



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Kris Faafoi	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Increasing the cap of the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme	Date to be published	12 April 2022

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
February 2022	Increasing the cap of the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 February 2022	Increasing the cap of the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme DEV-22-MIN-0012 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been redacted for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Increasing the Cap for the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 16 February 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in September 2019, Cabinet agreed in principle to increase the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) cap for the 2020/21 season to 16,000, conditional on evidence of the horticultural and viticultural sector meeting additional commitments to improve worker conditions and accommodation practices [CAB-19-MIN-0494];
- 2 **noted** that in December 2021, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee invited the Minister of Immigration to report back on whether the sector had met the commitments specified in the above decision [SWC-21-MIN-0227];
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration considers that there has been satisfactory progress against the conditions as requested by Cabinet, and that low unemployment means increasing the RSE cap is unlikely to displace opportunities for New Zealanders;
- 4 **agreed** to increase the RSE cap for the current 2021/22 season by 1,600 places to a total of 16,000;
- 5 **noted** that RSE workers are currently required to be paid \$22.10 per hour;
- 6 **agreed** that the Minister of Immigration will set the RSE cap for the coming 2022/23 season, in consultation with the Minister for Social Development and Employment and the Minister for Primary Industries.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon David Parker
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr David Clark
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Phil Twyford
Rino Tirikatene MP
Dr Deborah Russell MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV