



## BRIEFING

### Cabinet paper - Commissioning of additional Christchurch MIQ facility

<b>Date:</b>	10 September 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Urgent
<b>Security classification:</b>		<b>Tracking number:</b>	2122-0884

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins <b>Minister for COVID-19 Response</b>	<b>Agree</b> to the lodgement of a Cabinet paper seeking funding for an additional Christchurch MIQ facility.	14 September 2021

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andrew Milne	Associate Deputy Secretary	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Privacy of natural persons	Principal Policy Advisor		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Health, Police, New Zealand Defence Force, Aviation Security Service, DPMC, Treasury.

**Minister's office to complete:**

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

**Comments**



# BRIEFING

## Commissioning of additional MIQ facilities

Date:	14 September 2021	Priority:	Urgent
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-0884

### Purpose

This briefing provides you with:

- A Cabinet paper seeking funding for an additional Christchurch MIQ facility; and
- An update on progress for bringing an additional Rotorua MIQ facility online.

### Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to officials lodging the attached Cabinet paper seeking funding for an additional Christchurch MIQ facility.

Agree /  Disagree

- b **Note** if you wish to expedite the Ministerial consultation process, this paper could be considered by Cabinet on 20 September 2021.

*Noted*

- c **Note** officials have been working to progress the establishment of an additional MIQ facility in Rotorua.

*Noted*

*Proactive release*

- d **Agree** that this briefing is proactively released with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree /  Disagree

Andrew Milne  
Associate Deputy Secretary MIQ  
MBIE

10/ 9/ 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister for COVID-19 Response

16 / 09 / 2021

## Background

---

1. On 5 July 2021 we provided you with information about the commissioning process for new MIQ facilities and short term infrastructure needs [2122-0037 refers]. You asked officials whether the commissioning process could be shortened and if additional MIQ facilities could be brought online before the December/January peak demand.
2. On 29 July 2021 we provided advice on an expedited MIQ facility commissioning timeframe [2122-0339 refers]. On 3 August 2021 we advised that a desktop assessment had identified three possible new MIQ facilities – two in Rotorua and one in Christchurch [2122-0375 refers]. You subsequently agreed that MBIE would engage stakeholders and undertake further suitability assessments of the Rotorua and Christchurch facilities and local workforce availability.
3. On 31 August 2021 [2122-0586 refers] you agreed to progress commissioning additional facilities: one in Christchurch and one in Rotorua. You also asked to see a plan to relieve the pressure and risk areas, particularly around the workforce.
4. As the new Christchurch facility can be progressed immediately, officials agreed with your office to progress a Cabinet funding request for just Christchurch.

## Cabinet paper – funding for an additional Christchurch MIQ facility

---

5. A Cabinet paper has been drafted to seek \$38.088 million until the end of June 2023 for an additional Christchurch MIQ facility (refer to attached paper). We seek your approval to lodge this paper no later than 17 September 2021 for Cabinet on 20 September 2021.
6. The Ministry of Health/Canterbury District Health Board, Police, AVSEC and First Security have confirmed that they can make the workforce available to bring the Christchurch facility online. This is on the basis that the funding sought for agencies in the Cabinet paper is successful.
7. We have communicated with all key stakeholders in Christchurch (such as the mayor and local iwi) on your decision to commission an additional MIQ facility. Discussions with stakeholders have touched on the issue of health workforce pressures and have noted the future work to try to reduce workforce pressures and risks.
8. MBIE has closely engaged with Treasury throughout the process to bring online additional MIQ facilities.

### *Update on Rotorua*

9. Rotorua is a more complex prospect than Christchurch for a new facility. We have communicated with all stakeholders around the prospect of an additional MIQ facility in Rotorua. Conversations have started with the Lakes District Health Board. Workforce constraints are a key factor in the DHB's reluctance to support a new facility. Officials will provide separate advice shortly on options to reduce workforce pressures in order to bring an additional Rotorua MIQ facility online.
10. We previously advised that a desktop assessment of the Commerical information ventilation system estimated that to bring the whole facility up to MIQ preferred conditions would take at least 8 weeks. Onsite testing by an independent ventilation engineer has occurred, and we will

shortly have an accurate estimate of how long any required ventilation remediation would take.

## **Cabinet agreement and next steps**

---

11. If you approve the annexed Cabinet paper for lodgement, the next possible Cabinet date for it to be considered is 20 September 2021.
12. In order for it to be lodged for Cabinet on 20 September, the Ministerial consultation period would have to be shortened, the paper would not go to a Cabinet committee and a late lodging of the paper would need to be agreed.
13. This would involve:
  - a. Your agreement to this briefing by 13 September 2021
  - b. Ministerial consultation between 14 to 15 September 2021; and
  - c. lodgement of the paper on 16/17 September 2021.
14. Officials are working towards mid-November as a 'go live' date for the new facility, however this is an ambitious timeframe and dependent on several factors outside of MBIE's control, such as the ability to recruit and train new staff. Any delays to the Cabinet progress would impact the 'go-live' date of the facility.
15. If the request to Cabinet is successful we will provide you with an updated implementation plan (which would include a detailed communication plan).

The Cabinet paper has been proactively released on the MBIE website: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/17871-commissioning-a-new-managed-isolation-facility-in-christchurch-proactiverelease-pdf>