

Submitter information

Please provide your name and phone number, and preferred email address for contact if it is different from the one used to send this form:

§ 9(2)(g)(i), § 9(2)(a)

In what capacity are you providing feedback?

e.g. on behalf of: your company, the company you work for, an industry organisation, a union, a licensed immigration adviser etc.

On behalf of Company

If you are representing a company or group, what is the name of that group?

Airey Consultants LTD.

What industry or industries does that group work in?

Consulting Engineers

In your company or industry, what are the most common occupations for migrant workers?

Civil/Structural Engineers and Draughters

What visa categories are commonly used by those workers?

i.e. resident visa, Essential Skills work visa, Work-to-Residence work visa (under the Talent or Long Term Skill Shortage List categories), Post-Study work visa (open or employer assisted), open work visa.

Working-Holiday Visa, Essential Skill Work Visa, Post-Study Visa

Only answer the following questions if you directly employ migrant workers:

How many migrant workers do you currently employ? (Refer to the visa categories in the question above)

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Have you supported an Essential Skills visa application for any of these workers?

Yes

Using wage or salary information to help determine skill level and access to Essential Skills migrants

Proposal 1: Introduction of remuneration thresholds to determine skill levels and associated visa conditions for Essential Skills visas

Consider the proposal of aligning the remuneration thresholds for the Essential Skills visa with the remuneration thresholds for the Skilled Migrant Category.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from defining lower-, mid- and higher-skilled Essential Skills migrants in this way?

Give details of the occupations or sectors and wage or salary levels you are thinking of.

If remuneration thresholds are to be utilised for defining skills levels, then thresholds should be based on well-researched industry lower bounds. That will be problematic in setting thresholds for different industries.

Reinforcing the temporary nature of the Essential Skills visa and managing the settlement expectations of temporary migrants

Proposal 2a: Introduction of a maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills migrants

Consider the option of a three years for a maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visas.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from the proposed maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

3 year duration strikes a reasonable balance of delivering skills to New Zealand industries over moderate timeframe, and allows workers to take steps to grow other skills during the timeframe. 3 year duration affords some protection to New Zealand in avoiding "flooding" of job market.

Proposal 2b: Introduction of stand down period for lower-skilled Essential Skills migrants

Consider the option for a year-long stand down period following the maximum duration for lower-skilled Essential Skills visas.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?

Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.

Stand-down period does not provide benefit. If re-application is made (renewal) then that should one assessed against current work market, and that worker's skill level or work history. If a worker has then-current skills and good work history, they will benefit New Zealand by immediate renewal.

Proposal 3: Require the partners of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right

<p>Consider the proposal to require the partners of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right.</p> <p>What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?</p> <p>Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.</p>
<p>Status quo allows partners open work rights. This is a reasonable concession in order to obtain the skilled migrant in the restricted field. Any benefits should be subject to a reasonable stand-down period, in order to decrease risk of partners burdening the economy (or means testing the couple).</p>

Proposal 4: Require the children of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right

<p>Consider the proposal to require the children of lower-skilled Essential Skills visa holders to meet the requirements for a visa in their own right.</p> <p>What impacts or implications do you foresee from these proposed changes?</p> <p>Give details of the occupations and industries you are thinking of.</p>
<p>Proposal is likely to lessen the appeal of New Zealand to skilled migrants and may prove a dis-benefit to New Zealand. Maintain "local rights" for 1st and 2nd-dary schooling. Tertiary Education should be at foreign student current requirements.</p>

Reinforce that Essential Skills visas should only be granted for the period for which the employment is offered

Proposal 5: Make it explicit how the 'period of employment' condition applies to seasonal work

Consider the option to reinforce that Essential Skills visas for seasonal work are only for the length of the season and that the offer of employment must match the length of the season.

What impacts or implications do you foresee from these options?

Give details of the occupations or sectors you think are likely to be affected.

N/A

Consider the list of seasonal occupations being considered.

Are there any seasonal occupations that should be added or removed from this list? Why?

N/A

Consider the list of seasonal occupations being considered.

If you employ seasonal staff, or represent a sector with seasonal staff:

- What are the occupations of the seasonal staff within the sector that you are commenting on?
- For each of the occupations that you have identified, what is the typical period that you require seasonal staff to cover (e.g the peak of the season)?

N/A