



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Kris Faafoi	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Long-term Direction for the Immigration Portfolio: A Rebalance	Date to be published	10 December 2021

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2021	Long-term Direction for the Immigration Portfolio: A Rebalance	Office of the Minister of Immigration
12 July 2021	Long-term Direction for the Immigration Portfolio: A Rebalance CAB-21-MIN-0279	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of Confidential advice to Government, Free and frank opinions and International relations.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Long-term Direction for the Immigration Portfolio: A Rebalance

Portfolio Immigration

On 12 July 2021, following reference from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that prior to COVID-19 New Zealand was on a path to reduce access to migrants for lower-skilled and lower-paid roles, but policy settings did not necessarily include strong enough volume controls;
- 2 **noted** that there is an opportunity to accelerate a pre-COVID-19 direction, by putting in place additional immigration system changes that would help address skills, productivity and infrastructure challenges, and reduce reliance on lower-skilled migrant workers, particularly through a lower overall volume of lower-skilled migrant workers;
- 3 **agreed** to rebalance the immigration system by pursuing a lower overall volume of migrants and improved composition of temporary and skilled migrants (compared to the pre-COVID-19 trajectory);
- 4 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to report back to the Cabinet Economic Development Committee with options to give effect to paragraph 3 above, as follows:
 - 4.1 in October 2021, on international student settings;
 - 4.2 in November 2021, on lower-skilled migrant workers, partnership settings, skilled residence pathways, and settings for migrant workers currently onshore, taking account of the specific circumstances of sectors and the potential impact that the immigration rebalance will have on them;
- 5 **noted** that impacts on the labour market and wider economic outcomes, including impacts on sectors, will be considered in the report backs in October and November 2021;
- 6 **noted** that further, targeted report backs may be required to cover off any follow-up decisions required to implement the immigration changes as well as sector-focused reports about how sectors plan to adapt to the new immigration settings and how government can support that transition;
- 7 **directed** the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to establish a cross-agency group to develop and deliver the immigration rebalance, ensuring that advice considers impacts across New Zealand's economy and workforce; the employment, education and training system; specific sectors; and New Zealand's relationship with other countries.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet