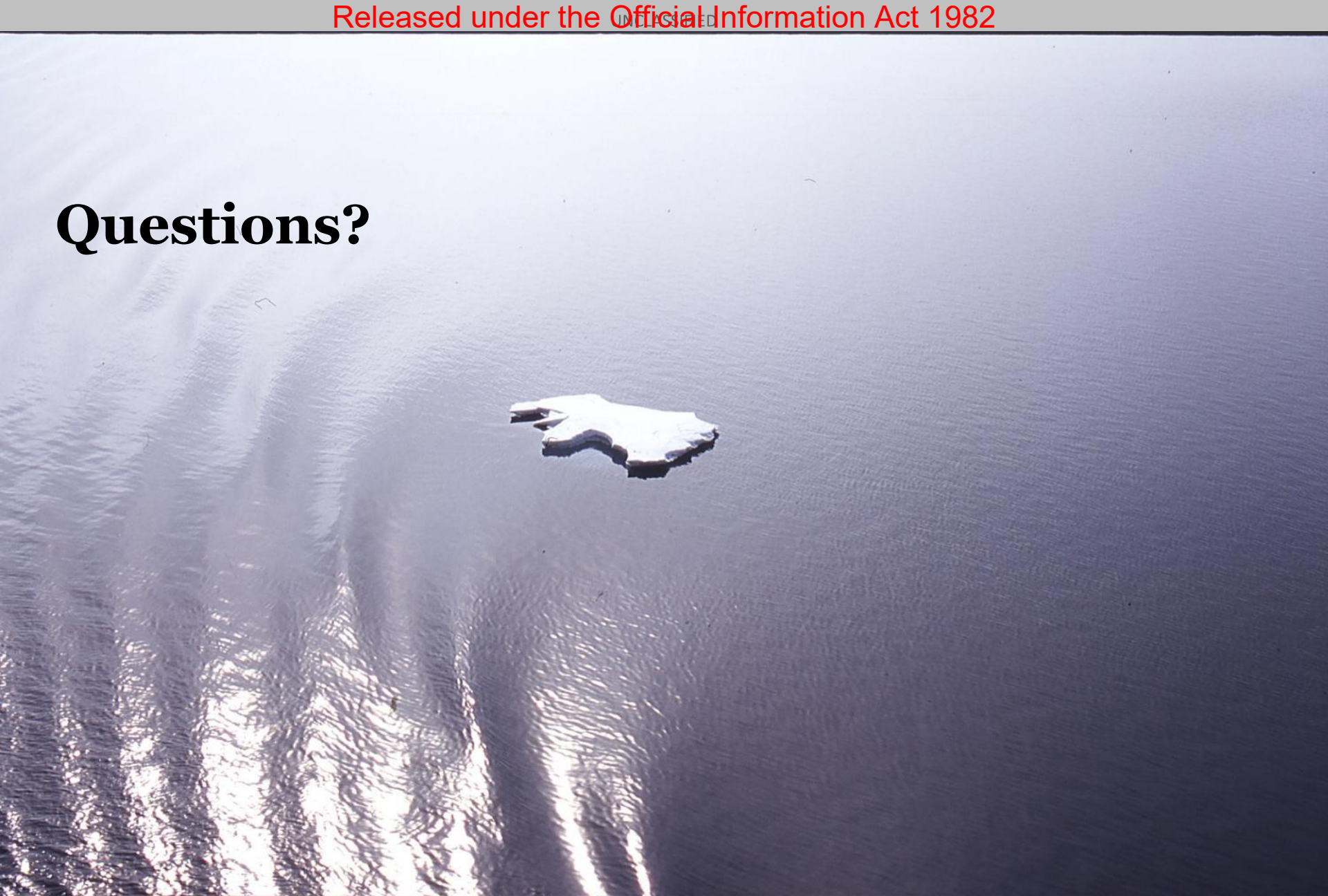
# Geopolitics

- ATCM
  - Applications for consultative recognition
  - Governance challenges
- Increasing Chinese presence





