



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Megan Woods	<b>Portfolio</b>	Energy and Resources
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Future of Petroleum Block Offer Announcement	<b>Date to be published</b>	10 March 2023

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
November 2022	Future of Petroleum Block Offer Announcement	Office of the Minister of Energy and Resources
9 November 2022	Future of Petroleum Block Offer Announcement DEV-22-MIN-0254 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 withheld for the reasons of confidential advice entrusted to the Government and legal professional privilege.



# 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.*

### Future of Petroleum Block Offer Announcement

**Portfolio**                      **Energy and Resources**

On 9 November 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

#### Background

- 1        **noted** that on 2 July 2018, Cabinet agreed to hold a block offer for onshore blocks in Taranaki for 2018, and again in 2019 and 2020 [CAB-18-MIN-0306.1];
- 2        **noted** that Block Offers 2018 and 2019 were concluded in 2020 and 2021 respectively, and that Block Offer 2020 remains in progress;
- 3        **noted** that:
  - 3.1      as the next step for Block Offer 2020, the Minister of Energy and Resources (the Minister) will be briefed on work relating to the proposed release areas and the outcomes of engagement with iwi and hapū;
  - 3.2      following that, the Minister expects a statutory decision will be made on whether or not to open the tender by issuing an invitation for bids;

#### Announcement on the future of block offer

- 4        **noted** that the Minister intends to announce a deferral of decisions on future petroleum block offers following Block Offer 2020 until early in the next parliamentary term, at which time there will be a better evidence base of future levels of demand for fossil fuels and other resources;
- 5        **noted** that this evidence base will support the Minister's consideration of the most efficient approach to petroleum exploration permit allocation, which will include the how future exploration can assist in sustaining the investment needed to support New Zealand's transition to renewable alternatives and contribute to ongoing energy transition in international markets;
- 6        **noted** that taking this approach will also provide further time to undertake more robust consultation with hapū and iwi in the Taranaki region on the future of the block offer process;

7        Legal professional privilege

**Announcements on the Crown Minerals Act 1991 Review**

- 8 **noted** that on 4 July 2022, Cabinet agreed to policy proposals as part of the Crown Minerals Act 1991 Tranche Two Review (the CMA Tranche Two Review) to:
- 8.1 enable a more flexible approach to the management and allocation of rights to Crown-owned minerals, including increasing discretion as to the timing and frequency of future block offers for allocating petroleum exploration permits in onshore Taranaki; and
- 8.2 improve permit/licence holder and permit applicant engagement with hapū and iwi;
- [CAB-22-MIN-0256]
- 9 **noted** that the Crown Minerals Amendment Bill has a category 4 priority on the 2022 Legislation Programme (to be referred to a select committee in 2022);
- 10 **noted** that announcements on the CMA Tranche Two Review are likely to attract questions about the future of block offers;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister may make announcements on the CMA Tranche Two Review alongside the block offer announcement.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Kiri Allan  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Hon James Shaw  
Dr Deborah Russell MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV