



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Progressing the Government's Immigration priorities	Date to be published	23 September 2024

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
August 2024	<i>Progressing the Government's Immigration priorities</i>	<i>Office of the Minister of Immigration</i>
7 August 2024	<i>ECO-24-MIN-0158 Minute</i>	<i>Cabinet Office</i>

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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.

Information has been redacted on the following grounds:

- *International Relations*
- *Free and Frank opinions*
- *Constitutional conventions*



Cabinet Economic Policy 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.

Minister of Immigration's Portfolio Priorities

Portfolio Immigration

On 7 August 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that unprecedented net migration has been having significant effects on the delivery of New Zealand's key services and infrastructure;
- 2 **noted** that since changes to the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) settings were implemented in April 2024 to require minimum English language and relevant experience requirements, there has been a significant decrease in visa approvals for lower skilled workers;
- 3 **noted** that there are concerns about the immigration risk environment, including the increased potential for migrant exploitation, human trafficking, and fraudulent asylum claims;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration's (the Minister) work programme includes meeting the Government's coalition commitments, and focuses on four priority areas:
 - 4.1 rebuilding the economy;
 - 4.2 delivering better public services;
 - 4.3 attracting top talent;
 - 4.4 advancing New Zealand's international priorities;
- 5 **noted** that the Government has dual priorities of reducing Jobseeker numbers and ensuring New Zealanders have the first opportunity for jobs, while allowing some employers the ability to be able to access migrant labour, particularly in regions and industries where fundamental limitations on labour availability exist;
- 6 **noted** that while many employers engage effectively with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and genuinely look to employ New Zealanders, there remain some who see the requirement to advertise with MSD for lower skilled workers as a "tick box" exercise they need to complete to hire a migrant;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister has directed that Licensed Immigration Advisors (LIAs) should not be able to advertise a lower skilled role with MSD given they have a conflict of interest and are financially incentivised to fill that role with a migrant;

- 8 **noted** that the Minister will be reporting back to ECO later in August 2024 with options for potential changes to the AEWV, for targeted stakeholder consultation during September/October 2024;
- 9 **noted** that the Minister has approved interim changes to the Specific Purpose Work Visa to provide greater access to seasonal workforces for key sectors until May 2025, and that these changes will be announced in the week of 12 August 2024;
- 10 **noted** that the proposed work programme in the paper under ECO-24-SUB-0158 has limited additional capacity, and that any changes would require stopping, slowing down, or delaying existing items on the work programme.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon Andrew Bayly
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Erica Stanford
Officials Committee for ECO