



**New Zealand House of Representatives**  
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

**Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee**

Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Aorere, Take Waonga, Take Tauhoko

54th Parliament  
September 2026

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**Petition of New Zealand Values Alliance:  
Inquiry into China's foreign interference  
activities in NZ and the Pacific**

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Presented to the House of Representatives  
by Tim van de Molen, Chairperson

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# Petition of New Zealand Values Alliance

## Recommendation

The Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee has considered the petition of New Zealand Values Alliance—Inquiry into China’s foreign interference activities in NZ and the Pacific—and recommends that the House take note of its report.

## Request for an inquiry into China’s foreign interference activities in New Zealand and the Pacific

This petition was signed by 1,033 people on the Parliament website. It was presented to the House by Laura McClure on 10 December 2024 and transferred to us on 3 July 2025, and requests:

That the House of Representatives hold an inquiry into China’s foreign interference activities in NZ and the Pacific.

## Context

Foreign interference is as an act by a foreign state which is “intended to influence, disrupt, or subvert” a country’s “national interests by deceptive, corruptive, or coercive means”.<sup>1</sup>

## Submission from the New Zealand Values Alliance

The New Zealand Values Alliance told us that it views foreign interference by China in New Zealand as “our nation’s number one national security threat”. It described a range of concerns, including election interference, targeting of New Zealand Police, and influence over educational institutions, social and cultural associations, and New Zealand Chinese media, as well as targeting of faith-based communities.

The alliance also raised concerns about China’s activities and influence in the Pacific region and the risk this may present. It described this risk as “New Zealand’s main external threat”. Its submission details China’s interests across the region, stating that China is seeking “to establish a new order in the Pacific”. It told us that state-owned Chinese enterprises are awarded dual-use infrastructure project contracts across the Pacific including ports, airfields, and internet and mobile infrastructure.

## Submission from intelligence agencies

We asked the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) to provide us with information relating to this petition. The NZSIS is responsible for detecting and disrupting national security threats. The GCSB specialises in intelligence derived from electronic communications, and provides cyber security for nationally significant organisations.

<sup>1</sup> New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, [New Zealand’s Security Threat Environment 2025](#), p 17.

The agencies told us that they see foreign interference as a growing concern in New Zealand. They noted that several states conduct foreign interference in New Zealand, and the most active of these is China.

The agencies also provided us with the 2025 Security Threat Environment Report.

### **New Zealand's Security Threat Environment Reports 2025 and 2026**

Each year the NZSIS produces a Security Threat Environment Report, which outlines threats to New Zealand's security based on intelligence insights. The 2025 report, and the most recent 2026 report, both address China's activities and growing influence in the Pacific. The 2025 report identified that China "has demonstrated both a willingness and capability to undertake intelligence activity that targets New Zealand's national interests". The 2026 report notes that several states conduct espionage against New Zealand, but China "is the only country we have detected doing it at scale".<sup>2</sup>

The reports highlight foreign interference as a key threat to New Zealand's security, and describe a range of forms that this interference can take. Many of the examples of activities raised by the New Zealand Values Alliance in its submission are covered in these reports. Both reports describe, for example: targeting of community leaders and organisations; use of "co-optees" or "proxies" to collect information on individuals, or to control information to and from an individual or a community; exploitation of delegations and of business opportunities; and transnational repression of individuals viewed as "dissidents".

### **Our response to the petition**

We acknowledge the concerns raised by the New Zealand Values Alliance in its detailed submission. The 2025 and 2026 Security Threat Environment Reports refer to many of the risks and issues that the alliance described to us, which gives us confidence that these matters are being actively monitored and assessed. We note that, as discussed in the Social Services Committee's report on the 2024/25 annual review of the Ministry of Ethnic Communities, the ministry has a budget to address foreign interference in the community.<sup>3</sup> We also note that foreign interference in elections was one of the subjects of the Justice Committee's inquiry into the 2017 General Election and 2016 Local Elections.<sup>4</sup>

With regard to the alliance's concerns in the Pacific region, in our 2025 annual review hearing with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we discussed Pacific relationships and the influence of other countries, including China, in the region.<sup>5</sup>

We encourage the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee of the 55th Parliament to consider opening an inquiry into this issue.

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<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Security Intelligence Service, New Zealand's Security Threat Environment 2026, p 10.

<sup>3</sup> Social Services Committee, 2024/25 Annual review of the Ministry of Ethnic Communities, March 2026.

<sup>4</sup> Justice Committee, Inquiry into the 2017 General Election and 2016 Local Elections, December 2019.

<sup>5</sup> Hansard, 2024/25 Annual review of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, 12 January 2026, pp 48-9.

## Appendix

### Committee procedure

The petition was signed by 1,033 people on the Parliament website. It was presented to the House by Laura McClure on 10 December 2024 and referred to us on 3 July 2025. We met between 17 July 2025 and 17 September 2026 to consider it. We received written submissions from the New Zealand Values Alliance and from the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service and the Government Communications Security Bureau.

### Committee members

Tim van de Molen (Chairperson)  
Tim Costley  
Hon Peeni Henare (until 15 March 2026)  
Dana Kirkpatrick (until 13 May 2026)  
Laura McClure  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Dr Shane Reti (from 13 May 2026)  
Teanau Tuiono  
Vanushi Walters (from 25 March 2026)

### Related resources

The documents we received as evidence in relation to this petition are available on the [Parliament website](#).