

## **New Zealand's Interests in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean**

New Zealand is committed to the responsible stewardship of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for the benefit of present and future generations.

### **Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are important to New Zealand because:**

- We value a safe and secure region to the south of New Zealand.
- New Zealand has maintained a claim to the Ross Dependency since 1923 and is one of the twelve original signatories of the Antarctic Treaty in 1959.
- We want to protect Antarctica as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science.
- Understanding the role of Antarctica in global systems will help us improve New Zealand's resilience to climate change and other environmental challenges.
- New Zealand values a healthy and productive Southern Ocean and is committed to protecting its biodiversity.
- New Zealand is the Gateway to the Ross Sea region and our ecosystems are connected to Antarctic and the Southern Ocean.

### **To support these interests, New Zealand will:**

- Prioritise the environmental protection of Antarctica and follow best practice in our engagement in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- Support science that contributes to understanding the role of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean in global systems and the impact of global environmental changes on Antarctica.
- Ensure Scott Base is fit for future generations and air and maritime assets are capable of operating in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- Strengthen the Antarctic Treaty System to ensure the impacts of human activity are limited, Antarctica's value as a place for science is prioritised, and international rules governing all actors and activities in Antarctica are implemented.
- Apply precautionary and ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources in the Southern Ocean.

- Continue to be an international leader in efforts to eliminate whaling and illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing in the Southern Ocean.
- Be a leader in the implementation of the Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area, and the establishment, protection and management of representative special areas in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- Tell the story of New Zealand's connection to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, through science, environmental protection, conservation, heritage and logistical support.
- Strengthen Christchurch's position as the international gateway to the Ross Sea region, ensuring we provide high-quality services to and collaboration with other nations.