



## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation Report #11

Situation Report #11 – 0530 Friday 6 March

### KEY MESSAGES

*UNCLASSIFIED*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that is evolving rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation. We call on Iran to cease its retaliatory attacks in the region. We cannot risk further regional escalation, and civilian life must be protected.
- We call for a resumption of negotiations and adherence to international law - and we urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations.
- New Zealand has consistently condemned Iran's nuclear programme, its destabilising activities in the region and elsewhere, and its repression of its own people.
- In this context, we acknowledge that the actions taken by the US and Israel were designed to prevent Iran from continuing to threaten international peace and security.
- We recognise too the courage of the Iranian people who have taken to the streets in recent weeks to demand change, only to be met by violence. The Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

### SUMMARY OF MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SITUATION

#### Iran

- US strikes on Iran continue with US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth saying the US is "accelerating, not decelerating" its war effort and sending more military assets into the region. According to CENTCOM, the US has hit over 2,000 Iranian targets (in addition to Israeli strikes). Media reports suggest that US Central Command is asking the Pentagon to send more military intelligence officers to its headquarters in Tampa, Florida, to support operations against Iran for at least 100 days.

## RESTRICTED

### Regional spillover

- **Gulf Countries:** Countries across the Gulf are experiencing ongoing airstrikes and missile and drone interceptions.
- **Indian Ocean:** A US submarine attacked and sunk an Iranian navy frigate off the Southern Coast of Sri Lanka. This is the first time the US Navy has sunk an enemy vessel using a torpedo since WWII. The Sri Lankan Navy and Air Force rescued 32 survivors and recovered 87 bodies. In response to news media that two Australian navy personnel were on board the US submarine, the Australian Department of Defence said that such deployments are routine, and that “the military strikes were conducted by the United States and Israel – not Australia.”
- **Azerbaijan:** At around midday 5 March (local time), Nakhchivan International Airport (in Azerbaijan’s Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic) was hit by drones launched from Iranian territory. Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister advised Iran was not intending to target neighbouring countries, except those hosting US bases. Azerbaijan airspace remains open, though flights to Nakhchivan International Airport are no longer operating.
- **Lebanon:** Israel published new evacuation orders for all southern suburbs in Beirut, instructing residents to head east by road. Israel said it will tell residents when it is safe to return.

### CONSULAR UPDATE

- As at **21:50pm Thursday 5 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3,318**. Registrants in the UAE have increased to **1,995**. Others have also increased, including **Qatar 432, Saudi Arabia 413, Jordan 45, Kuwait 74, Bahrain 56, Iran 31, Iraq 16, Israel and the OPT 84, Oman 38, Lebanon 14**. Egypt has remained at 120 since this morning.
- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights. To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.

### Assisted departure planning

- Preparation has begun for pre-deploying two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) planes so they can be ready if needed, when conditions allow, to assist with any civilian evaluation options.
- An EOI process is planned to commence today for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. This information will help assist us in determining the best arrangements to support New Zealanders.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - s6(a)
    - CON to Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable, and remain the best option for departure.
    - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
    - Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e. UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
- The Singaporean Embassy in Bahrain is organising a bus land transfer to Riyadh for its citizens and has opened the opportunity to New Zealand and other citizens. This has been communicated on Safe Travel. Travellers are expected to organise their own onward travel.
- s6(b)(i)

PM Albanese has announced military aircraft will  
deploy to the region as a contingency.
- We will communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through the SafeTravel system and on the SafeTravel website and SafeTravel Facebook account as information becomes available.

s6(a)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

s6(a)

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### Shipping

- At least six ships have been attacked near the Strait of Hormuz and 200 tankers are stranded in the Gulf following effective closing of the Strait. Leading maritime insurance companies are cancelling war risk insurance from 5 March. Several shipping lines have redirected container services to avoid the Gulf.

### Domestic Security

- Police report no concerns or planned events of note at this time. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions, including through high visibility patrols.

### Economic Impacts

Treasury's update to the Minister of Finance on 5 March notes:

- Risk sentiment has stabilised following US offers to assist shipping in the region, including oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz
- Oil prices remain volatile, rising above US\$84/barrel in overnight trading, before dropping back to about US\$81/barrel this morning, little changed from yesterday's close but up 14% from a week ago.
- US and European equities rose in overnight trading. Asian equities suffered heavy losses, with Japan's Nikkei down 3.6% and South Korea's Kospi 200 down 12%, but analysts expect a recovery today.
- US Treasuries showed little change and the US dollar index was marginally weaker.
- The NZ dollar rose slightly against the US dollar, trading back over US\$0.59 from yesterday's close at US\$0.588. The trade-weighted index (TWI) rose 0.6% overnight.
- Expectations of a sustained lift in oil prices continued to transmit through to the NZ rates market yesterday, with the 2-year swap rate up 4 basis points to 3.02%. The 10-year swap rate was unchanged at 4.02%.
- MFAT's Economic Division provided a submission on the trade and economic impacts of the conflict for Ministers (on 4 March) which will be converted into a market intelligence report for external stakeholders and exporters.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- An Exporters Webinar will be hosted by NZ agencies on Friday 6 March NZT to provide an overview of New Zealand's response, discuss trade and economic impacts, and answer exporter questions.
- MPI is liaising with exporters on consignments that require redirection to third countries or a return to New Zealand. Where products can be redirected, MPI is supporting exporters with certification. If the conflict persists, there will likely be domestic storage capacity constraints.

### International Reactions

- Canadian Prime Minister Carney and Australian Prime Minister Albanese jointly (5 March) supported de-escalation of the conflict and an end to the spread of Iran's targets of attack, during Carney's state visit to Australia. Prime Minister Carney<sup>s6(a)</sup> affirming that Canada would always defend its people and allies.
- Chinese Foreign minister Wang Yi has said China will send a special envoy to the Middle East for mediation as tensions escalate. Wang Yi urged UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan not cross the "red line" of attacking civilians.
- Pacific partners are grappling with the implications of the conflict for their citizens in the region. The UAE hosts Pacific missions from Fiji, Tonga, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Media reporting indicates that Papua New Guinea has requested assistance for its citizens from Australia.
- Tensions between **Spain** and the **United States** continue, with Spain denying it has agreed to cooperate with US demands. French President Macron has issued a statement of support for Spain, whilst German Chancellor Merz has faced criticism for silence on the matter as Trump criticised Spain in his presence in the Oval Office.
- The **UN** has activated contingency plans across Iran and the region. UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) staff are mobilizing from Iran and Afghanistan to Lebanon and Syria to support people forced to flee their homes as the regional crisis intensifies. Iran hosts 1.65 million refugees and others needing international protection and UNHCR is providing support where able. UNHCR's capacity to assist returnees has been significantly reduced due to funding cuts.

### Additional Information on Consular Support

- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady, but we expect these to rise **if and when an EOI process for possible Government support with a departure is commenced**. Most recent calls have been asking about when NZDF flights will be available.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- SafeTravel content published on the MFAT NZ and SafeTravel Facebook accounts has accumulated over 262,000 views to date. We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to [consular@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:consular@mfat.govt.nz) for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

### SafeTravel Advice

- The New Zealand Government announced on 5 March that it will pre-deploy New Zealand consular staff and two New Zealand Defence Force planes to the region to be ready to assist with civilian evacuation options when conditions allow.
- It will take some days for arrangements to be put in place. In the meantime, we continue to advise New Zealanders to depart the region using commercial flights or other avenues if it is feasible and safe for them to do so.
- In addition to New Zealand citizens and their immediate family members, we are also working through whether New Zealand could provide assistance to Pacific Island nationals returning home.
- New Zealanders requiring consular assistance should call the New Zealand 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20. **The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.**

### Post Operations and staff welfare

- s6(d)
- ABD, Dubai, and RIY - Staff and dependents are sheltering in place.
- ANK and CAI - Business operations continue as normal.

### NZDF Deployments in the Region

- s6(b)(i)

### NZ agency response and coordination

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)

**NZ media coverage**

- 5 March – [Finance Minister Nicola Willis says economic impact from Middle East war isn't clear | RNZ News](#)
- 5 March – [Live: NZ Defence Force planes prepare to fly to Middle East for evacuations | RNZ News](#)
- 5 March – [NZDF standby for Middle East evacuation mission | Stuff](#)
- 5 March – [‘Help is on its way’: NZ Defence Force planes deploy for Middle East evacuations | The Press](#)
- 5 March – [Middle East crisis complicates OCR outlook | BusinessDesk](#)
- 5 March – [What are New Zealand's global supply chains being disrupted by the US-Iran conflict? | RNZ News](#)
- 1 March [NZ Government Statement on Iran | Beehive.govt.nz](#)

<b>Response Operations</b>	The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.  <u>Key contacts:</u>  Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> Consular: <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>  MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479
----------------------------	---

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 06/03 1400**

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

**US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation**

**Situation Report #12 – 1400 Friday 6 March**

**KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - *Unclassified***

*Consular Messaging*

- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights. Commercial flight options departing from the UAE with Emirates and Etihad are increasing. Full operation of Emirates flights to Auckland and Christchurch is expected to resume from 6 March (UAE time), opening the path for stranded New Zealanders to return home from UAE.
- Preparation has begun to assist New Zealanders in some locations who cannot make arrangements to depart on commercial flights, and need to travel urgently, to leave via other locations in the region. Two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) aircraft are also being deployed as a further contingency.

*International Messaging*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that **continues to evolve** rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about the escalation.
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours is dangerous and unacceptable. We need to stop further regional escalation.
- Civilians are being directly impacted and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- We urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations. We also firmly believe the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

## IN-CONFIDENCE

### KEY POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

- US and Israel are maintaining the pace of strikes on Iran. Iranian retaliatory drone and missile strikes continue. Abu Dhabi had a heavy night Thursday 5 March. The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has announced the use of a new cluster munition in an attack on Tel Aviv.
- In Riyadh, New Zealand Embassy operations were disrupted by what is understood to have been a drone interception in the Diplomatic Quarter. <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
All staff and dependents are safe and accounted for.
- President Trump has called on “IRGC members” to lay down their arms, promising they will be granted “total immunity”. He also called for Iranian diplomats to request asylum and “shape a new and better Iran”. MFAT has called in the Iranian Ambassador this afternoon to deliver New Zealand’s key messages of concern.
- Lebanon is becoming a new front in the conflict with Israel intensifying strikes and expanding its presence in the south of the country. Israel has ordered 500 000 inhabitants to evacuate the southern suburbs of Beirut.
- President Trump has said that Khamenei’s son is an “unacceptable” choice of successor and says the US must be involved in choosing the future leader of Iran.
- President Trump has said he supports Kurdish forces launching an offensive against Iran. Iran has struck Kurdish groups in the west of the country. Ali Larijani, Head of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council has said Iran is ready and waiting for an American ground invasion.
- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees suggests 330,000 people have been displaced across the multiple ongoing conflicts in the region: Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan-Pakistan.
- Iran has said it is not targeting the national sovereignty of neighbouring countries, only “US interest in US bases”. This has been strongly rejected by Gulf and regional states.
- Iran is expanding its targets to oil infrastructure, reportedly hitting a key pipeline through Azerbaijan that supplies 30% of Israel’s oil, as well as a school and airport in Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan’s Defence Ministry has demanded an explanation and placed its military on high alert.
- Iran has denied Turkiye’s claim that a NATO missile defence system destroyed ballistic missile heading towards Turkish airspace. Turkiye has warned parties to de-escalate while reserving its right to respond to any hostile action.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- The death toll across the region continues to rise. Iranian media has reported that the death toll inside Iran has risen to 1,230 and the Lebanese health ministry is reporting 102 deaths in Lebanon.