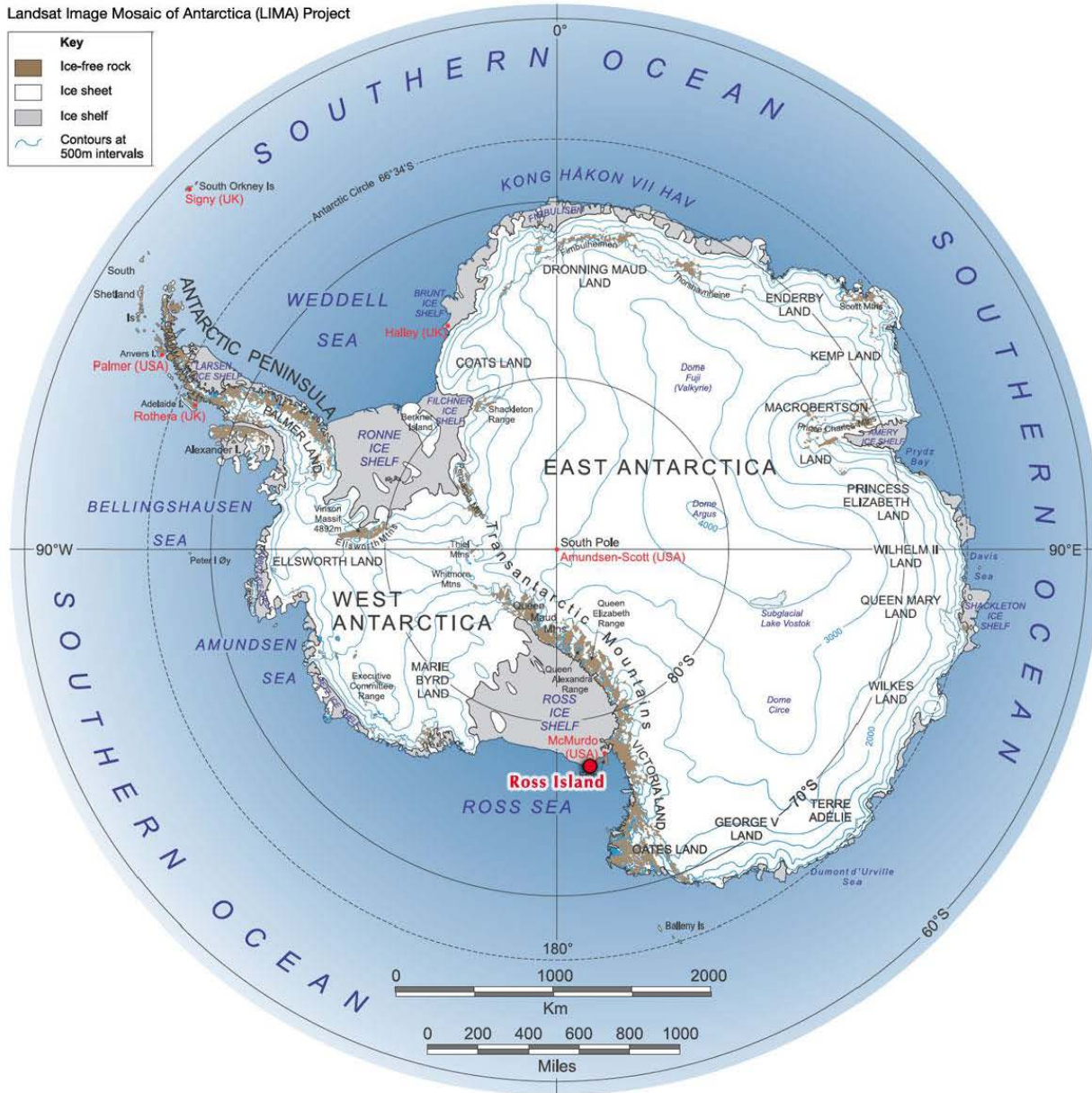
**Questions?**



Landsat Image Mosaic of Antarctica (LIMA) Project

**Key**

- Ice-free rock
- Ice sheet
- Ice shelf
- Contours at 500m intervals

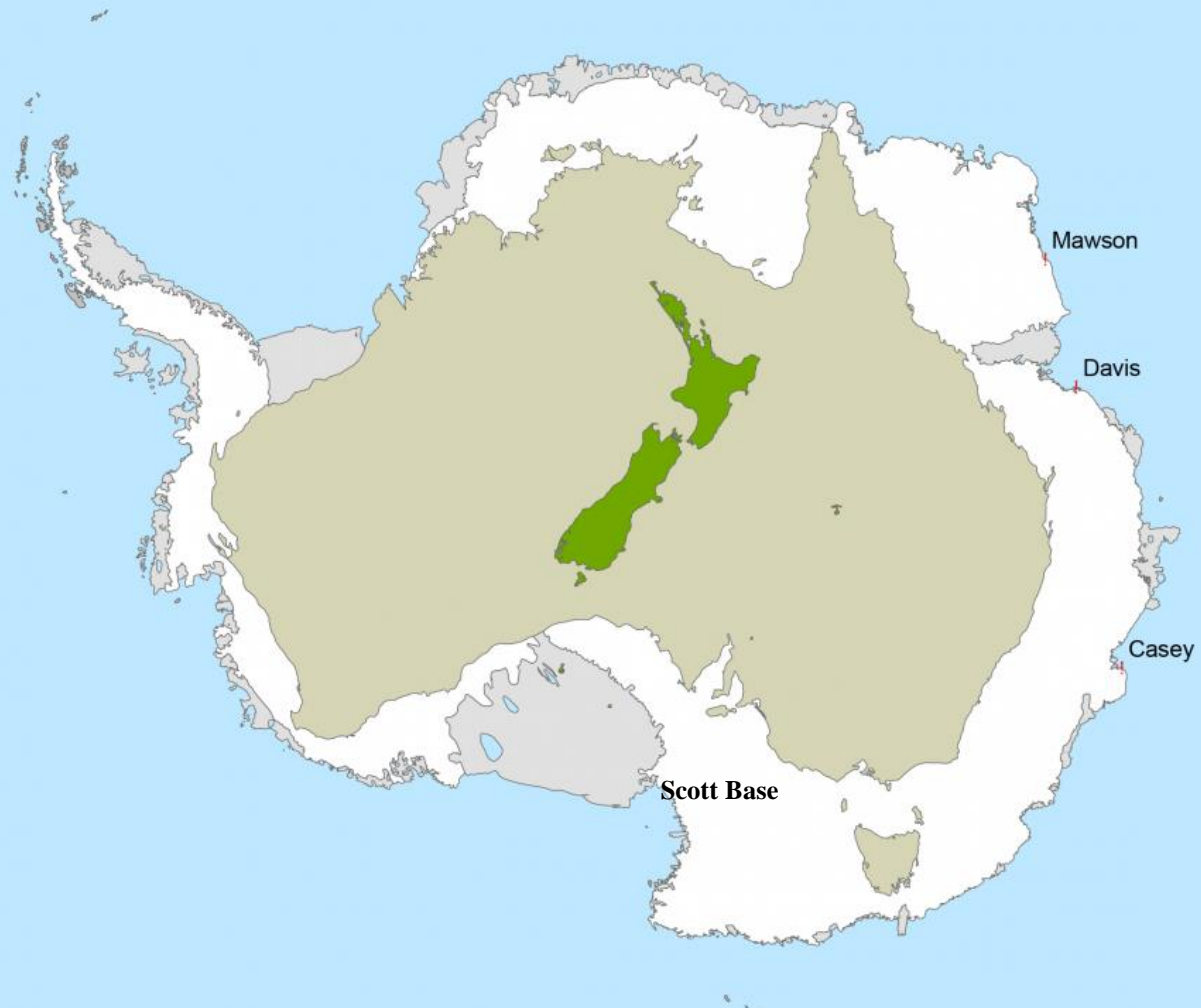


# AREA COMPARISON

ANTARCTICA, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND



Australian Government  
Department of the Environment,  
Water, Heritage and the Arts  
Australian Antarctic Division



0 500 1000 2000  
Kilometres

Lambert Azimuthal Equal-Area Projection  
Produced by the Australian Antarctic Data Centre.  
Antarctic coastline from ADD v5.  
