



## BRIEFING

### Employer-assisted work visa reforms: Final Cabinet papers

<b>Date:</b>	22 August 2019	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security classification:</b>	In Confidence	<b>Tracking number:</b>	3937 18-19

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway <b>Minister of Immigration</b>	<b>Note</b> the contents of the final Cabinet paper  <b>Agree</b> to lodge the Cabinet paper by 23 August, for consideration at Cabinet Economic Development Committee on 28 August 2019	23 August 2018
Hon Poto Williams <b>Associate Minister of Immigration</b>	<b>Copy</b> attached for your information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	Position	Telephone		1st contact
Siân Roguski	Manager, Immigration Policy	04 901 1572	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Juliana Johnson	Policy Advisor	04 901 2485	N/A	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
The Treasury; Ministry of Social Development; Ministry for Primary Industries; Ministry of Education; Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; Ministry of Health; New Zealand Police; Department of Internal Affairs; Te Puni Kokiri; and Department of Corrections

**Minister's office to complete:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted                | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn           |

**Comments**



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#### Purpose

This paper seeks your agreement to lodge two Cabinet papers proposing a new approach to employer-assisted temporary work visas and regional workforce planning, for consideration at Cabinet Committee.

#### Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

- a **Note** the attached draft Cabinet papers have been edited since you last reviewed them *Noted*
- b **Note** that your office has sought a late lodgement to enable the attached papers to be finalised *Noted*
- c **Note** that talking points to support you at Cabinet committee will be forwarded to your office separately *Noted*
- d **Agree** to lodge the Cabinet paper by 23 August 2019, to enable consideration at DEV on 28 August 2019 *Agree / Disagree*

Siân Roguski  
**Manager, Immigration Policy**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

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Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
**Minister of Immigration**

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## Background

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1. Departmental and Ministerial consultation on draft Cabinet papers seeking agreement to a new approach to employer-assisted work visas and regional workforce planning was carried out over July and August 2019.
2. MBIE last provided a draft of the Cabinet papers incorporating feedback from agencies and ministers on 8 August 2019.
3. The attached final Cabinet papers are ready for lodgement.

## Changes to the Cabinet paper

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4. Changes have been made to both papers as below, to reflect ongoing discussions with officials and Ministers.

### *Changes to Paper One*

5. Following discussions between MBIE, the Treasury, your office, and the Minister of Finance's office, the financial recommendations have been amended so that:

- a. [REDACTED] Constitutional conventions [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

### *Changes to Paper Two*

6. Following discussion between yourself and the Minister of Social Development, officials have made changes to Paper Two, that reflect:
  - i. the broader context around the Labour Market Test, and that Ministry of Social Development's (MSD's) role is embedded within a broader decision made by an Immigration Officer (paragraphs 65 to 75; Recommendations 14 and 15); and
  - ii. that MSD will need to seek additional funding to manage the impact that strengthened labour market testing will have on their operation, and to enable them to meet the greater level of expectation placed on their referrals of clients (paragraphs 97 to 98; Recommendations 21 to 27).
7. Officials do not propose to attach the summary of submissions when Cabinet papers are lodge, but will publish this alongside the Cabinet papers when they are proactively released. Officials will separately seek your agreement to proactive release of documents related to temporary work changes.

## Next steps

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8. We propose that the attached final Cabinet papers are lodged on Thursday 22 August to enable them to be considered at DEV on 28 August 2019.
9. Talking points will be provided to your office prior to DEV.

10. The below table outlines next steps for the Cabinet papers.

Key milestones	Date
Lodge paper	22 August 2019
DEV consideration	28 August 2019
Cabinet approval	2 September 2019

## Annexes

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Annex One: A new approach to employer-assisted work visas and regional workforce planning:  
Paper One – Employer gateway system and related changes

Annex Two: A new approach to employer-assisted work visas and regional workforce planning:  
Paper Two – The job gateway