



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Andrew Little	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Cyclone Response: Immigration options	<b>Date to be published</b>	10 November 2023

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
August 2023	Cyclone Response: Immigration options	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 August 2023	Cyclone Response: Immigration options DEV-23-MIN-0171 Minute	Cabinet Office
17 February 2023	Cyclone Response Workforce Demands and Potential Immigration Responses	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
17 February 2023	Immigration response to Cyclone Gabrielle – supporting A3	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
21 February 2023	Immigration options to support the response to the early 2023 extreme weather events	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
24 March 2023	Aide Memoire - Recovery Visa	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
20 April 2023	Next steps for the Recovery Visa	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
5 May 2023	Update on Cyclone Response Immigration Options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
31 May 2023	Draft Cabinet paper: Cyclone Response – Immigration options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
9 August 2023	Material to support your item at Economic Development Committee on 16 August: Cyclone response – Immigration options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment

### **Information redacted**

**YES / NO** (please select)

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Some information has been withheld to maintain the privacy of natural persons and to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.

# IMMIGRATION RESPONSE TO CYCLONE GABRIELLE

## IMMEDIATE

Safety and assessment responses

## LONGER TERM

Infrastructure repair and rebuild

Residential and commercial repair and rebuild

### Anticipated workforce needs

- Emergency response and safety roles, including emergency services, transport providers
  - Infrastructure stabilisation roles, including network technicians, water services workers
  - Risk and loss assessment roles, including insurance assessors, engineers
- Comment:* it is unclear at this stage the extent to which the domestic workforce can meet these needs but there are known gaps

- Longer term needs are unclear at this stage and will emerge as the immediate recovery work goes ahead. At a minimum we expect there will be demand for:
- Clean-up roles, including labourers
  - Construction and infrastructure repair and rebuild roles, including engineers, surveyors, builders, plumbers, drainlayers, machine operators, telecommunications engineers and technicians, electrical network engineers and technicians, electricians

### Existing mechanisms

#### Domestic workforce

- Includes workers displaced by Cyclone
- Includes onshore migrant workers (already have visas)
- Can change roles by established Variation of Conditions (VOC) process



#### Offshore migrants

- Enter on a *Specific Purpose Visa (SPV)*; granted for up to three years to deliver specified event or purpose
- Checks health and character + role offer
- \$700 fee

#### Offshore migrants

- Enter on an *Accredited Employer Work Visa* (granted for up to three years, for roles paid at or above the median wage unless covered by a sector agreement)
- Requires employer to be accredited + a Job Checked role
- Process Job Checks in 10 days + migrant applications in 20 days
- A range of relevant roles are covered by the *Construction and Infrastructure sector agreement*, which allows recruitment at rates below median (currently \$25 p/h, \$26.69 p/h from 28 February)

### Options to adjust existing settings, and considerations

#### For onshore migrants

- (*what*) agree that a temporary relocation or role variation with the same employer will not be considered a breach of visa conditions
- (*why*) better enable either displaced migrants to find alternative temporary work or to allow employers to redeploy migrant labour to support clean-up, as it removes the need for a VOC

#### For offshore migrants

- (*what*) facilitate access to SPV for cyclone response, with bespoke eligibility criteria and visa conditions
- (*why*) more streamlined process which can be clearly communicated to employers

#### For offshore migrants

- (*what*) remove the need for a labour market test for identified roles
- (*why*) will reduce the burden on employers for AEWV applications
- (*what*) expand the roles covered by the construction and Infrastructure sector agreement
- (*why*) a wider range of skills may be needed to support the longer-term rebuild, meaning a below median wage rate is appropriate
- (*what*) extend the duration of the current wage rate (\$25 p/h) for the construction and Infrastructure sector agreement
- (*why*) enables employing a wider range of skills to support the rebuild
- (*what*) job attraction and facilitation functions