

Version
As at 30 November 2025

Defence Expansion Act 2025

Public Act 2025 No 43
Date of assent 6 November 2025
Commencement see section 2

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This Act is administered by the Ministry of Defence

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An act to strengthen the national defense of Square Country; to increase funding, modernize capabilities, and improve efficiency in the management and oversight of the armed forces; and to provide for related matters.

1 Short Title

This Act may be cited as the **Defence Expansion Act 2025**.

2 Commencement

- (1) This Act shall come into force on a date appointed by Order in Council made by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister of Defence.
- (2) Different dates may be appointed for different Parts or provisions of this Act.

3 Purpose

The purpose of this Act is to—

- (a) increase funding allocated to defence to ensure national security;
- (b) Modernise the armed forces through acquisition of advanced equipment, infrastructure, and technology;
- (c) Enhance the readiness, capability, and efficiency of the military;
- (d) Ensure transparency, accountability, and proper oversight in defence expenditure; and
- (e) Promote the welfare and training of military personnel.

4 Interpretation

In this Act, unless context otherwise requires—

“Armed Forces” means the Army, Navy, Air Force, and any other service established under law.

“Commissioner” means the Chief of Defence Administration appointed under section 10.

“Department” means the Department Of Defence.

“Minister” means the Minister of Defence.

“Funding” means all appropriated sums allocated for defence purposes.

“Officers” means persons employed by the Ministry of Defence in the performance of its functions.

5 Binding Effect

This Act binds the Crown in right of Square Country.

6 Act to be Read with Other Enactments

This Act shall be read together with all other defence-related enactments, except where inconsistent.

7 Principles of Defence Administration

All persons exercising powers or functions under this Act shall be guided by the following principles—

- (a) Efficiency and effectiveness in use of defence resources;
- (b) Transparency and accountability in expenditure;
- (c) Readiness and preparedness for national security needs;
- (d) Welfare and fair treatment of military personnel; and
- (e) Strategic modernisation and capability development.

Part 1

Establishment and Administration

8 Establishment of the Department of Defence

- (1) There is hereby established a department of state to be known as the **Department of Defence**.
- (2) The Department shall be responsible for the administration of defence forces, expenditure, and policies.
- (3) The Department shall be a body corporate with perpetual succession, a common seal, and power to sue and be sued in its corporate name.

9 Functions of the Department

The functions of the Department are to—

- (a) manage and allocate defence funding;
- (b) oversee procurement, maintenance, and modernisation of equipment;
- (c) ensure operational readiness of all branches of the armed forces;
- (d) provide advice to the Prime Minister and Cabinet on defence policy and strategic planning;
- (e) maintain training, welfare, and education programs for military personnel;
- (f) audit, monitor, and report on the use of defence resources; and
- (g) perform any other function conferred by this or any other enactment.

10 Chief of Defence Administration

- (1) There shall be a **Chief of Defence Administration**, who shall be the chief executive of the Department.
- (2) The Chief shall be appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Minister of Defence.
- (3) The Chief shall hold office for a term not exceeding seven years and may be reappointed.
- (4) The Chief shall act independently in managing defence funds and operations.

11 Deputies and Other Officers

- (1) The Chief may appoint Deputy Chiefs and other officers as required.
- (2) Officers shall perform duties as delegated and take oaths of fidelity and secrecy.

12 Independence and Accountability

- (1) The Department shall operate independently and free from political interference in day-to-day operational decisions.
- (2) Oversight shall be provided by the Auditor-General and the Parliamentary Defence Committee

13 Divisions of the Department

- (1) The Department shall include, but is not limited to—
 - (a) Operations and Strategy Division;
 - (b) Procurement and Modernisation Division;
 - (c) Personnel and Welfare Division;
 - (d) Finance and Budget Division;
 - (e) Intelligence and Cybersecurity Division; and
 - (f) Legal and Compliance Division.

14 Advisory Committee

The Minister may establish advisory committees to advise on defence strategy, technology, and Expenditure efficiency.

15 Annual Reports

- (1) The Chief shall submit annual reports on defence funding usage, modernisation progress, and readiness levels.
- (2) Reports shall be laid before Parliament.

Part 2 **Defence Funding Framework**

16 Funding Allocation

- (1) Parliament shall allocate increased funding to the Department of Defence annually to ensure operational readiness and modernisation.
- (2) The Department may redistribute funds internally among divisions to meet strategic priorities.

17 Expenditure Principles

All defence expenditure shall follow principles of—

- (a) Transparency;
- (b) Efficiency;
- (c) Strategic necessity;
- (d) Personnel welfare; and
- (e) Accountability.

18 Procurement and Modernisation

- (1) The Department shall modernise equipment and infrastructure according to prescribed regulations.
- (2) Procurement contracts shall be awarded in accordance with principles of fairness and competitiveness.

19 Operational Readiness

The Department shall ensure that the Armed Forces maintain readiness levels consistent with national security requirements, including personnel training, maintenance of equipment, and strategic deployments.

Part 3
Oversight and Reporting

20 Auditor-General Oversight

The Auditor-General shall audit all defence expenditure and report to Parliament annually.

21 Parliamentary Reporting

The Minister shall submit reports to Parliament on—

- (a) funding allocations and expenditures;
- (b) modernisation and procurement progress; and
- (c) readiness and capability metrics.

22 Transparency and Accountability

All officers shall maintain records and provide documentation to ensure public accountability of defence funds.

Part 4
Miscellaneous and Final Provisions

23 Regulations

The Minister may, on recommendation of the Chief, make regulations for—

- (a) Allocation and management of funds;
- (b) Procurement and acquisition
- (c) Personnel and training standards; and
- (d) Operational procedures for readiness.

24 Protection from Liability

No action shall lie against the Minister, Chief, or officers for any act done in good faith under this Act.

25 Review of Operation

The Minister shall cause a review of the operation of this Act five years after commencement to assess effectiveness, efficiency, and fiscal responsibility.

Notes

1 General

This is a consolidation of the Federal Revenue and Tax Reform Act 2025 that incorporates the Amendments made to the legislation so that it shows the law as at its stated date.

2 Legal Status

A consolidation is taken to correctly state, as at its stated date, the law enacted or made by the legislation consolidated and by the amendments. The presumption applies unless the contrary is shown.

Section 78 of the Legislation Act 2019 provides that this consolidation, published as an electronic version, is an official version. A printed version of legislation that is produced directly from this official electronic version is also an official version.