Published June 2009. Map Catalogue No: 13647.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

A comparison of the size  
of Antarctica and the USA



s. 6(b)(i)



# Combined Digital Leadership Summit Defence CIO's Forum

NZ National Digital Initiative Roadmap Overview

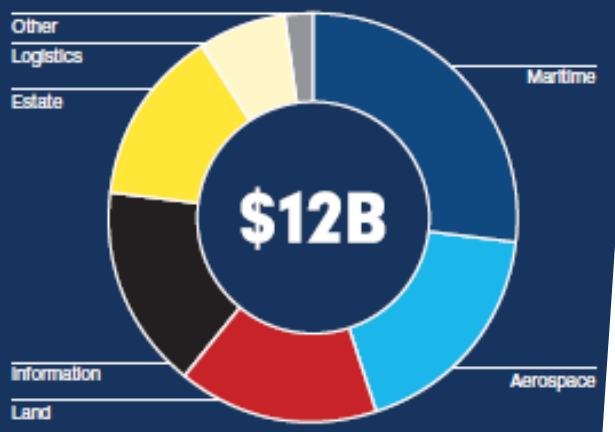
Auckland, NZ | May 2025

BRIG Esther Harrop, COMINFO

Mr Chris Mortiboy, Chief Architect

The Defence Capability Plan outlines indicative spending of \$12 billion on major capability and critical supports over the next four years. These indicative investments focus on what is required in the short term to rebuild the NZDF and prepare for future.

INDICATIVE SPEND BY AREA



MAJOR INVESTMENTS 2025-2028

- Enhanced strike capabilities
- Frigate sustainment programme
- Persistent surveillance (uncrewed autonomous vessels)
- Replacing the maritime helicopters
- Javelin anti-tank missile upgrade
- Network Enabled Army
- Special Operations sustainment
- Vehicles for the NZDF
- Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems
- Long-range remotely piloted aircraft (drones)
- Replacing the Boeing 757 fleet
- Space capabilities
- Enhancing cyber security capabilities
- Enterprise resource planning
- Improved intelligence functions
- Updating classified digital services
- Accommodation, messing, and dining modernisation
- Defence estate regeneration
- Defence housing programme
- Future Devonport naval base design
- Ohakea infrastructure programme
- Defence Science & Technology uplift
- Technology Accelerator
- Information management
- Digital modernisation
- Logistics modernisation

# Defence Capability Plan

- The NZ Government has approved the Defence Capability Plan (DCP)
- Information investments (in black) are the backbone of the Defence Information Environment (DIE) uplift initiatives
- The other investments are underpinned by digital
- This is explored further overleaf

# DEFENCE CAPABILITY PLAN 2025

## DEFENCE CAPABILITY PLAN 2025

THIS DEFENCE CAPABILITY PLAN IS THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO REBUILD THE NZDF AND PREPARE FOR AN INCREASINGLY VOLATILE WORLD. WHILE THIS PLAN HAS BEEN DESIGNED WITH A 15-YEAR HORIZON IN MIND, IT DELIBERATELY FOCUSES ON CRITICAL INVESTMENTS IN THE NEXT FOUR YEARS TO ENSURE WE CAN ADAPT AS THE WORLD AROUND US CHANGES.

To respond to the deteriorating strategic environment the NZDF needs to be increasingly combat capable, interoperate with our partners, able to act as a force multiplier with Australia, and make the most of innovations which allow us to be more effective. To do this over the next 15 years we will invest in:



A focused and combat capable Navy with a mixture of combat, patrol, and multiple ships.



An Army that can operate independently globally, with select combat capability, and which provides situational awareness and intelligence.



An Air Force that operates globally, with select combat capability, and which provides situational awareness and intelligence.



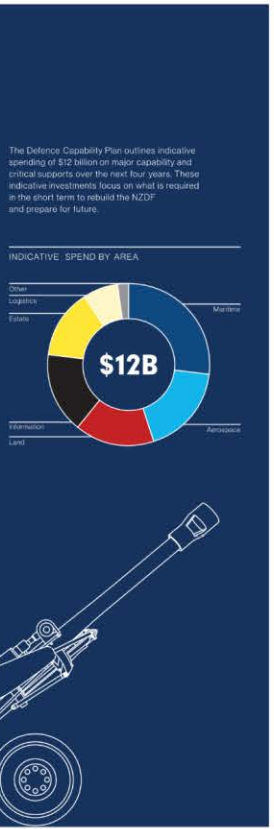
Strengthened cyber and information capabilities to protect the NZDF's networks and systems, and provide defensive cyber, electronic and information warfare effects.



A workforce with the physical and digital infrastructure that is fit-for-purpose for a modern defence force.

### MAJOR INVESTMENTS 2025-2028

- Enhanced strike capabilities
- Frigate sustainment programme
- Persistent surveillance (increased autonomous vessels)
- Replacing the maritime helicopters
- Javelin anti-tank missile upgrade
- Network Enabled Army
- Special Operations sustainment
- Vehicles for the NZDF
- Counter Uncrewed Aerial Systems
- Long-range remotely piloted aircraft (drones)
- Replacing the Boeing 757 fleet
- Space capabilities
- Enhancing cyber security capabilities
- Enterprise resource planning
- Improved intelligence functions
- Updating classified digital services
- Accommodation, messing, and dining modernisation
- Defence estate regeneration
- Defence housing programme
- Future Devonport naval base design
- Ohakea infrastructure programme
- Defence Science & Technology uplift
- Technology Accelerator
- Information management
- Digital modernisation
- Logistics resilience
- Consolidated Logistics Project infrastructure
- Implementing a workforce strategy



Enhancing cyber security capabilities



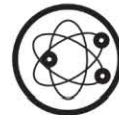
Enterprise resource planning



Improved intelligence functions



Updating classified digital services



Defence Science & Technology uplift



Technology Accelerator



Information Management

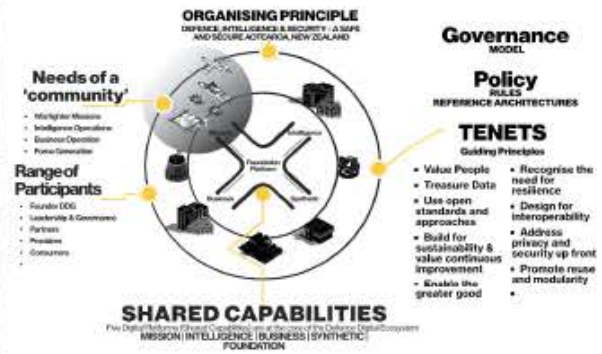


Digital Modernisation

# DCP INVESTS IN BUILDING OUT THE DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM

## Concept: Digital Ecosystem

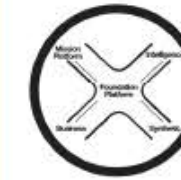
Architectural Vision



People Capability



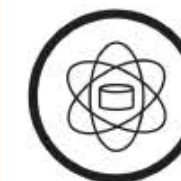
Frontline Digital Enablement



Core Digital Platforms



Modern Technologies



Data, Analytics & Information Management Capabilities



Security

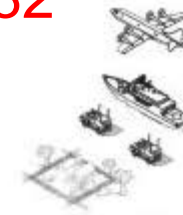
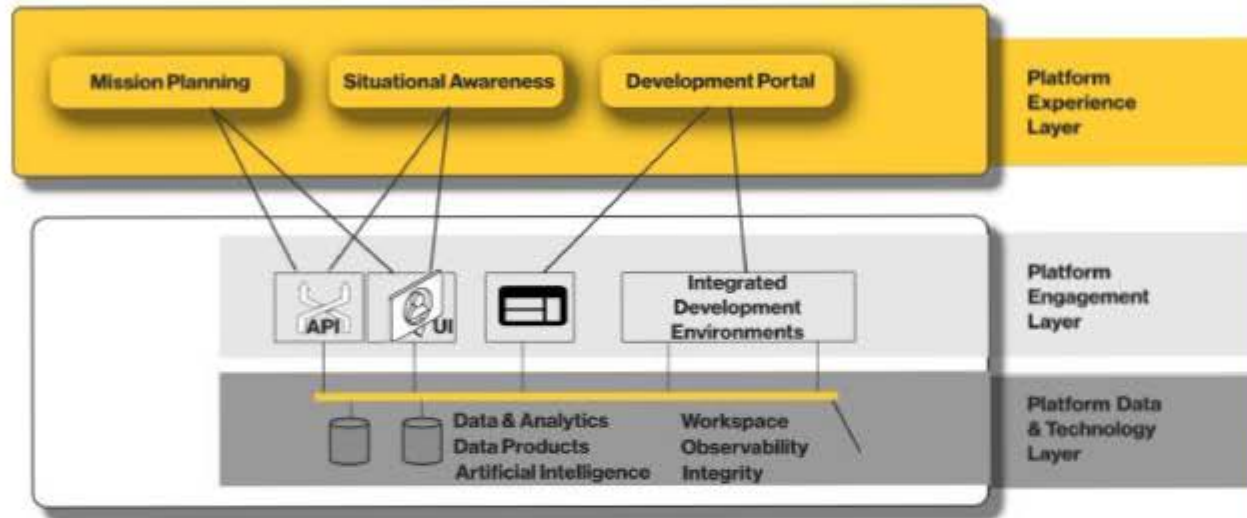


Released under the Official Information Act 1982



# DIGITAL PLATFORM

as a Capability



## Platform Experience

- Consumers & Communities**  Are able to get their job done: simpler, safer, sooner.
- Community Specialists**  Are equipped with better digital and data products enabling them to create solutions which are relevant to **their** teams' context and need.
- Force elements, Signals Units, S&T, ITREC**  Use and develop solutions optimising for their niche and integrate and test capabilities including interoperability at pace.
- Programme & Project Teams**  Use and develop capabilities that exploit or enhance people, process, data, technology

**PLATFORM CREWS**  Develop (enhance), Secure and Operate (maintain) the base of stable elements.

- Partners:**
- Other platforms
  - Commercial
  - OGA
  - Mil Partners

s. 6(b)(i)

