

## **New Zealand's Statement of Commitment to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean**

**Antarctica has intrinsic value as a natural reserve, devoted to peace and science. New Zealand, guided by *manaakitanga*, is committed to preserving and protecting Antarctica and the Southern Ocean for present and future generations.**

- New Zealand's environment is connected to Antarctica and the Southern Ocean. We prioritise the environmental protection of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean; we value healthy and productive ecosystems; and we are committed to protecting biodiversity. We will:
  - Follow environmental best practice in our activities in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
  - Advocate for the establishment, protection and management of representative special areas in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
  - Take precautionary and ecosystem approaches to the conservation and sustainable management of living marine resources in the Southern Ocean, particularly in the Ross Sea, supporting strong environmental standards and sustainable economic benefits, and contributing to scientific understanding.
  - Be an international leader in efforts to eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in the Southern Ocean.
- Antarctica is an essential part of understanding global environmental systems, and is uniquely valuable for scientific research. We are committed to promoting and collaborating on scientific research of the highest standards. We will:
  - Support, lead and share scientific research that increases understanding of the interaction between global systems and Antarctica, and advances New Zealand's climate change policies and capability to respond to change.
  - Be a leader in research in the Ross Sea region Marine Protected Area.
  - Ensure Scott Base is an effective and sustainable facility, providing support for the safe conduct of excellent scientific research.
- Antarctica is part of New Zealand's heritage, and future. As the gateway to the Ross Sea region we uphold New Zealand's role in Antarctic exploration, scientific discovery and collaboration. We will:

- Celebrate New Zealand's connection with Antarctica and the Southern Ocean; honouring our linkages through scientific research, 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.
  - Maintain air, maritime and terrestrial assets capable of operating in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean.
- New Zealand values a peaceful, secure and safe region. We support the Antarctic Treaty principles and strive to maintain a peaceful, nuclear free and protected Antarctica. We will:
    - Actively engage with our Antarctic partners to sustain a strong and effective governance framework under the Antarctic Treaty system.
    - Develop and implement international rules to ensure the comprehensive protection of the Antarctic, ensuring its value as a place for peace and scientific research is prioritised, the impacts of human activity are limited, and safety is promoted.