



## BRIEFING

### Proactive release of Cabinet paper: New Zealand's future quarantine and isolation capability

|                          |                  |                  |           |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Date:                    | 17 February 2023 | Priority:        | High      |
| Security classification: | In Confidence    | Tracking number: | 2223-2582 |

| Action sought             |   |                  |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|
| Minister                  | Action sought   | Deadline         |
| Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall     | <b>Agree</b> to the release of the Cabinet paper        | 24 February 2023 |
| <b>Minister of Health</b> | <b>Agree</b> to the release of the supporting documents |                  |
|                           | <b>Agree</b> to the proposed redactions                 |                  |

| Contact for telephone discussion (if required) |                               |                            |             |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| Name   | Position                      | Telephone                  | 1st contact |
| Melanie Taylor                                 | Policy Manager, MIQ           | Privacy of natural persons | ✓           |
| Privacy of natural persons                     | Principal Policy Advisor, MIQ |                            |             |

| The following departments/agencies have been consulted |
|--|
| The Treasury, Te Whatu Ora, Manatū Hauora              |

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



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#### Purpose

The purpose of this briefing is to seek your agreement to proactively release the Cabinet paper *New Zealand's future quarantine and isolation capability* and supporting documents. MBIE proposes to release this information on 1 March 2023.

#### Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to the release of the Cabinet paper *New Zealand's future quarantine and isolation capability* and accompanying Cabinet minute;

*Agree / Disagree*

- b **Agree** to the release of the supporting paper *National Quarantine Capability Programme Business Case*;

*Agree / Disagree*

- c **Agree** to the proposed redactions;

*Agree / Disagree*

- d **Note** that because this information has not been publicly announced, MBIE intends to engage with key stakeholders (including stakeholders that were consulted during the development of the Programme Business Case) on the Cabinet decisions taken prior to the release of these documents.

*Noted*

Melanie Taylor  
**Policy Manager, MIQ**  
Labour, Science and Enterprise  
17 / 2 / 2023

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
**Minister of Health**  
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## Background

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1. On 19 December 2022, you took the following paper and supporting documents to Cabinet (following endorsement from the Social Well-being Cabinet Committee on 14 December 2022):  

New Zealand's future quarantine and isolation capability  
Appendix 1: Programme Business Case – National quarantine Capability
2. Cabinet agreed the following [CAB-22-MIN-0589.01 refers]:
  - a) to fund the continued maintenance, testing, and maturation of New Zealand's existing Readiness Plan, plus the development of a long-term quarantine and isolation capability strategy, and investment in an evolving portfolio of (contracted) self, community, and managed quarantine and isolation interventions (the agreed work programme);
  - b) to provide funding of \$3.7 million per annum from July 2023 to June 2025 to progress the agreed work programme;
  - c) that officials will report back to SWC by 30 June 2023 with:
    - i. a draft long-term quarantine and isolation capability strategy;
    - ii. initial investment proposals for an evolving portfolio of self, community, and managed quarantine and isolation interventions; and
    - iii. advice on potential alignment of the above with the Emergency Relocation Plan review work being led by the National Emergency Management Agency;
  - d) that responsibility for progressing the agreed work programme is transferred from MBIE to the health system by 30 June 2023;
  - e) that the Cabinet decision restricting the transfer of funding will no longer apply and that the funding to progress the agreed work programme is transferred from Vote Building and Construction to Vote Health appropriations; and
  - f) that any underspends in the Isolation and Quarantine Management multi-category appropriation over and above the cost of funding the agreed work programme is returned to the Crown.
3. Please note that MBIE requires at least 3-5 working days to publish Cabinet material to [mbie.govt.nz](http://mbie.govt.nz), following completion of a due diligence process and having obtained your approval to the material's proactive release.

## Recommendation

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4. MBIE recommends the proactive release of the Cabinet paper and supporting documents with some information redacted for the following reasons:
  - i. Confidential advice to Government
  - ii. Confidentiality
  - iii. Privacy of natural persons
5. The proposed redactions are included in Annex One for your review.

## Consultation

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6. The Cabinet decisions outlined in this proposed release have not been publicly announced.
7. Prior to the release of these documents on 1 March 2023, MBIE is intending to engage with its partners and key stakeholders to inform them of the decisions Cabinet has taken. These stakeholders were consulted during the development of the Programme Business Case, and therefore helped to inform the recommended approach to the future quarantine and isolation capability.
8. This stakeholder engagement will likely commence, following your approval for MBIE to release the documents, between 24-27 February 2023. If you would like a copy of our stakeholder list, MBIE will provide that to your office separately.
9. MBIE expects there may be public interest in the release of these documents and will prepare reactive lines for your office to address any questions or enquiries directed to you. These will be provided by 23 February 2023, ahead of any stakeholder engagement.

## Annexes

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Annex 1: Marked-up copies of the Cabinet paper, Cabinet minute, and Programme Business Case

NB: Redacted copies of Cabinet paper and Minute have been published on MBIE's document library. The PBC has been published separately.

**Annex One: Marked up copies of the Cabinet paper, Cabinet minute, and Programme Business Case**

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