### International Response

- **France** has announced it will allow US aircraft to access some of its Middle East bases, on the condition usage will be purely defensive.
- **Canada's** Prime Minister has reaffirmed its support for the US strikes and stated that he hasn't ruled out Canada's military participation in the conflict if it "makes sense" in defending Canadians.
- **EU** Foreign Policy chief has noted the current war in the Middle East is a direct result of the erosion in international law. She said the international order has been undermined by major powers acting unilaterally.
- **Ukrainan President Zelensky** has offered Ukraine's expertise to support the defence against Iranian strikes, noting a request from the US.

### New Zealand's Response

- UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan has requested a call with Minister Peters which is anticipated to occur in the next 24 hours.
- Amazon has confirmed that two of their facilities in UAE were struck by drones and a third data centre in Bahrain damaged by a nearby strike.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

- s9(2)(ba)(ii)

### Domestic Security

- Police report no major concerns or planned events of note at this time. **Four events supporting Iran and two anti US/Israel events have taken place.** Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions.

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **08:21AM Friday 6 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3430**. **Registrants in the UAE have increased to 2048.** Others have also

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

increased, including Qatar 445, Saudi Arabia 430, Jordan 49, Kuwait 75, Bahrain 62, Iran 32, Iraq 22, Israel and the OPT85, Lebanon 24, Egypt 122. Oman has gone down to 36 from 38

- Immigration New Zealand has created a new webpage for INZ's response for Iran. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran :: Immigration New Zealand](#).

### Update on flights

- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights. Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are still available and increasing, with Emirates and Etihad.
- Full operation of Emirates flights Dubai-Auckland and Dubai-Sydney-Christchurch is due to resume from 6 March (UAE time), opening the path for stranded New Zealanders to return home from UAE.
- Preparation has begun for pre-deploying two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) planes as a contingency, if needed and when conditions allow, to assist with any civilian evaluation options.
- An EOI process is planned to commence 6 March for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify if they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. This information will help assist us in determining the best arrangements to support New Zealanders.
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - s6(a)
    - Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable, and remain the best option for departure.
    - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
    - Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e. UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
- s6(b)(i)

PM Albanese has announced military aircraft will deploy to the region as a contingency.

- We are aware that likeminded partners are helping respective citizens cross land borders from Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait to Riyadh and Muscat where commercial flights remain available.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we **continue to** urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through the SafeTravel system and on the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#) as information becomes available.
- SafeTravel content published on the MFAT NZ and SafeTravel Facebook accounts has accumulated over 299,420 views to date (up from 262,000 yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional Information on Consular Support

- Call volumes and email enquiries are steady, but we expect these to rise if and when an EOI process for possible Government support with departure is commenced. Most recent calls have been asking about when NZDF flights will be available.
- We have responded to all New Zealanders who have directly reached out to [consular@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:consular@mfat.govt.nz) for assistance accessing SafeTravel.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- An Exporters Webinar hosted by MFAT and NZTE with support from MBIE, MPI, and MoT, was held on Friday 6 March. The Webinar was attended by around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders and provided an overview of New Zealand's response and the trade and economic impacts of the conflict. Agency representatives answered questions from attendees, which centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage.
- Treasury's update on 6 March notes:
  - Since the conflict with Iran began, risk sentiment has gradually worsened. The lack of de-escalation is adding to uncertainty around the path of inflation and growth.
  - Brent crude oil ended overnight trading at US\$84 per barrel. It is estimated that if sustained at this price until the end of June, the flow through to petrol and related products could add around 0.3 percentage points to inflation across the March and June quarters. Increased fuel costs would likely have modest negative impacts on spending and GDP growth.
  - Exports of Middle East diesel and jet fuel has halted, with the price of jet fuel doubling in Singapore. New Zealand industry sources have indicated that domestic jet fuel supply is not a concern at present.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- Shipping disruptions have affected aluminum and fertilisers markets, the latter creating risks to food prices and security.
- The New Zealand Government Bond markets are yet to show any material signs of stress.

### Energy and Fuel

- Oil and gas infrastructure continues to come under attack. Eight energy assets (port, oil storage, refineries) have been impacted, and nine vessels have been hit. Several oil fields have suspended crude production in response to the escalating attacks. This has resulted in a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.
- Some Chinese refineries have lowered their operating rates. China has asked refiners to halt signing new contracts and try cancel shipments already committed.
- Fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. MBIE is planning on publishing a summary of stock information publicly to provide clarity to the public.

### Shipping

- Ships in the Gulf region are experiencing a significant increase in interference with navigation systems and those that look to transit the region are turning off their transponders and sailing without navigational lights. Reports suggest that these practices may continue beyond the cessation of hostilities causing more established shipping companies to long-term avoid the region.
- Freight rates for crude oil tankers from the Middle East Gulf to Asia have nearly tripled, from around \$5 per barrel to nearly \$15 per barrel.

## NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

### New Zealand Posts

- s6(d)
- ABD, Dubai, and RIY – New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, MBIE and NZDF staff and dependents are sheltering in place. **Posts are closed to the public but remain operational.**
- ANK and CAI - Business operations continue as normal.

### NZDF Deployments in the Region

- s6(a)

IN-CONFIDENCE

IN-CONFIDENCE

**NZ agency response and coordination**

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)
- A new trade and economic response cell has been stood up in the MFAT Coordination Centre. It will cover trade and economic policy responses to the conflict and addressing exporter enquiries. Contact: [mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz).

**NEW ZEALAND MEDIA**

- 6 March - [Cook Islands government on high alert as Middle East conflict threatens fuel and goods | RNZ News](#)
- 5 March - [New Zealand consular response in Middle East | Beehive.govt.nz](#)
- 5 March - [NZ Middle East evacuation flights will also assist stranded Pacific Island nationals](#)
- 5 March - [Over 3000 New Zealanders in the Middle East amidst conflict | RNZ News](#)

<b>Response Operations</b>	The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.  <u>Key contacts:</u>  Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> Consular: <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>  MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479
----------------------------	---

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 07/03 1200**

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.



## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation

### Situation Report #13 – 1200 Saturday 7 March

#### KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - *Unclassified*

##### *Consular Messaging*

- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights when it is safe and possible to do so. These are the quickest way for New Zealanders to return home.
- Emirates and Etihad are increasing their flights. This is very positive news for New Zealanders in the UAE. The first direct flight to New Zealand took place on 6 March. There was plenty of space on this flight and other recent services from the Middle East to Australia.
- We know that many Kiwis are stranded elsewhere in the region. Yesterday, MFAT contacted SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE to better understand their departure assistance needs.
- The Government is working around the clock on plans to provide assistance to as many of these Kiwis as possible. Response teams are on their way to the region now to support this effort. Any help we can provide will be dependent on a range of factors including the security environment and cooperation with foreign governments.
- For New Zealanders located elsewhere in the Middle East, two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) aircraft have also separately been deployed as a further contingency. This is part of our effort to explore all options to support Kiwis in need.
- Consular support in areas which are currently directly impacted by military strikes remains extremely challenging. We will provide updates to registered New Zealanders in these locations as soon as they become available.
- New Zealanders in unsafe locations should shelter in place, follow the advice of local authorities at all times, monitor media for key developments, and stay in touch with family and friends back home.
- New Zealanders in the region should register with [SafeTravel](#). Anyone in need of urgent assistance should call the 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

## IN-CONFIDENCE

### *International Messaging*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that continues to evolve rapidly. **New Zealand is concerned about the escalation and increasing spread of the conflict into neighboring countries, now including Lebanon.**
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours are dangerous and unacceptable. We need to stop further regional escalation.
- Civilians are being directly impacted and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- We urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations. We also firmly believe the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

### **KEY POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS \* *internal use***

- **The US and Israel surged the intensity of their attacks further overnight, with Tehran infrastructure targeted in particular. US Defence Secretary Hegseth said its firepower over Iran and Tehran would "surge dramatically".**
- **President Trump said that there will be "no deal with Iran except unconditional surrender".**  
s9(2)(g)(i)  
**President Trump also stated a US ground invasion would be a "waste of time. He has however suggested support for Kurdish forces launching an offensive.**
- President Trump also **continues** to insist that the US should have a hand in determining Iran's future leadership.
- **The majority of Iranian retaliatory drone and missile strikes continue to be intercepted by air defenses.**
- **US CENTCOM reported overnight that Iranian ballistic missile attacks have decreased by 90% and drone attacks by 83%. s6(a)**  
s6(a)
- **Lebanon is becoming a new front in the conflict with Israel intensifying strikes and expanding its ground presence in the south. Further evacuation orders were issued for southern Beirut yesterday as airstrikes intensified. s6(a)** which had previously focused

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

on striking Hezbollah in southern Lebanon, or specific targets in southern Beirut. Lebanon has asked France to intervene with Israel to deescalate.

- The UN High Commissioner for Refugees suggests 330,000 people have been displaced across the multiple ongoing conflicts in the region: Iran, Lebanon, Afghanistan-Pakistan.
- Iranian media reports its death toll has risen to 1,332. The Lebanese health ministry is reporting 123 deaths in Lebanon. At least 11 have been killed in Israel, six US Soldiers and 9 in other Gulf States.
- US military investigators reportedly believe it is likely that US forces were responsible for an attack on an Iranian girls' school that killed at least 165 children.

### International Response

- **Canada's** Prime Minister reaffirmed support for the US strikes "with some regret". Carney said the US and Israeli strikes appeared to be unlawful in that they were not made with UN security council support, or in the face of imminent threat, <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- **South Korea:** Foreign Minister Hyun has discussed with the US redeployment of US Patriot missile defence systems currently based in **South Korea** for use against Iran.
- **Japan's** Foreign Minister said yesterday Japan's priorities are the safety of its nationals in the region, the Strait of Hormuz remaining open, Iran ceasing retaliatory attacks and a resolution via dialogue, ahead of Japan Prime Minister Takaichi's 19 March visit to Washington. Japan has called for release of two nationals detained in Iran.
- **Singapore's Foreign Minister** has said escalatory attacks on non-combatant states, including civilian and energy assets, were "unacceptable". Public comments by Prime Minister Wong and other ministers have emphasised the need to maintain social cohesion among Singapore's multi-religious and multi-ethnic communities.
- **The Gulf Cooperation Council** has called on the UN Security Council to unequivocally condemn Iran's attacks on mainly purely civilian targets in GCC States.
- **EU** foreign ministers met yesterday with the Gulf Cooperation Council. Ministers affirmed the Gulf countries' right to take "all necessary measures to defend their security and stability and protect their territories, citizens and residents."

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- **EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy** has reiterated that EU is worried about maritime security and focused on keeping key trade routes open. EU military assets are coordinating in the region, but are not present in the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Australia's** Prime Minister has publicly confirmed that three Australian nationals were on board a nuclear-powered US submarine that sunk an Iranian military vessel in the Indian Ocean.
- **India's** response to the US sinking of Iran warship focused only on rescue efforts, and did not reference that the Iranian warship had been returning from naval exercises hosted by India.

### New Zealand's Policy Response, including key engagements for Ministers

- Minister Peters spoke with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan at 11.30 today (key points will follow in our next sitrep). Further calls with regional partners are planned for this week.
- MFAT called in the Iranian Ambassador on Friday to deliver New Zealand's key messages of concern and the need for Iran to change course and meet the expectations of the international community. s6(b)(i)

- s6(b)(i)

acknowledged.

The request has been

### Domestic Security

- Police report no major concerns of note at this time. Four events supporting Iran and two anti US/Israel events have taken place. Further protest events scheduled for this weekend are being promoted on social media. No organised counter-protests have been identified. Police continue to provide support and reassurance to communities and affected Diplomatic missions.

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **10.41AM Saturday 7 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3597**. Registrants in the UAE have increased to **2151**. Others have also increased, including Qatar **463**, Saudi Arabia **447**, Jordan **52**, Kuwait **89**, Bahrain **69**, Iran **32**, Iraq **27**, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories **86**, Lebanon **25**, Egypt **118**. Oman **38**.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- The Emergency Response Team will depart New Zealand today, for Riyadh. MFAT is also deploying surge capacity to support its posts in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.
- Immigration New Zealand has created a new webpage for INZ's response for Iran. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran: Immigration New Zealand](#).

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we **continue to urge** New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through the SafeTravel system and on the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#) as information becomes available.
- SafeTravel content published on the MFAT NZ and SafeTravel Facebook accounts has accumulated over **548,837** views to date (up from **299,420** yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional Information on Consular Support

- **The MFAT consular contact center is operating 24/7 making use of our overseas network. Call volumes and email enquiries have risen as expected in response to the request for expressions of interest in possible Government support with departure. Calls have continued to seek clarification of timing and other details for NZDF flights.**

### Update on flights

- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights. Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are **are readily available. The first direct flight to New Zealand took place on 6 March,** <sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>  
**. Emirates flights to Auckland and Christchurch are available to book (with the exception of the 8 March flight) through to 14 March. There are routes to New Zealand via Sydney and Melbourne with ample seat capacity.**
- <sup>s9(2)(g)(i)</sup>

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- Emirates has officially lifted its flight suspension and is now operating a reduced schedule until further notice, with tickets open for booking and a commitment to returning to 100% of schedule in the coming days. Etihad has resumed limited commercial flights from today to 25 destinations. Flydubai continues scheduled operations.

### Assisted Departures

- Preparation has begun to assist New Zealanders in some locations who cannot make arrangements to depart on commercial flights and need to travel urgently, to leave overland via other locations in the region. Two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) aircraft are also being deployed as a further contingency.
- An EOI process commenced 6 March for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify if they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. The EOI will close at NZT 8am Sunday 8 March. We have received approximately 150 EOI responses so far, with requests continuing to come in.
- SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE will have now received information on how to express interest in possible departure assistance.
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - s6(a)
    - Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable, and remain the best option for departure.
    - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
    - Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e. UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
- The UK has had one evacuation flight from Muscat arrive in the UK, with two more scheduled, and dependants and non-essential staff have been drawn down from Manama and Baghdad. Consular rapid deployment teams are now active in Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- We are aware that likeminded partners are helping respective citizens cross land borders from Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait to Riyadh and Muscat where commercial flights remain available.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- An Exporters Webinar hosted by MFAT and NZTE with support from MBIE, MPI, and MoT, was held on Friday. The Webinar was attended by around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders and provided an overview of New Zealand's response and the trade and economic impacts of the conflict. Agency representatives answered questions from attendees, which centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage. **Answers to questions that were not answered during the webinar will be sent directly to exporters. Plans are underway for a follow-up webinar.**
- **A Market Intelligence Report on the trade and economic impacts of the conflict was posted on MFAT's website yesterday, and an update will be sent out tomorrow as part of MFAT's weekly economic roundup. The report is available here: [Trade and economic implications of the Iran conflict | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)**
- Treasury's update of 6 March notes:
  - Since the conflict with Iran began, risk sentiment has gradually worsened. The lack of de-escalation is adding to uncertainty around the path of inflation and growth.
  - Brent crude oil ended overnight trading at US\$84 per barrel. **[Since this report Brent Crude rose to US\$87, on the news that Gulf exporters may stop production.]** If sustained at this price until the end of June, the flow through to petrol and related products could add around 0.3 percentage points to inflation across the March and June quarters. Increased fuel costs would likely have modest negative impacts on spending and GDP growth.
  - Exports of Middle East diesel and jet fuel has halted, with the price of jet fuel doubling in Singapore. New Zealand industry sources have indicated that domestic jet fuel supply is not a concern at present. **Air New Zealand advised yesterday it has stood up its Emergency Coordination Centre in relation to the impact on jet fuel price.**
  - Shipping disruptions have affected aluminum and fertilisers markets, the latter creating risks to food prices and security.
  - The New Zealand Government Bond markets are yet to show any material signs of stress.

### Energy and Fuel

- Oil and gas infrastructure continues to come under attack. Eight energy assets (port, oil storage, refineries) have been impacted, and nine vessels have been hit. Several oil fields have suspended crude production in response to the escalating attacks. This has resulted in a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.

IN-CONFIDENCE

## IN-CONFIDENCE

- Saudi Arabia and the UAE are nearing the limits of their oil storage capacity, and there are reports that Kuwait is cutting production at some fields. This will impact Indo-Pacific economies as they dominate demand for oil moving through the Strait.
- Some Chinese refineries have lowered their operating rates. China has asked refiners to halt signing new contracts and try cancel shipments already committed.
- Fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. MBIE is planning on publishing a summary of stock information publicly to provide clarity to the public.

### Shipping and Aviation

- Ships in the Gulf region are experiencing a significant increase in interference with navigation systems and those that look to transit the region are turning off their transponders and sailing without navigational lights. Reports suggest that these practices may continue beyond the cessation of hostilities causing more established shipping companies to long-term avoid the region.
- Freight rates for crude oil tankers from the Middle East Gulf to Asia have nearly tripled, from around \$5 per barrel to nearly \$15 per barrel.

### NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

- s6(d)
- Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Riyadh – New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, and NZDF staff and dependents are sheltering in place. MBIE seconded staff have departed Dubai and will work remotely. MBIE has stood up a 24/7 online operation to ensure business continuity. Some non-essential NZTE staff have also departed Dubai and will work remotely. Posts are closed to the public but remain operational.
- Ankara and Cairo business operations continue as normal. Tehran remains closed and NZ based staff are working remotely.
- Deployment of support staff to the Middle East – A team of eight staff will deploy to RIY and ABD, with the first travelers leaving as early as tonight (Saturday NZT). They will backfill our posts and support possible movements of New Zealanders over land borders to Riyadh (from Bahrain, Kuwait, or Qatar) or to Muscat, Oman (from the UAE, if there is a need in the coming days).

IN-CONFIDENCE

## NZDF Deployments in the Region

- s6(a)

- The NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change. The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities. Focus for the NZDF now is to resume mission outputs as soon as possible.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

## NZ agency response and coordination

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT)
- A trade and economic response cell has been stood up in the MFAT Coordination Centre. It will cover trade and economic policy responses to the conflict and address exporter enquiries. Contact: [mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz)

## NEW ZEALAND MEDIA

- 7 March - [Defence Force plane leaves for Middle East to help New Zealanders stranded by conflict | RNZ News](#)
- 6 March - [Cook Islands government on high alert as Middle East conflict threatens fuel and goods | RNZ News](#)

<b>Response Operations</b>	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm.</p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u></p> <p>Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> <b>Consular:</b> <a href="mailto:con.planning@mfat.govt.nz">con.planning@mfat.govt.nz</a>; <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Trade: <a href="mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz">mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a></p> <p>MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479</p>
----------------------------	--

IN-CONFIDENCE

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 08/03 1200**

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

IN-CONFIDENCE

## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation

### Situation Report #14 – 1200 Sunday 8 March

#### KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - UNCLASSIFIED

##### *Consular Messaging*

- The priority remains for New Zealand citizens to return home on commercial flights when it is safe and possible to do so. These are the quickest way for New Zealanders to return home.
- Emirates and Etihad airlines flights continue to depart, albeit with some disruption to schedules. Destinations available tend to mirror demand, so transit via a third country to New Zealand may be necessary. This is positive news for Kiwis in the UAE.
- We know that many Kiwis are stranded in the region. MFAT has contacted SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE to better understand their departure assistance needs.
- The Government is working around the clock on plans to assist as many of these Kiwis as possible. Response teams are on their way to the region now to support this effort. What help we can provide will depend on factors including the security environment and cooperation of foreign governments.
- For New Zealanders located elsewhere in the Middle East, two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) aircraft have also separately been deployed as a further possible support contingency.
- Consular support in areas that are currently directly impacted by military strikes remains extremely challenging. We will update New Zealanders registered with SafeTravel in these locations as new information becomes available.
- New Zealanders in unsafe locations should shelter in place, follow the advice of local authorities at all times, monitor media for key developments, and stay in touch with family and friends back home.
- New Zealanders in the region should register with [SafeTravel](#). Anyone in need of urgent assistance should call the 24/7 Consular Emergency Line on +64 99 20 20 20.

##### *International Messaging*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that continues to evolve rapidly. New Zealand is concerned about further escalation and increasing spread of the conflict into neighboring countries.
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours are dangerous and unacceptable. We need to stop further regional escalation.
- Civilians are being directly impacted and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- We urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations. We also firmly believe the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

**END OF PUBLIC MESSAGES. SITREP CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.**

## RESTRICTED

### KEY POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS \* *internal use*

- s6(a) . President Trump posted on TruthSocial in the early hours of this morning NZT, “Today Iran will be hit very hard!” Strikes on Iran continue, with key infrastructure such as oil depots targeted in Tehran. Iranian media reports the death toll in Iran has risen to 1,332 people with an additional 700+ injured. The US is moving the USS Ford carrier strike group from the Eastern Mediterranean to join the USS Abraham Lincoln carrier strike group in the Persian Gulf. A third carrier group may be moving towards the Mediterranean.
- Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian broadcast a video message on Iranian state television apologizing to “neighbouring countries that were attacked.” Pezeshkian emphasised that a leadership decision had been issued to Iran’s armed forces “not to attack neighbouring countries unless attacked first”. Iranian attacks against Gulf targets have however continued.
- The number of Iranian missile and drone attacks has decreased. s9(2)(g)(i)

The majority of Iranian drone and missile strikes continue to be intercepted by air defenses.

- Israel is intensifying strikes and expanding its ground presence in southern Lebanon. Media reports suggest up to 900,000 people have been displaced in Lebanon, and some towns in northern Israel have been evacuated. 82 people have been killed and 536 injured in Lebanon, and one person injured in Israel. A United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) base was struck by Israel on 7 March, injuring three peacekeepers.
- US and Iranian officials are openly discussing the possibility of a ground incursion by US armed Kurdish separatists’ militias from Iraq and Iran. Kurdish militias are estimated to number only 150,000, s6(a) s9(2)(g)(i)

### Key assessments one week in (not for public commentary)

- s6(a)

RESTRICTED

s6(a)

### International responses

- **Germany's** Chancellor Merz has issued a statement, noting that Germany shares the US' goals of dismantling Iran's nuclear and missile programs, Tehran's threats against Israel, and Iran's support for terrorism and proxies. However, an endless war is not in Germany's interests.
- Our post in New York reports Bahrain (on behalf of the GCC) will convene a meeting of **UN Security Council** members today to discuss a draft Iran-focused resolution. While we have not seen a draft text, we anticipate the resolution may focus on Iran's attacks in the region, without addressing US and Israeli strikes. The resolution is likely to be opened to co-sponsorship to all Member States, including New Zealand.

### New Zealand's policy response, including key engagements for Ministers

- Minister Peters spoke with UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan (ABZ) at 11:30 Saturday 7 March. Minister Peter's confirmed New Zealand stood in full support for UAE. s6(b)(i)

Further calls with regional partners are planned for this week.

### Domestic security

- In the past 24 hours, Police have received two reports of threats/intimidation likely connected to the conflict: one targeting a Jewish event and one targeting an Iranian national. A pro-Palestine rally was held in Christchurch without issue.
- Police continue to provide support and reassurance to Diplomatic Missions, including the US, Israel, Iran, and UAE; and are conducting high visibility patrols around these sites. Community reassurance work continues, including high visibility patrolling and community interactions. Police are resourced to continue these activities for the foreseeable future.

## RESTRICTED

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **9:30AM Sunday 8 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3631**. Registrants in the UAE have increased to **2177**. **Most** others have also increased, including Qatar **469**, Saudi Arabia **442**, Jordan **52**, Kuwait **89**, Bahrain **72**, Iran **36**, Iraq **29**, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories **85**, Lebanon **25**, Egypt **117**, and Oman **38**.
- The Emergency Response Team is departing over the weekend, for Riyadh. MFAT is also deploying more staff to its posts in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.
- Immigration New Zealand has a dedicated webpage for temporary visa holders and new applicants. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran: Immigration New Zealand.](#)

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we continue to urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through SafeTravel messages, the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#).
- SafeTravel content published across Ministry social media channels (*including SafeTravel Facebook, and channels managed at Post*) has accumulated over **650,866** views to date (up from **548,837** yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional information on consular support

- The MFAT consular contact centre is operating 24/7 making use of our overseas network. Call volumes and email enquiries have risen as expected in response to the request for expressions of interest in possible Government support with departure. Calls have continued to seek clarification of timing and other details for NZDF flights.

### Update on flights

- Regional airspace disruption continues. Large portions of airspace are completely shut or operating under severe restrictions:
  - **Full airspace closures:** Iran, Iraq, Israel, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria.
  - **Restricted hubs:** Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, with intermittent shutdowns.
  - **Countries currently serving as safe corridors:** Oman, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt.
- Dubai International Airport was hit by a drone overnight, temporarily closing the airport and causing flight disruptions. No casualties were reported. Dubai International Airport is now open.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- Emirates and Etihad are increasing their flights, although the temporary closure of Dubai Airport disrupted a New Zealand-bound aircraft. Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are readily available. Emirates flights to Auckland and Christchurch are available to book through to 14 March. There are routes to New Zealand via Sydney and Melbourne with ample seat capacity.
- The situation in Qatar for stranded passengers is more uncertain. After announcing limited outbound flights, Qatar closed its safe operating corridor due to renewed Iranian attacks. A decision on airspace is expected at 0900 on 8 March Doha time (6pm today NZT).

### Assisted departures

- Preparation has begun to assist New Zealanders in some locations who cannot make arrangements to depart on commercial flights and need to travel urgently, to leave overland via other locations in the region. Two New Zealand Defence (NZDF) aircraft are also being deployed as a further contingency.
- An EOI process commenced 6 March for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify if they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE will have now received information on how to express interest in possible departure assistance. As at 1000NZT, 8 March, total EOI registrants are 242.
  - UAE 94
  - Qatar 113
  - Bahrain 19
  - Kuwait 16
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - s6(a)
    - Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable, and remain the best option for departure.
    - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
    - Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e. UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.
- The UK has had one evacuation flight from Muscat arrive in the UK, with two more scheduled, and dependants and nonessential staff have been drawn down from Manama and Baghdad. Consular rapid deployment teams are now active in Oman and Saudi Arabia.
- We are aware that likeminded partners are helping respective citizens cross land borders from Bahrain, Qatar and Kuwait to Riyadh and Muscat where commercial flights remain available. We are working with partner nations to determine the availability of those ground transport services for New Zealand citizens.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- **There continues to be** a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. **While markets are closed over the weekend, the media speculates that oil prices could increase to over US\$100 per barrel when markets open tomorrow.**
- **New Zealand** fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. MBIE is planning on publishing a summary of stock information publicly to provide clarity to the public.
- Treasury is leading economic agencies' monitoring of implications on the New Zealand economy. Their coordinated update of 8 March notes:
  - **The scale of the economic impact on New Zealand remains uncertain. It will depend on how the conflict evolves and how quickly conditions stabilise.**
  - **Oil prices have risen in response to the unrest. Higher prices are likely to flow through to fuel costs in New Zealand. A sustained increase in oil prices would put upward pressure on inflation.**
  - **There is a risk of broader supply-chain disruption if the conflict is prolonged. Any lasting interruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will have a bigger impact on global trade. Some shipping routes are already being adjusted, which reduces immediate risk, but is likely to add to transport costs. Insurance costs for maritime travel are also reportedly rising.**
  - **Treasury continues to monitor the impact on New Zealand households and businesses. It remains too early to identify what the overall impact will be.**

### NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

- s6(d)
  - **The Post remains closed and NZ based staff are working remotely.**
- Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Riyadh: New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, and NZDF staff are sheltering in place and in the case of Dubai and Riyadh are only visiting the posts to undertake essential tasks. MBIE seconded staff have departed Dubai and will work remotely. Some non-essential NZTE staff have also departed Dubai and will work remotely. **MPI and NZDF staff remain in-country.** The posts are closed to the public but remain operational. Ankara and Cairo business operations continue as normal.
- **Deployment of MFAT support staff to the Middle East:**
  - **Abu Dhabi - A MFAT staff member has been deployed to ABD to backfill our post and is due to land at Dubai International Airport at 2pm today NZT. There are no disruptions to their flights following the strike that occurred at the airport overnight.**
  - **Riyadh - A team of five MFAT staff will deploy to RIY leaving New Zealand tonight (Sunday NZT). They will support possible movements of New Zealanders over land borders to Riyadh (from Bahrain, Kuwait, or Qatar) or to Muscat, Oman (from the UAE, if there is a need in the coming days).**

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

NZDF DEPLOYMENTS IN THE REGION

- s6(a)

- The NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change. The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities. Focus for the NZDF now is to resume mission outputs as soon as possible.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

NEW ZEALAND AGENCY RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT).

NEW ZEALAND MEDIA

No media queries were received yesterday (Saturday 7 March).

- 7 March - [Applause at Auckland Airport as flight arrives from Dubai | RNZ News](#)
- 7 March - [Defence Force plane leaves for Middle East to help New Zealanders stranded by conflict | RNZ News](#)
- 7 March - [Iranian diaspora form human chain on Wellington waterfront | RNZ News](#)

WELLINGTON MCC KEY ROLES & CONTACT INFORMATION

Sunday 8 March, Shift 1: 0700-1500 (NZT)

MFAT Incident Controller	<a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a>	Nicci Simmonds	s9(2)(a)
MFAT Response Manager	<a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)
Consular Response Manager	<a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	
MFAT Policy Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	

**RESTRICTED**

SafeTravel Management & Call Scripts Lead	<a href="mailto:CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz">CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	
PIM (Media) Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	

**Sunday 8 March, Shift 2: 1500-2200 (NZT)**

MFAT Incident Controller	<a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)
MFAT Response Manager	<a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
Consular Response Manager	<a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
MFAT Policy Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
SafeTravel Management & Call Scripts Lead	<a href="mailto:CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz">CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
PIM (Media) Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz</a>		

**Monday 9 March, Shift 1: 0700-1500 (NZT)**

MFAT Incident Controller	<a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a>	s9(2)(g)(ii), s9(2)(a)	s9(2)(a)
MFAT Response Manager	<a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
Consular Response Manager	<a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
MFAT Policy Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.policyoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
SafeTravel Management & Call Scripts Lead	<a href="mailto:CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz">CON.Operations@mfat.govt.nz</a>		
PIM (Media) Lead	<a href="mailto:MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PIM@mfat.govt.nz</a>		

<b>Response Operations</b>	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-2pm, 2pm-10pm (NZT).                  The NZ-based consular response will operate between 8am – 12am (NZT)</p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u>                  For general enquires: MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479</p>
----------------------------	--

RESTRICTED

Incident Controller: [MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz)  
Response manager: [MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz)  
Intel: [MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz)  
Consular: [con.planning@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:con.planning@mfat.govt.nz); [CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz)  
Trade: [mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz)  
Middle East policy cell: [MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz](mailto:MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz)

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 09/03 0545**

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESTRICTED

## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation

### Situation Report #15 – 1200 Monday 9 March

#### KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - UNCLASSIFIED

##### *International Messaging*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that continues to rapidly evolve.
- Civilians are being directly impacted, and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours are dangerous and unacceptable
- We urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution that returns Iran to the community of nations. We also firmly believe the Iranian people must be allowed to determine their future.

##### *Consular Messaging*

- New Zealanders who can, should leave the region on commercial flights or by road now. That will be the fastest way to safety. Commercial flights are operating out of UAE and Saudi Arabia, and there are seats available.
- The Government is working around the clock on plans to assist Kiwis stranded in the region. Response teams are on their way to support this effort.
- The work is focused on overland options to support Kiwis to leave Qatar, Bahrain and Kuwait. MFAT has contacted New Zealanders in these countries who have expressed interested in Government assisted departure. What help we can provide will depend on factors including the security environment and cooperation of foreign governments.

##### *Economic Implications*

- The economic impact on New Zealand will depend on how the conflict evolves and how quickly conditions stabilise. The longer it drags out, the bigger the consequences.
- Our exporters have faced a lot of volatility over the last few years and have shown themselves to be very adaptable, taking advantage of the work the government is doing to open doors by negotiating rules, removing non-tariff barriers and diversifying markets to build resilience. Agencies are in direct contact with affected sectors to ensure they have accurate, up-to-date information and access to any technical assistance they need.
- The Government (MFAT, NZTE, MPIE, MPI, MoT) convened an Exporters Webinar on Friday with around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders to outline New Zealand's response and the trade and economic impacts of the conflict. The discussion centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage. More webinars are planned as necessary.
- The Ministry of Transport will meet with Freight Advisory Council in the coming week to discuss the potential economic impacts and freight disruptions caused by the conflict.
- MPI is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route, for example by providing new certification and facilitating the return or redirection of product. MPI has issued guidance to sector exporters to assist with this process. In general, due to seasonality, the effect on primary sector exports is not yet significant at a macro level, but will increase as the conflict continues. At this stage, the most impacted sector is dairy. MPI has an active plan with the industry to manage action required.

**END OF PUBLIC MESSAGES. SITREP CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.**

## RESTRICTED

### KEY POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS \* *internal use*

- s6(a) S 6 Strikes on Iran continue, with key infrastructure such as oil depots and refining facilities targeted in Tehran. Dense smoke has engulfed Tehran with sources on the ground reporting highly toxic rain across the city. The UN has advised residents to stay indoors until it stops. Iran has claimed a strike on Israel's Haifa refinery.
- Iranian media reports the death toll in Iran has risen to 1,332 people with an additional 700+ injured. A seventh US soldier has died, after an attack on US troops in Saudi Arabia. 11 people have died in total across the Gulf and 11 in Israel since the conflict began.
- Israel is intensifying strikes, with the first attack on the Beirut city centre overnight, and expanding its ground presence in southern Lebanon. Up to 900,000 people have been displaced and 339 people have been killed in Lebanon.
- Iran's Assembly of Experts has announced the former Supreme Leader's son, Mojtaba Khamenei, as the new Supreme Leader. s9(2)(g)(i) President Trump has said that without US approval, whoever is picked is "not going to last long".
- s9(2)(g)(i) . The head of the IDF called for patience, warning that the war and state of emergency within Israel could last "much longer" but noting that it "will shape our future for years".
- President Trump appears to have changed his position on supporting Kurdish military action in Iran. s6(a)
- Multiple US news outlets have reported that the US and Israel are considering a special forces ground operation to seize Iran's enriched uranium. The Israeli Ambassador to the US told US media that securing the nuclear fuel is "on our radar screen and we're going to take care of it".
- An Iranian drone aimed at the diplomatic quarter in Riyadh s6(a) was intercepted overnight.

### Key assessments one week in (not for public commentary)

- s6(a)

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

s6(a)

### International responses

- **Australia** is considering providing military aid to Middle Eastern countries hit by Iranian strikes but will not participate in offensive actions. This is similar to the UK's approach; the UK is providing limited defensive support only. Foreign Minister Wong on Sunday confirmed that Australia has been asked for assistance and is working through the request. Wong was clear that Australia would not be participating in any ground offensive into Iran.
- **China's** Foreign Minister Wang Yi has told media the strikes on Iran "should never have happened" and called for an "immediate" end to hostilities as well as a return to negotiations. He also said that he believes there is no popular support for regime change in Iran.

- s6(b)(i)

- s6(b)(i)  
s9(2)(g)(i)

### New Zealand's policy response, including key engagements for Ministers

- Minister Peters was scheduled to speak with Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia at 8am this morning. Further details will be provided when available.
- The Ministry is working on letters to the GCC Member States expressing New Zealand's solidarity. These will be signed out by the Prime Minister or Foreign Minister.

### Domestic security

- On Saturday 7 March six protests related to the Middle East conflict occurred. No counter-protest activity or incidents of note were identified. A high level of tension remains between communities impacted by the Middle East conflict. It is highly likely that threats will continue to be made between pro-conflict and anti-conflict supporters.
- Police continue to provide support and reassurance to Diplomatic Missions, including the US, Israel, Iran, and UAE; and are conducting high visibility patrols around these sites. Community reassurance work continues, including high visibility patrolling and community interactions. Police are resourced to continue these activities for the foreseeable future.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **9:00am Monday 9 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel has grown to **3694**. Registrants in the UAE have increased to **2213**. **Current numbers are:** Qatar **484**, Saudi Arabia **441**, Jordan **57**, Kuwait **91**, Bahrain **75**, Iran **36**, Iraq **30**, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories **84**, Lebanon **25**, Egypt **121**, and Oman **37**.
- The Emergency Response Team **is scheduled to arrive in Riyadh at 9:30pm NZT Monday**. MFAT is also deploying more staff to its posts in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.
- Immigration New Zealand has a dedicated webpage for temporary visa holders and new applicants. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran: Immigration New Zealand](#).

### Update on flights

- Regional airspace disruption continues. Large portions of airspace are completely shut or operating under severe restrictions, **others are partially or completely re-opening, including Jordan, Israel and Qatar**.
  - **Full airspace closures:** Iran, Iraq, Israel, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria.
  - **Restricted hubs:** Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Doha, with intermittent shutdowns.
  - **Countries currently open/serving as safe corridors:** Oman, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, **Jordan, Israel**.
- Emirates and Etihad are increasing their flights. Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are readily available. Emirates flights to Auckland and Christchurch **are next scheduled to depart on Tuesday 10 March and** are available to book through to 14 March. There are routes to New Zealand via Sydney and Melbourne with ample seat capacity.
- Qatar **is operating the QR900 service from Doha – Perth on 9 March, but has not yet confirmed the resumption of QR920 flight from Doha to Auckland**. Qatar partially re-opened its airspace on Friday and there were repatriation flights, predominantly to Europe, on Saturday and Sunday.
- s9(2)(ba)(i)

### Assisted departures

- An EOI process commenced 6 March for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify if they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE will have now received information on how to express interest in possible departure assistance. As at **10:00am NZT, Monday 9 March** total EOI registrants are **276**.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- UAE 120
- Qatar 119
- Bahrain 20
- Kuwait 13
- Saudi Arabia 4
- Preparation has progressed to assist New Zealanders in some locations who cannot make arrangements to depart on commercial flights and need to travel urgently, to leave overland via other locations in the region. Planning is in place for buses to transport stranded New Zealanders from Qatar and Bahrain to Riyadh. This is scheduled for Wednesday 11 March (NZT).
- Five New Zealanders were scheduled to depart from Kuwait at 7:00pm NZT Monday 9 March, on an s6(b)(i) bus to Riyadh.
- NZDF personnel have arrived in s6(a) to support the overland departures, working with the ERT. Two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) aircraft have also been deployed to the region as a further contingency.
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - s6(a)
  - Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable, and remain the best option for departure.
  - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
  - Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e. UAE, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

### Update from FVEY Consular call (9:00am Monday 9 March)

- s6(b)(i)

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we continue to urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through SafeTravel messages, the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#).
- As at 9:40am Monday 9 March, SafeTravel content published across Ministry social media channels (including SafeTravel Facebook, and channels managed at Post) has accumulated over 691,801 views to date (up from 650,866 yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional information on consular support

- The MFAT consular contact centre is operating 24/7 making use of our overseas network. Call volumes and email enquiries have risen as expected in response to the request for expressions of interest in possible Government support with departure. Calls have continued to seek clarification of timing and other details for NZDF flights.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- An Exporters Webinar hosted by MFAT and NZTE with support from MBIE, MPI, and MoT, was held on Friday. The Webinar was attended by around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders and provided an overview of New Zealand's response and the trade and economic impacts of the conflict. Agency representatives answered questions from attendees, which centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage. Answers to questions that were not answered during the webinar will be sent directly to exporters. Plans are underway for a follow-up webinar.
- A Market Intelligence Report on the trade and economic impacts of the conflict was posted on MFAT's website. The report is available here: [Trade and economic implications of the Iran conflict | New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
- Treasury is leading economic agencies' monitoring of implications on the New Zealand economy. Their coordinated update of 8 March notes:
  - The scale of the economic impact on New Zealand remains uncertain. It will depend on how the conflict evolves and how quickly conditions stabilise.
  - Oil prices have risen in response to the unrest. Higher prices are likely to flow through to fuel costs in New Zealand. A sustained increase in oil prices would put upward pressure on inflation.
  - There is a risk of broader supply-chain disruption if the conflict is prolonged. Any lasting interruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will have a bigger impact on global trade. Some shipping routes are already being adjusted, which reduces immediate risk, but is likely to add to transport costs. Insurance costs for maritime travel are also reportedly rising.
  - Treasury continues to monitor the impact on New Zealand households and businesses. It remains too early to identify what the overall impact will be.
- There continues to be a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. While markets are closed over the weekend, the media speculates that oil prices could increase to over US\$100 per barrel when markets open **at midday New Zealand time. The US Energy Secretary stated on 8 March that restoring flows could take "weeks, not months," contingent on degrading Iran's missile/drone capabilities.**
- **With tanker movements through the Strait largely halted, several Gulf producers have begun cutting back oil production, including Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates. Major storage facilities in Saudi**

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

Arabia and the UAE are filling up fast, with both countries expected to hit their limits within three weeks.

- New Zealand fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. Fuel importers report healthy stock levels and shipments are proceeding as scheduled. Current stock levels as at 4 March are available on the MBIE website and will be updated weekly on Wednesdays: [Impact of the Middle East conflict on our fuel security](#). MBIE is actively assessing the situation and is in contact with fuel companies, including convening the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity to facilitate information exchange.
- The Ministry of Transport will convene a meeting of the Freight Advisory Council in the coming week to help understand the potential economic impacts and freight disruptions caused by the conflict. <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- MPI is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route, for example by providing new certification and facilitating the return or redirection of product. MPI has issued [guidance](#) to sector exporters to assist with this process.
- In general, due to seasonality, the effect on primary sector exports is not yet significant at a macro level, but will increase as the conflict continues. At this stage, the most impacted sector is dairy. MPI has an active plan with the industry to manage action required.
- MPI anticipates an uptick in support requirements as shipments are further disrupted. For example, exporters are expecting containers to begin being offloaded in different global locations; this will possibly require new certification and official assurances.

### NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

- <sup>s6(d)</sup>
- Abu Dhabi and Dubai: New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, and NZDF staff are sheltering in place and only visiting the post in Abu Dhabi to undertake essential tasks. MBIE seconded staff have departed Dubai and will work remotely. Some non-essential NZTE staff have also departed Dubai and will work remotely. MPI and NZDF staff remain in-country. The posts are closed to the public but remain operational. An MFAT staff member deployed from New Zealand arrived safely in Abu Dhabi yesterday (Sunday) to backfill the post.
- Riyadh: The post will reopen to the public today (Monday) and local staff have been asked to return to work. The Second Secretary has been deployed to the Saudi border with Kuwait with an Embassy driver to support the bus repatriation of New Zealanders from Kuwait City to Riyadh. A team of four MFAT staff from New Zealand is on route to Riyadh, due to arrive Tuesday morning (NZ time). They will support possible movements of New Zealanders over land borders to Riyadh (from Bahrain, Kuwait, or Qatar) or to Muscat, Oman (from the UAE, if there is a need in the coming days).

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- **Ankara and Cairo: Business operations continue as normal.**

**NZDF DEPLOYMENTS IN THE REGION**

- s6(a)

- The NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change. The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities. Focus for the NZDF now is to resume mission outputs as soon as possible.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

**NEW ZEALAND AGENCY RESPONSE AND COORDINATION**

- Government agencies are maintaining a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT).

**NEW ZEALAND MEDIA**

**8 March** - [Azaria Howell: Government launches humanitarian mission to Middle East](#)

**9 March** - [Foreign Minister says the government's not contemplating giving military help in the Middle East](#) [RNZ, audio]

**9 March** - [Commerce Commission to call out unfair fuel pricing as oil costs soar](#) | BusinessDesk

**9 March** - Mike Hosking Breakfast (Prime Minister's comments on war in Middle East, fuel supply and prices) [Newstalk ZB, audio – from 2.43]

**9 March** - [Hercules takes off as NZ readies for possible Mideast evacuation](#)

<b>Response Operations</b>	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-3pm, 2pm-10pm (NZT).          The NZ-based consular response will operate between 8am – 12am (NZT)</p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u>          For general enquires: MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479          Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a>          Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>          Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a>          Consular: <a href="mailto:con.planning@mfat.govt.nz">con.planning@mfat.govt.nz</a>; <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a>          Trade &amp; Economic: <a href="mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz">mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a>          Middle East policy cell: <a href="mailto:MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz</a></p>
----------------------------	---

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 10/03 1200**

RESTRICTED

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESTRICTED

## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation

### Situation Report #16 – 1200 Tuesday 10 March

#### KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - UNCLASSIFIED

##### *International Messaging*

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that continues to rapidly evolve.
- **We are concerned about the increasing death toll.** Civilians are being directly impacted and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours are dangerous and unacceptable.
- We urge the Iranian leadership to seek a negotiated solution.
- **Consular Messaging**
  - New Zealanders who can, should leave the region on commercial flights or by road now. That will be the fastest way to safety. Commercial flights are operating out of UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman, **and it's good to know that Kiwis have been getting out on these flights overnight. Flights are also beginning to operate from Qatar.**
  - The Government is working around the clock on plans to assist Kiwis stranded in the region. **Response teams are now in the region to support this effort.**
  - **With thanks to assistance from Australia, a first group of Kiwis were able to depart Kuwait overland to Riyadh overnight.**
  - Work is now focused on overland options to support Kiwis to leave Qatar and Bahrain, as well as any remaining Kiwis wishing to depart Kuwait. MFAT has contacted New Zealanders in these countries who have expressed interest in Government assisted departure. What help we can provide will depend on factors including the security environment and cooperation of foreign governments.

##### *Economic Implications*

- The economic impact on New Zealand will depend on how the conflict evolves and how quickly conditions stabilise. The longer it drags out, the bigger the consequences.
- **The first meeting of the Ministerial Oversight Group on Economic Security and Supply Chains will be held on Wednesday evening. While MBIE expects the initial focus to be on fuel supply, it is anticipated that the scope will cover other supply chain matters of key goods and wider transport and shipping developments over time.**
- Our exporters have faced a lot of volatility over the last few years and have shown themselves to be very adaptable, taking advantage of the work the government is doing to open doors by negotiating rules, removing non-tariff barriers and diversifying markets to build resilience. Agencies are in direct contact with affected sectors to ensure they have accurate, up-to-date information and access to any technical assistance they need.
- The Ministry of Transport will meet with Freight Advisory Council this week to discuss the potential economic impacts and freight disruptions caused by the conflict.
- MPI continues to assist primary sectors to manage disruptions to consignments en route, for example by providing new certification and facilitating the return or redirection of product. At this stage, the most impacted export sector is dairy. MPI has an active plan with the industry to manage **any** action required.

**END OF PUBLIC MESSAGES. SITREP CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.**

## RESTRICTED

### NEW ZEALAND AGENCY RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

Government agencies continue to coordinate daily, including a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT).

- Cabinet has established a Ministerial Oversight Group on Economic Security and Supply Chains, comprising the Minister of Finance, Minister for Energy, Associate Minister for Energy and Minister for Trade and Investment. The Group will hold its first meeting on Wednesday evening, supported by MBIE as lead agency.
- Treasury continues to lead economic agencies' monitoring of implications for the New Zealand economy.
- MPI is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route.
- New Zealand Police are actively monitoring the conflict's impact on social cohesion and domestic security and are maintaining elevated patrolling and community interactions.
- Our next sitrep will provide a list of policy responses underway within key agencies

### KEY POLITICAL AND MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

- President Trump told media "I think the war is very complete, pretty much ... very far ahead of schedule" and that Iran has "no navy, no communications, they've got no air force" and that their missiles are "down to a scatter". When asked if he thinks the war could be over soon, he said "wrapping up is all in my mind".
- G7 nations have said they are ready to take "necessary measures to support the global supply of energy" Agreement was not reached at a G7 International Energy Agency meeting on whether to release strategic crude reserves, but talks were reported to be positive and they will meet again today. The US has argued for a joint release of 300 - 400 million barrels, representing 25% to 30% of all barrels in reserve.
- Iranian retaliation against Gulf countries continues. The UAE experienced a significant drop in drones over the past 24 hours, with only 18 drones launched in the last 24 hours (compared to 117 the previous day).
- Israel is intensifying strikes and expanding its ground presence in southern Lebanon. The Government of Lebanon has called for direct peace talks with Israel and accused Hezbollah of betraying the country.
- NATO air defenses intercepted and destroyed an Iranian ballistic missile that had entered Türkiye airspace, risking a further expansion of the conflict.
- France's President Macron has announced he is preparing, with partners, a future 'purely defensive' mission to reopen the Strait of Hormuz and escorting ships to allow for easing of the flow of oil and gas.
- The US and Israel are reportedly examining additional measures aimed at increasing pressure on the IRGC (and its revenue streams). This includes the possibility of taking control of Kharg Island, Iran's most valuable oil export terminal, which deals with approximately 90% of Iran's crude oil exports.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

s6(a)

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

- s6(b)(i)
- **EU** foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has affirmed Israel's right to self defense against Hezbollah, while noting that Israel's response has been "heavy-handed" and is causing mass displacement and further destabilising a fragile region."
- **The EU Economy Commissioner** warned that a long war risks a "stagflationary shock" to the world economy. He said that a conflict contained within a couple of weeks would not have a major effect on the global and European economy, but if it becomes "more protracted" with continued maritime disruption and attacks on Gulf energy infrastructure, it will cause a shock to the global economy through higher prices.
- The **Saudi Arabia** Foreign Ministry has issued a statement reiterating "unequivocal condemnation" of Iranian aggression against Saudi Arabia and GCC states. It emphasizes that Iran has not ceased its attacks on neighboring countries, despite earlier stating that it would do so, and refutes Iran's claim that Saudi aircraft conducting defensive patrols against Iranian missiles and drones in Saudi airspace have participated in the war.
- s6(b)(i)  
s9(2)(g)(i)

### DOMESTIC SECURITY

- The New Zealand Police are actively monitoring the conflict's impact on social cohesion and national security. They are maintaining elevated patrolling and community interactions.
- Police are aware of a 'No War with Iran Protest,' scheduled for Wednesday 11 March in Auckland. There is a stated intent by Pro-Iranian freedom groups to peacefully counter protest.
- Some indications of growing tensions between pro-monarchy and pro-democracy Iranian groups are noted. Police continue to monitor this activity.
- Police continue to provide support and reassurance to Diplomatic Missions, including the US, Israel, Iran, and UAE. High visibility patrols have been mobilized and are also being conducted around these sites.
- Police are resourced to continue these activities for the foreseeable future.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **9:00am Tuesday 10 March NZT**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel is **3691** (down slightly from 3694 yesterday). Current numbers are: UAE **2218**, Qatar **488**, Saudi Arabia **447**, Jordan **59**, Kuwait **94**, Bahrain **74**, Iran **37**, Iraq **31**, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories **81**, Lebanon **25**, Egypt **98**, and Oman **39**.
- The Emergency Response Team **arrived safely** in Riyadh on **Tuesday morning NZT**. MFAT is also deploying more staff to its posts in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.
- Immigration New Zealand has a dedicated webpage for temporary visa holders and new applicants. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran: Immigration New Zealand.](#)

### Update on flights

- Regional airspace disruption continues. Large portions of airspace are completely shut or operating under severe restrictions, others are partially or completely re-opening, including Jordan, Israel, and Qatar.
  - **Full airspace closures:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria.
  - **Partially open/Restricted hubs:** Qatar, UAE, **Lebanon**.
  - **Countries currently open/serving as safe corridors:** Oman, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan, Israel.
- Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are readily available. **Emirates flights from Dubai to Auckland and Christchurch departed on Monday 9 March** s9(2)(ba)(i)  
The Auckland and Christchurch flights are both scheduled to depart on Tuesday 10 March and are available to book through to 14 March. **Emirates services to Sydney, Melbourne and Perth are all operating on Tuesday 10 March, with onwards travel to New Zealand possible.**
- **Etihad has resumed limited commercial flights, but the Abu Dhabi to Sydney and Melbourne flights are not operating on Tuesday 10 March.**
- **Qatar Airways flight QR900 arrived in Perth early Tuesday morning local time with 13 New Zealanders on board. The service is not operating on Tuesday. There is no confirmation of the resumption of the direct Doha to Auckland flight. Qatar partially re-opened its airspace on Friday and is gradually increasing the number of repatriation flights departing Doha. Scheduled commercial flights remain suspended.**
- s9(2)(ba)(i)

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### Assisted departures

- An EOI process commenced 6 March for SafeTravel registrants in certain locations to self-identify if they require assistance to move to a location where commercial flight options out of the region are available. SafeTravel registrants in Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, and the UAE will have now received information on how to express interest in possible departure assistance. As at 10:00am NZT, Tuesday 10 March total EOI registrants are 275.
  - UAE 117
  - Qatar 115
  - Bahrain 11
  - Kuwait 19
  - Saudi Arabia 13
- Preparations have progressed to assist New Zealanders in some locations who cannot make arrangements to depart on commercial flights and need to travel urgently, to leave overland via other locations in the region. Planning is in place for buses to transport stranded New Zealanders from Qatar and Bahrain to Riyadh. This is scheduled for Wednesday 11 March (NZT), although the Qatar departure may be delayed by 24 hours due to logistics. Limited commercial flights are also resuming from Qatar, which may provide an alternative pathway for Kiwis wanting to leave.
- Up to 25 Australian Citizens are anticipated to join the assisted departure movement from Bahrain on Wednesday. Australia sent out Safe Travel messaging on 9 March notifying Australians of the registration deadline for New Zealand's bus movement.
- Three New Zealand citizens were repatriated from Kuwait City to Riyadh today on an <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup> along with one New Zealand Permanent Resident and their partner (a US citizen). <sup>s6(a)</sup>
- We continue to encourage New Zealanders in the UAE and Saudi Arabia to depart on commercial flights.
- New Zealand's diplomatic Posts in the Pacific have been tasked to check with hosts (in particular Fiji and Tonga) whether any of Pacific nationals need assistance, especially in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar.
- NZDF personnel have arrived in <sup>s6(a)</sup> to support the overland departures, working with the ERT. Two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) aircraft have also been deployed to the region as a further contingency.
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - <sup>s6(a)</sup>

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable and remain the best option for departure.
- Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.
- Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e., UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we continue to urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through SafeTravel messages, the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#).
- As at **10:00am Tuesday 10 March**, SafeTravel content published across Ministry social media channels (including SafeTravel Facebook, and channels managed at Post) has accumulated over **972,550** views to date (up from **691,801** yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional information on consular support

- The MFAT consular contact centre is operating 24/7. Call volumes and email enquiries have risen as expected in response to the request for expressions of interest in possible Government support with departure.

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- An Exporters Webinar, hosted by MFAT and NZTE with support from MBIE, MPI and MoT, was held last Friday. The Webinar was attended by around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders. Questions centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage. Answers to questions that were not answered during the webinar **will be sent directly** to exporters. **The next webinar will be held next week.**
- **Cabinet has directed MBIE to support a new Oversight Group on supply chains and economic security implications from the evolving Middle East situation (with Hon Willis to chair). The group will comprise of Ministers' Watts (Energy), Minister Jones (Assoc. Energy), Minister Simpson (Commerce and Consumer Affairs), and Minister McClay (Trade and Investment). The first meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 8pm (11th March 2026).**
- **While MBIE expects the initial focus to be on fuel supply, it is anticipated that the scope will cover other supply chain matters of key goods and wider transport and shipping developments over time.**
- Treasury is leading economic agencies' monitoring of implications on the New Zealand economy. Their coordinated update notes:

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- Oil prices have risen in response to the unrest. Higher prices are likely to flow through to fuel costs in New Zealand. Media speculates that petrol will rise above \$4 a litre. A sustained increase in oil prices would put upward pressure on inflation.
- There is a risk of broader supply-chain disruption if the conflict is prolonged. Any lasting interruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will have a bigger impact on global trade. Some shipping routes are already being adjusted, which reduces immediate risk, but is likely to add to transport costs. Insurance costs for maritime travel are also reportedly rising.
- Treasury continues to monitor the impact on New Zealand households and businesses. It remains too early to identify what the overall impact will be.
- There continues to be a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. **As speculated, oil prices have surged to over US\$100 a barrel.** The US Energy Secretary stated on 8 March that restoring flows could take “weeks, not months,” contingent on degrading Iran’s missile/drone capabilities.
- With tanker movements through the Strait largely halted, several Gulf producers have begun cutting back oil production, including Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates. Major storage facilities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are filling up fast, with both countries expected to hit their limits within three weeks.
- New Zealand fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. Fuel importers report healthy stock levels and shipments are proceeding as scheduled. Current stock levels as at 4 March are available on the MBIE website and will be updated weekly on Wednesdays: [Impact of the Middle East conflict on our fuel security](#).
- **The Ministry of Transport will consider convening a special meeting of the Freight Advisory Council to support shared understandings of emerging impacts and to coordinate insights across agencies. The Ministry will include MFAT, the Treasury, and MBIE (Fuels) to ensure a comprehensive view of risks, sector observations, and information needs, including those relevant to their engagement with members and other stakeholders.**
- The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route.
  - **Initial impact estimates of consignments received from most primary sectors; red meat data pending (expected later this week).**
    - **880 consignments disrupted by shipping issues (excl. red meat); s9(2)(ba)(i)**
    - **At this stage, the most impacted sector is dairy. MPI has an active plan with the industry to manage actions required.**
  - **122 certificate replacement requests have been lodged (28 Feb–9 Mar), up from 42 in same period last year.**
    - **The spike likely reflects conflict-related rerouting; further increases expected this week.**
    - **The MPI Certification Unit is prepared for an anticipated surge in requests.**
  - **MPI is progressing contingency processes for additional storage facilities.**
  - **s9(2)(ba)(i)**

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- MPI anticipates an uptick in support requirements as shipments are further disrupted.
- The conflict is also having considerable impact on Asia's macroeconomic outlook primarily impacting their energy transport and logistics rather than facing any direct oil supply losses. Asia and the Pacific are particularly exposed being the world's largest energy-importing region, and a central hub of global manufacturing and trade. The key issue to consider is not the initial shock, but whether transport disruption and volatility persist and how this will impact New Zealand.

### NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

- s6(d)
- Abu Dhabi and Dubai: New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, and NZDF are sheltering in place. The posts are closed to the public but remain operational. s9(2)(a)
- Riyadh: Reopened in person on Monday 9 March. The post will continue to review posture in line with the security situation. Four MFAT staff from New Zealand have arrived in Riyadh to coordinate movement of New Zealanders crossing into Saudi Arabia via Bahrain and Qatar. Two additional staff members will deploy shortly to provide further backfill. s9(2)(a)

### NZDF DEPLOYMENTS IN THE REGION

- s6(a)
- The NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change. The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities. Focus for the NZDF now is to resume mission outputs as soon as possible.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

### NEW ZEALAND MEDIA

10 March - [How much fuel does NZ have - and what happens if we run out? | RNZ News](#)

10 March - [Kiwis in Tehran warned of toxic hazards following US-Israel strikes | RNZ News](#)

10 March - [Air NZ warns of price hikes, schedule changes if Iran war continues](#)

10 March - [Government open to scrapping 12 cent fuel tax hike next year if conditions worsen - NZ Herald](#)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

<b>Response Operations</b>	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-3pm, 2pm-10pm (NZT). The NZ-based consular response will operate <b>24/7 for the remainder of this week, and will then be reviewed.</b></p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u> For general enquires: MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479 Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> Consular: <a href="mailto:con.planning@mfat.govt.nz">con.planning@mfat.govt.nz</a>; <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Trade &amp; Economic: <a href="mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz">mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a> Middle East policy cell: <a href="mailto:MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz</a></p>
----------------------------	---

**NEXT SITREP DUE: 11/03 1200**

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

## US/Israel/Iran Conflict Situation

## Situation Report #17 – 1200 Wednesday 11 March

**KEY PUBLIC MESSAGES FOR MINISTERS (AND USE BY OFFSHORE POSTS) - UNCLASSIFIED*****International Messaging***

- This is a complex and dangerous situation that continues to rapidly evolve.
- We are concerned about the increasing death toll. Civilians are being directly impacted and must be protected. International law, including international humanitarian law, must be upheld.
- Iran's ongoing retaliatory attacks on its neighbours are dangerous and unacceptable.

***Economic Implications***

- Jet fuel prices have risen sharply, resulting in higher airfares. While airlines are absorbing increased costs for tickets already sold, sustained elevated fuel prices are expected to trigger further fare adjustments. These pressures could dampen demand for long-haul travel to destinations such as New Zealand.
- Fuel market conditions are tightening across the region. Storage constraints in Saudi Arabia are worsening, with key terminals nearing operational limits, raising the risk of further production curtailment. The US has reportedly granted Indian refiners a 30-day waiver to purchase Russian crude, with India securing 20 million barrels—equivalent to a day's typical throughput of the Strait of Hormuz.
- New Zealand fuel companies report no immediate supply issues. Importers continue to hold healthy stock levels, and scheduled shipments are proceeding as planned. MBIE's weekly fuel stock updates (most recently from 4 March) continue to show stable national levels.
- Across the wider region, the Asia-Pacific fuel supply chain is facing increasing strain, with import programmes now heavily reliant on existing contractual arrangements. Export restrictions have already been introduced in China and Vietnam, with South Korea considering similar steps. Several markets in Asia are reducing export availability due to domestic priorities and refinery constraints, adding further pressure to regional supply stability.
- MBIE is holding regular meetings with the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity to facilitate information exchange. The Ministerial Oversight Group will hold its first meeting at 20:00 this evening.
- We expect a short-term decline in tourist arrivals in New Zealand in April, particularly from the UK and Germany, as uncertainty driven by Middle East travel disruptions affects confidence. Routes through the region remain unstable. Airlines report strong demand for flights via the US and Asia, likely reflecting rerouting rather than new demand. It is too early to assess the medium-term impacts on tourism

***Consular Messaging***

- New Zealanders who can, should leave the region on commercial flights or by road now. That will be the fastest way to safety. Commercial flights are operating out of UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman, and it's good to know that Kiwis have been getting out on these flights overnight. Flights are also beginning to operate from Qatar. The Government is working around the clock on plans to assist Kiwis stranded in the region. Response teams are now in the region to support this effort.
- Work is now focused on overland options to support Kiwis to leave Qatar and Bahrain, as well as any remaining Kiwis wishing to depart Kuwait. MFAT has contacted New Zealanders in these countries who have expressed interest in Government assisted departure. What help we can provide will depend on factors including the security environment and cooperation of foreign governments.

**END OF PUBLIC MESSAGES. SITREP CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE.**

## RESTRICTED

### NEW ZEALAND AGENCY RESPONSE AND COORDINATION

Government agencies continue to coordinate daily, including a daily stand-up at 9am (led by MFAT).

- The Ministerial Oversight Group on Economic Security and Supply Chains will hold its first meeting at 20:00 this evening. It comprises the Minister of Finance, Minister for Energy, Associate Minister for Energy and Minister for Trade and Investment.
- Treasury continues to lead economic agencies' monitoring of implications for the New Zealand economy.
- MBIE is holding regular meetings with the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity to facilitate information exchange.
- MPI is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route.
- New Zealand Police are actively monitoring the conflict's impact on social cohesion and domestic security and are maintaining elevated patrolling and community interactions.
- Forthcoming sitreps will provide a list of policy responses underway within key agencies.

### KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- After saying Tuesday morning (US time), that "the war is very much complete", President Trump said Tuesday evening "we could call it a tremendous success right now...or we could go further. And we're going to go further". US military operations however continue at full pace. In a separate briefing, Secretary Hegseth said "today will be yet again our most intense day of strikes inside Iran". Sources in Tehran report significantly heavy bombardment since the war began overnight.
- There are suggestions Iran has begun laying mines in the Strait of Hormuz. The mining is reportedly not extensive yet, with a few dozen having been laid in recent days. President Trump has called on Iran to remove any mines immediately.
- The International Energy Agency (IEA) will hold an extraordinary meeting today to discuss making emergency stocks of oil available to the market. Unless there is any objection from a member country, the decision will come into effect at 1pm tomorrow CET (0100am Thursday NZT). MBIE assess it is likely the release will be approved.
  - s9(2)(g)(i) . Countries will have flexibility in how they contribute and the timing of when they contribute. MBIE will transact this process with responsible ministers.
- Brent crude oil futures surged to more than \$119 on Monday 9 March but dropped back to \$85.90 as at 07:20 NZT on 11 March (now up \$13.9 or 18% since the conflict began).
- However, volatility is likely to persist, with further reports of production costs across the Middle East, while the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed.
- s6(a)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

o s6(a)

- The US is moving parts of a THAAD air defence system from South Korea to the Middle East. South Korea's President said Tuesday that while he opposes any relocation of THAAD to the Middle East, the US is unlikely to accept his position. Media reports indicate the US is also moving stocks of Patriot interceptors from the Indo-Pacific to the Middle East.
- Australia has announced a package of military support for the defence of the UAE and other Gulf states, including an E-7A Wedgetail surveillance aircraft for an initial mission of 4 weeks. Australia will also provide the UAE with stocks of air-to-air missiles. s6(a)

Australia has also stressed it has no intention of escalating the conflict or taking offensive action against Iran.

- Australia has granted humanitarian visas to five members of the Iranian women's football team who sought asylum after they were labelled "wartime traitors" by Iranian leadership for refusing to sing their national anthem before a game

s6(a)

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

s6(a)

### ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- An Exporters Webinar, hosted by MFAT and NZTE with support from MBIE, MPI and MoT, was held last Friday. The Webinar was attended by around 850 exporters and trade stakeholders. Questions centered around supply chain disruptions, flight connectivity, fuel security, and commodity storage. Answers to questions that were not addressed during the webinar will be sent directly to exporters. The next webinar will be held next week.
- Cabinet has directed MBIE to support a new Oversight Group on supply chains and economic security implications from the evolving Middle East situation (with Hon Willis to chair). The group will comprise of Ministers' Watts (Energy), Minister Jones (Assoc. Energy), Minister Simpson (Commerce and Consumer Affairs), and Minister McClay (Trade and Investment). The first meeting is scheduled for **this evening**, Wednesday 8pm (11<sup>th</sup> March 2026).
- The initial focus to be on fuel supply, **key goods and transport**, it is anticipated that the scope will **grow to** cover other supply chain matters and wider transport and shipping developments over time.
- Treasury is leading economic agencies' monitoring of implications on the New Zealand economy.
  - Oil prices have risen in response to the unrest. Higher prices are likely to flow through to fuel costs in New Zealand. Media speculates that petrol will rise above \$4 a litre. A sustained increase in oil prices would put upward pressure on inflation.
  - There is a risk of broader supply-chain disruption if the conflict is prolonged. Any lasting interruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz will have a bigger impact on global trade. Some shipping routes are already being adjusted, which reduces immediate risk, but is likely to add to transport costs. Insurance costs for maritime travel are also reportedly rising.
  - Treasury continues to monitor the impact on New Zealand households and businesses. It remains too early to identify what the overall impact will be.
- **The UK government has been engaging with international partners to support the resumption of safe shipping movements through the Strait of Hormuz, including discussions with insurers to ensure adequate cover is available for vessels operating in the region.**
- There continues to be a near-complete halt to shipments through the Strait of Hormuz. As speculated, oil prices have surged to over US\$100 a barrel.
- With tanker movements through the Strait largely halted, several Gulf producers have begun cutting back oil production, including Kuwait, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates. Major storage facilities in Saudi Arabia and the UAE are filling up fast, with both countries expected to hit their limits within three weeks.
- **Iraq has suspended oil exports via its northern pipeline to Ceyhan (Turkey) remained in effect, prompted by risks stemming from widening regional conflict and infrastructure vulnerability.**
- **Regional storage constraints continue to worsen, with Saudi Arabia's eastern terminals and Ras Tanura hub approaching operational limits. This may result in further curtailment of production.**

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- In response to the surging prices, there are reports that the US has allowed Indian refiners a 30-day waiver from sanctions to buy Russian crude. Indian refiners have secured 20mb of Russian crude on vessels (about the same quantity that passes through the Strait of Hormuz every day).
- New Zealand fuel companies report no current issues with supply chains. Fuel importers report healthy stock levels and shipments are proceeding as scheduled. Current stock levels as at 4 March are available on the MBIE website and will be updated weekly on Wednesdays (today): [Impact of the Middle East conflict on our fuel security](#).
- The Ministry of Transport will consider convening a special meeting of the Freight Advisory Council to support shared understandings of emerging impacts and to coordinate insights across agencies. The Ministry will include MFAT, the Treasury, and MBIE (Fuels) to ensure a comprehensive view of risks, sector observations, and information needs, including those relevant to their engagement with members and other stakeholders.
- The regional fuel supply chain is coming under increasing strain with import programmes across the Asia-Pacific now heavily dependent on existing contractual arrangements.<sup>s6(a)</sup>

Some

Asian countries have reduced availability due to domestic prioritisation and refinery constraints. MBIE and MFAT will continue to monitor this.
- Broader disruptions across the Asian refining system are amplifying supply-chain risks. Even though New Zealand does not rely on vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, many Asian refineries do, and the closure is affecting operators unevenly. The combination of constrained export availability, reduced refinery output, and increased Force Majeure risk means contracted supplies could be withdrawn at short notice.
- MBIE is actively assessing the situation and is in contact with fuel companies. MBIE is holding regular meetings with the Fuel Sector Coordinating Entity to facilitate information exchange.
- The Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) is assisting primary sectors to manage any disruptions to consignments en route.
  - Initial impact estimates of consignments received from most primary sectors; red meat data pending (expected later this week).
    - 880 consignments disrupted by shipping issues (excl. red meat);<sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>
    - At this stage, the most impacted sector is dairy. MPI has an active plan with the industry to manage actions required.
  - 122 certificate replacement requests have been lodged (28 Feb–9 Mar), up from 42 in same period last year.
    - The spike likely reflects conflict-related rerouting; further increases expected this week.
    - The MPI Certification Unit is prepared for an anticipated surge in requests.
  - MPI is progressing contingency processes for additional storage facilities.
  - <sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>
  - MPI anticipates an uptick in support requirements as shipments are further disrupted.
- The conflict is also having considerable impact on Asia's macroeconomic outlook primarily impacting their energy transport and logistics rather than facing any direct oil supply losses. Asia and the Pacific are particularly exposed being the world's largest energy-importing region, and a central hub of global manufacturing and trade. The key issue to consider is not the initial shock, but whether transport disruption and volatility persist and how this will impact New Zealand.

### Impacts of Middle East conflict on New Zealand's tourism and connectivity

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

- Tourism New Zealand is expecting a short-term reduction in arrivals in April, particularly from the UK and Germany reflecting observed cancellations and uncertainty around airline routings and pricings.<sup>s9(2)(ba)(i)</sup>

It is still too early to identify the medium-term impact on tourism

### Jet fuel prices and availability

- Rapid increases in jet fuel prices are resulting in increased airline ticket prices. For tickets already sold, airlines will be absorbing the high costs in the short-term. Airlines have noted that sustained high jet fuel prices will lead airlines to make further price adjustments which could start dampening demand for travel to long haul destinations such as New Zealand.

### Air connectivity and impact on international arrivals

- The Middle East is a critical aviation hub for United Kingdom (UK) and European passenger flows to New Zealand. Emirates and Qatar Airlines combined hold around 44 per cent of the total market share for air traffic between Auckland and the UK/European Union. Emirates is now operating its normal schedule from New Zealand (but with disruptions to their wider network), but Qatari airspace is still closed and Qatar Airlines is operating only repatriation (no commercial) flights.

### Immigration

- The Minister of Immigration has been briefed on the numbers of Iranians onshore with expiring visas, and options for facilitation. MBIE will manage operationally give low numbers, and will not use wider ministerial powers at this stage.

## INTERNATIONAL RESPONSES

- Germany's Chancellor Merz told media "with each day of war, more questions arise. What concerns us most is that there is clearly no common plan for bringing this war to a swift and convincing conclusion," Merz said, "We have no interest in an endless war," the chancellor added. He also stressed that Putin was seeking to take advantage of the conflict in order to gain an upper hand in Ukraine.
- Canada's Parliament debated the conflict on Tuesday, amidst domestic criticism regarding Prime Minister Carney's shifting position on the conflict. Carney initially expressed strong support for the initial strikes, arguing for the value of preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon. Days later he said it was a position he took "with regret" because the strikes appeared "inconsistent with international law". Carney was absent from yesterday's debate. Foreign Minister Anand told MPs that "the focus must be on rapid de-escalation" and that international law "binds all parties, including the United States and Israel".
- **New Zealand will co-sponsor a UN Security Council Resolution** on the crisis put forward by Bahrain on behalf of Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states. The resolution (to be voted on Thursday NZT) condemns Iran's targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure in the Gulf, as well as any actions by Iran threatening navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. It calls upon Iran to immediately cease from attacking its Gulf neighbours and fully comply with its obligations under international law.
- Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Aragchi has accused the US of posting fake news to manipulate markets. "It won't protect them from the inflationary tsunami they've imposed on Americans" he warned.

RESTRICTED

## RESTRICTED

### DOMESTIC SECURITY

- Community reassurance work continues and this includes high visibility patrolling and community interactions.
- Police aware of a 'No War with Iran Protest' scheduled for 11 March in Auckland, there is a stated intent by Pro-Iranian freedom groups to peacefully counter-protest.
- Some indications of growing tensions between pro-monarchy and pro-democracy Iranian groups are noted, this will continue to be monitored.
- Police continue to provide support and reassurance to Diplomatic Missions, including USA, Israel, Iran and UAE and high visibility patrols are also being conducted around these sites.
- Police are resourced to continue these activities for the foreseeable future.

### CONSULAR DEVELOPMENTS

- As at **8:25am NZT on Wednesday 11 March**, the number of New Zealanders in the region registered on SafeTravel is **3681** (down slightly from **3691** yesterday). Current numbers are: UAE **2214**, Qatar **475**, Saudi Arabia **455**, Jordan **58**, Kuwait **103**, Bahrain **73**, Iran **39**, Iraq **31**, Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories **80**, Lebanon **25**, Egypt **95**, and Oman **33**.
- The Emergency Response Team arrived safely in Riyadh and is supporting the assisted departures from Bahrain and Qatar. MFAT has also deployed additional staff to its posts in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.
- Immigration New Zealand has a dedicated webpage for temporary visa holders and new applicants. [Immigration New Zealand's response to the situation in Iran: Immigration New Zealand.](#)

### Update on flights

- Regional airspace disruption continues. Large portions of airspace are completely shut or operating under severe restrictions, others are partially or completely open.
  - **Full airspace closures:** Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Syria.
  - **Partially open/Restricted hubs:** Qatar, UAE.
  - **Countries currently open/serving as safe corridors:** Oman, Saudi Arabia, Türkiye, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon.
- Commercial flight options for departure from the UAE are readily available. Emirates flights from Dubai to Auckland, and to Christchurch (via Sydney) departed on Tuesday 10 March. s9(2)(ba)(i)
  - The Auckland and Sydney/Christchurch flights are both scheduled to depart again on Wednesday 11 March, with daily departures available to book through to 14 March.
- Etihad has resumed limited commercial flights but has no flights operating to Australia today. There are no direct Etihad services to New Zealand.
- Qatar Airways flight QR988 to Melbourne is operating on Wednesday for the first time since the conflict began, with onwards travel options to New Zealand. There is no confirmation of the resumption of the direct Doha to Auckland flight. Qatar partially re-opened its airspace on Friday and is gradually increasing the number of repatriation flights departing Doha. Scheduled commercial flights remain suspended.
- s9(2)(ba)(i)

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

s9(2)(ba)(i)

Assisted departures

- Based on the responses to the EOI process commenced on 6 March for SafeTravel registrants we are undertaking the following:
  - The ERT<sup>s6(a)</sup> are en route to Doha to support the departure of 4-5 New Zealanders on a bus to Riyadh at 9:00am Wednesday morning (7:00pm NZT), from where they can undertake onward travel.
  - Planning is underway for a bus to depart Bahrain on Thursday 12 March. There are currently 5 New Zealanders registered to depart. We have offered the remaining 40 places to Australians. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
- As at 10:00am NZT, Wednesday 11 March total EOI registrants are 259.

Location	EOIs Received
Bahrain	11
Kuwait	15
Qatar	107
UAE	117
Saudi	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>259</b>

- Three New Zealand citizens were repatriated from Kuwait City to Riyadh on Tuesday on an <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>, along with one New Zealand Permanent Resident and their partner (a US citizen). <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>
- We continue to encourage New Zealanders in the UAE and Saudi Arabia to depart on commercial flights.
- New Zealand’s diplomatic Posts in the Pacific were tasked to check with hosts (in particular Fiji and Tonga) whether any of Pacific nationals need assistance, especially in Bahrain, Kuwait, and Qatar. **We have provided support to one Kiribati national, who is currently deciding whether to depart by bus.**
- NZDF personnel are in <sup>s6(a)</sup> to support the overland departures, working with the ERT. Two New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) aircraft have also been deployed to the region as a further contingency.
- Planning will reflect the following planning assumptions for the time being:
  - <sup>s6(a)</sup>
  - Seats remain available on commercial flights out of Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Riyadh. Options are opening up out of Doha. Commercial options are restricted but available and affordable and remain the best option for departure.
  - Land borders are open and able to be crossed into Saudi Arabia and Oman, and the causeway between Bahrain and Saudi Arabia is safe to cross.

## RESTRICTED

- o Departure assistance planning is currently focused on places where there are the largest number of New Zealanders, i.e., UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, and Bahrain.

### SafeTravel

- To stay updated on the civilian evacuation options and other important information, we continue to urge New Zealanders to register their details on SafeTravel, and to keep their registration up to date.
- We will continue to communicate options for departure to New Zealanders in the region through SafeTravel messages, the [SafeTravel website](#) and [SafeTravel Facebook account](#).
- As at **9:15am Wednesday 11 March**, SafeTravel content published across Ministry social media channels (*including SafeTravel Facebook, and channels managed at Post*) has accumulated over **1,067,125** views to date (up from **972,550** yesterday). We are currently not using boosts/paid advertising on this content.
- The latest [consular call script](#) has been circulated to all seconded staff and Admin Managers.

### Additional information on consular support

- The MFAT consular contact centre is operating 24/7 for now. Call volumes and email enquiries have risen as expected in response to the request for expressions of interest in possible Government support with departure. We will revisit call centre hours following completion of the assisted departures noted above.

### NEW ZEALAND INC POSTS AND PERSONNEL OFFSHORE

- s6(d)
- Abu Dhabi and Dubai: New Zealand Inc teams from MFAT, MPI, NZTE, and NZDF are sheltering in place. The posts are closed to the public but remain operational. The last remaining MFAT dependent in country is comfortable remaining in Abu Dhabi.
- Riyadh: Reopened in person on Monday 9 March. The post will continue to review posture in line with the security situation. Four MFAT staff from New Zealand have arrived in Riyadh to coordinate movement of New Zealanders crossing into Saudi Arabia via Bahrain and Qatar. Two additional staff members will deploy shortly to provide further backfill. Dependents depart tonight (NZ time).

### NZDF DEPLOYMENTS IN THE REGION

- s6(a)
- The NZDF continues to closely monitor the situation and remains in direct communications with deployed personnel. Personnel are in locations with appropriate security measures and will remain unless operational requirements change. The Multi-National Force and Observers (Egypt) and UN Truce Supervision Organisation (Lebanon/Syria/Israel) missions remain operational with all other deployed missions in the region suspended due to current hostilities. Focus for the NZDF now is to resume mission outputs as soon as possible.

Note: This is incorrect. The correct information is the movements for all other deployed missions were suspended.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

NEW ZEALAND MEDIA

10 March – [Petrol in New Zealand could reach \\$4 per litre, warns AA adviser – Auto Trader NZ](#)

10 March – [The economic shockwaves of war in Iran – in numbers | The Spinoff](#)

11 March – ['Be cool, be calm': Winston Peters says war will be over faster than people think | Herald NOW - NZ Herald](#)

11 March – [Fuel supplies in NZ: 'Unless things change there'll be big challenges' | RNZ News](#)

<b>Response Operations</b>	<p>The MCC will operate on two shifts: 7am-3pm, 2pm-10pm (NZT). The NZ-based consular response will operate 24/7 for the remainder of this week, and will then be reviewed.</p> <p><u>Key contacts:</u> For general enquires: MFAT Wellington MCC phone +64 21 221 2479 Incident Controller: <a href="mailto:MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.IncidentController@mfat.govt.nz</a> Response manager: <a href="mailto:MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Intel: <a href="mailto:MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.Intelligence@mfat.govt.nz</a> Consular: <a href="mailto:con.planning@mfat.govt.nz">con.planning@mfat.govt.nz</a>; <a href="mailto:CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz">CON.ResponseManager@mfat.govt.nz</a> Trade &amp; Economic: <a href="mailto:mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz">mfat.tradeoperations@mfat.govt.nz</a> Middle East policy cell: <a href="mailto:MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz">MFAT.PolicyOperations@mfat.govt.nz</a> Media queries: <a href="mailto:mediammedia@mfat.govt.nz">mediammedia@mfat.govt.nz</a></p>
----------------------------	--

NEXT SITREP DUE: 11/03 1200

Handling Instructions	Refer to the classification level of this document (Header and footer), and treat in accordance with the Protective Security Requirements (PSR)
Dissemination	This document may be read by any person in your agency cleared to the classification level of the document with a need to know the information contained in the document.

Proactively Released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade