



Gavin Pearce MP
Federal Member for Braddon

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Labor’s decision to award ADF combat ration contract to NZ un-Australian

Federal Member for Braddon, Gavin Pearce MP, said he was disgusted with today’s announcement that a New Zealand company had won the contract to produce combat rations for the ADF.

“This is just further proof that the Albanese government promises a lot, but when it comes to their actions, it’s a totally different and very dangerous story,” Mr Pearce said.

“I had a 20-year career in the ADF, so I know a fair bit about eating ration packs, and I’m also passionate about our world-leading, local manufacturing industry. So to say I’m angry about this decision is an understatement.

“Time and time again, Prime Minister Albanese has said he wants to bring manufacturing back to Australia and now, just months into his tenure, a major defence contract has gone to New Zealand.”

“Even more disturbing, Labor has dismantled the former government’s successful Modern Manufacturing initiative, that was bringing large manufacturing projects into Tasmania, including the North-West Coast. They have replaced this initiative with a \$15bn National Reconstruction Fund. This fund is aimed specifically at developing the nation’s manufacturing base, with the local defence industry identified as one of seven priority areas for investment. It seems that’s a very fluid priority with this \$250 million contract, that is crucial to our sovereign security, given over to our trans-Tasman rivals.”

“A raft of local Australian options have been overlooked. Defence Science and Technology Group in Scottsdale, for example, has been providing ration packs for the Australian Army for decades and is at the leading-edge of the provision of high-tech nutrition and survival food for high performance athletes such as our defence personnel.”

“Tasmania produces the best food in the world, and that’s exactly what the best soldiers in the world deserve. It’s un-Australian to have them eating Kiwi food; they should be eating Aussie grown and Aussie manufactured food.”

“This is a bad, bad decision and it needs to be overturned right now.”

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