



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Michael Wood	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Immigration visa regulations: fit for a modern border	Date to be published	5 April 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
February 2023	Immigration visa regulations: fit for a modern border	Office of the Minister of Immigration
15 February 2023	Immigration visa regulations: fit for a modern border DEV-23-MIN-0002 Minute	Cabinet Office
8 February 2023	Regulatory Impact Statement: Amending the Visa Regulations to enable benefits of New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD)	MBIE

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.



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.

Immigration Visa Regulations: Fit for a Modern Border

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 15 February 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that Cabinet has agreed to the introduction, scope, and associated funding of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) to support Reconnecting New Zealand and modernise the border system [CBC-21-MIN-0090, SWC-22-MIN-0050, SWC-22-MIN-0127];
- 2 **noted** that the reintroduction of the NZTD from June 2023 will enable travellers to complete their digital declaration (for immigration, customs and biosecurity purposes) electronically, removing the need for the paper New Zealand Passenger Arrival Card;
- 3 **noted** that the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulations 2010 (Visa Regulations) do not fully enable the immigration system to utilise digital solutions (such as the NZTD) and to be fit-for-the-future;
- 4 **agreed** to amend the Visa Regulations to enable digital solutions to be used for immigration purposes, specifically to allow applications for a visa and/or entry permission upon arrival in New Zealand to be made electronically (i.e. using the NZTD) and the ability to allow it to be completed in languages other than English;
- 5 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office in accordance with the decision in paragraph 4;
- 6 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make decisions on any minor or technical matters, consistent with the policy decisions in the paper under DEV-23-SUB-0002, that may arise during the drafting process;
- 7 **noted** that the NZTD programme is developing an extensive communications strategy to inform travellers of the introduction of the digital declaration.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Hard-copy distribution: (see over)

Present:

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Hon Ginny Andersen
Hon Dr Duncan Webb
Hon Rino Tirikatene
Hon Dr Deborah Russell
Jo Luxton MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV