

DECLARATION OF OPERATIONAL SERVICE FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE VETERANS' SUPPORT ACT 2014

In accordance with section 9 of the Veterans' Support Act 2014 ("the Act"),

1. I declare operational service:

- performed aboard Royal New Zealand Navy vessels or coalition naval vessels while deployed within the Operational Service Maritime Area Tahiti, as specified, from 15 March 2025 up to and including 25 May 2025; and from 16 March 2026 up to and including 16 September 2026, to be operational service under the Act.

Operational Service Maritime Area Tahiti - covers deployment at sea, in an area roughly defined by the following limits: Beginning at the Kathiawar peninsula on the west coast of India the operational area eastern limit follows a line extending south-west to a notional point in the Indian Ocean, a line extending due east from the Mozambique/Tanzania common border intersects this line forming the southern operational limit. The western border of the operational area then follows the Indian Ocean coast of Tanzania, Kenya and Somalia, north, before rounding the Horn of Africa. Here the operational area includes the Gulf of Aden, Red Sea, Gulf of Suez and Gulf of Aqaba. The operational area western limit then continues north, following the Arabian Peninsula coast to include the Gulf of Oman and Persian Gulf. The northern limit of the operational area follows east, along the coast of Iran and Pakistan to return to the Kathiawar peninsula in India. (Personnel must be on a deployment within the Qualifying Operational Area, and at sea.)

2. This declaration covers:

- members of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) serving with the NZDF;
- members of the NZDF on secondment with the armed forces of other nations; and
- any person seconded to the NZDF with the permission of the Chief of Defence Force.

3. The persons covered by this declaration shall have access to the entitlements and services specified in the Act and the Veterans' Support Regulations 2014.

4. I am satisfied that there was a significant risk of harm to those that undertook this service, as required by the Act.



Hon CHRIS PENK, Minister for Veterans

Dated this 24 day of June 2026