



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Michael Wood | Portfolio | Immigration |
| Title of Cabinet paper | <i>Aotearoa New Zealand's refugee resettlement offer to Australia</i> | Date to be published | 18 August 2022 |

| List of documents that have been proactively released | | |
|--|---|--|
| Date | Title | Author |
| February 2022 | <i>Aotearoa New Zealand's refugee resettlement offer to Australia</i> | <i>Office of the Minister of Immigration</i> |
| 21 February 2021 | <i>CAB-22-MIN-0031 Minute</i> | <i>Cabinet Office</i> |

Information redacted

YES / NO

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 withheld for the reasons of international relations, confidential information entrusted to the Government, and free and frank opinions.



Cabinet

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.

Aotearoa New Zealand's Refugee Resettlement Offer to Australia

Portfolios Foreign Affairs / Immigration

On 21 February 2022, following reference from the Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in 2013, Aotearoa New Zealand announced that it would work closely with Australia to annually resettle 150 refugees who had arrived irregularly in Australia by boat to seek asylum;
- 2 **noted** that from 2014, Cabinet set aside up to 150 places within the annual Refugee Quota to resettle refugees who had been subject to Australia's offshore processing legislation [CAB Min (13) 20/15], but that these places have not yet been used for that purpose;
- 3 **noted** that in January 2021, Australia stated it was ready to accept Aotearoa New Zealand's offer, and that officials have been engaging with Australia to progress this;
- 4 **noted** that Australia is seeking resettlement of refugees currently located in Nauru as a priority, and that officials will proceed with developing arrangements that would allow resettlement of members of this group who meet Aotearoa New Zealand's requirements;
- 5 **noted** that Australia is also seeking resettlement of people temporarily onshore in Australia, International relations, Confidential information entrusted to the Government
[REDACTED]
- 6 **agreed** that Aotearoa New Zealand should only consider resettlement of relevant refugees currently located in Australia subject to both UNHCR referral and the development of satisfactory arrangements with Australia;
- 7 International relations
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
- 8 **agreed** that Aotearoa New Zealand should take the position that Australia's border decisions are a sovereign matter, but that Aotearoa New Zealand would take no actions to disadvantage Aotearoa New Zealand citizens;
- 9 **agreed** that, subject to the development of satisfactory arrangements and commencement of the offer, the 150 places reserved under the offer be continued for three years and then removed from the Refugee Quota Programme;

- 10 **agreed** that family members of the transferees located in their country of origin or other third country (not Nauru or Australia) will be eligible for resettlement under the family reunification places in the Refugee Quota Programme, and will not be subject to the time limit placed on those applying under the 150 places;
- 11 **agreed** that officials undertake further work to progress the offer within the parameters agreed to above;
- 12 **authorised** a group of Ministers (the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Immigration) to approve any officials-level arrangements with Australia, any exchange of letters with Australian Ministers, and the commencement of a resettlement process;
- 13 **noted** that where in any year for which the 150 offer remains activated and current, where the total number of people granted refugee status under the offer is less than 150, immediate family members being accepted for Family Resettlement will count against the 150;
- 14 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration intends to annually review the calculation referred to in paragraph 13 above to check for unintended consequences.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet