



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr David Clark	<b>Portfolio</b>	Digital Economy and Communications
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Approval of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its first Action Plan, and establishment of an interdepartmental Digital Executive Board	<b>Date to be published</b>	16 September 2022

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
June 2022	Approval of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its first Action Plan, and establishment of an interdepartmental Digital Executive Board	Office of the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications
29 June 2022	Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its First Action Plan, and Establishment of an Interdepartmental Digital Executive Board (DEV-22-MIN-0152)	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 withheld for the reasons of Constitutional conventions, Free and frank opinions, and Confidential information entrusted to the Government.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its First Action Plan, and Establishment of an Interdepartmental Digital Executive Board

Portfolio                      Digital Economy and Communications

On 29 June 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

#### Background

1            **noted** that:

- 1.1        in November 2020, the Prime Minister outlined her intentions for the newly created Digital Economy and Communications portfolio, including the creation of a digital strategy for Aotearoa;
- 1.2        in September 2021, the Cabinet Government Administration and Expenditure Review Committee approved the release of a discussion document on a proposed digital strategy for Aotearoa, and invited the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications to report back following the public engagement with a proposed Digital Strategy for Aotearoa [GOV-21-MIN-0033];

#### The Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its first Action Plan

- 2            **agreed** that to the release of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its Action Plan, both of which are attached to the paper under DEV-22-SUB-0152, to support the transition to a sustainable, high-productivity and low emissions economy by encouraging the creation and adoption of digital and data-driven technologies;
- 3            **authorised** the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications to make any minor or technical changes that may be required to the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its Action Plan prior to their public release;

#### Creation of an interdepartmental Digital Executive Board

- 4            **noted** that the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio is supported by multiple government agencies, each with their own areas of focus and priorities;
- 5            **agreed** to establish an interdepartmental executive board under the Public Service Act 2020 to lead and drive the implementation of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa and its associated Action Plan;

- 6 **agreed** that:
- 6.1 the interdepartmental executive board be named the Digital Executive Board (the Board);
  - 6.2 the remit of the Board comprise the Department of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Statistics New Zealand;
- 7 **agreed** that the Board be accountable for:
- 7.1 leading and driving implementation of the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa, including progress reporting;
  - 7.2 taking a systems level view by aligning and co-ordinating strategic, policy, planning and budgeting activities for the departments that support the Digital Economy and Communications portfolio;
  - 7.3 supporting and assigning these departments to undertake priority work and cross-agency initiatives in the digital area;
- 8 **noted** that the Public Service Commissioner will designate the membership of the Board from within the Board's remit, including the chair, in accordance with the Public Service Act;
- 9 **noted** that the Public Service Commissioner intends to appoint an independent advisor with knowledge of digital transformation and government process to the Board, as provided for under the Public Service Act, to support the Board and agencies to deliver on Ministerial priorities;
- 10 **noted** that the independent advisor to the Board would not have decision-making authority on the Board;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications will be the appropriate Minister in relation to the Board, and that the members of the Board will be jointly responsible to the Minister;
- 12 **noted** that the costs of the Board will be funded through fiscally neutral baseline adjustments from member agencies into an appropriation within Vote Internal Affairs titled *Government Digital Strategy, System Investment and Leadership*;
- 13 **invited** the Minister for the Public Service to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft an Order in Council to establish the Digital Executive Board, with the Department of Internal Affairs as its servicing department, by adding an item to Part 3 of Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020 and Schedule 1B of the Ombudsmen Act 1975;

### Ensuring sufficient investment for the future

- 14 Constitutional conventions

**Next steps**

- 15 **noted** that the Digital Strategy for Aotearoa will need to evolve over time as new issues emerge, and that the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications proposes to continue stakeholder engagement, including through convening a first annual multi-stakeholder forum towards the end of 2022;
- 16 **agreed** to the continuation of the Digital Ministers Group, to be convened by the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, as a key channel for coordination and discussion of priorities and resources for implementing the Strategy;
- 17 **invited** the Minister for the Digital Economy and Communications, on behalf of the Digital Ministers Group, to report back to DEV in approximately one year with an update on the progress that has been made on implementing the Strategy and its contribution to advancing the government's priorities for a high wage, low emissions economy.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Kiri Allan  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Rino Tirikatene, MP  
Dr Deborah Russell, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV