



Changes at the Border

The New Zealand Government is making several changes that will affect international visitors travelling to New Zealand, including:

- › introducing an International Conservation and Visitor Levy
- › introducing an Electronic Travel Authority
- › changes to immigration fees and levies
- › removing the requirement to fill out a departure card when leaving New Zealand.

This document provides a summary of these changes and when they will be implemented.

www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes



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Introducing an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy

What is the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy?

The number of visitors to New Zealand has grown strongly over the past few years, and growth is expected to continue.

Government is implementing a levy so that international visitors are contributing to the tourism infrastructure they use and to helping conserve our natural environment.

The levy:

- › charges only international visitors, not New Zealanders
- › will be collected alongside visa and ETA fees, minimising the impacts on travellers and carriers, and collection costs
- › aligns with New Zealand's international interests and agreements.

■ How much will it be?

The levy will cost \$35. It will generate around \$80 million in 2020, and will grow in line with visitor numbers.

■ How will it work?

For visitors who require a visa, an extra charge will be added to their visa fee.

Most visitors who don't require a visa before travelling to New Zealand will be required to apply for an Electronic Travel Authority and will pay their levy at this time.

The Electronic Travel Authority is a new border security and facilitation measure that will help speed things up at the border.

Find out more about the ETA:

www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes



■ Who will have to pay the levy?

Most international visitors entering New Zealand for 12 months or less will be charged an International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy. This will include working holiday visa holders, some of whom stay in New Zealand for 12 months or longer.

■ Exemptions

There are certain exemptions in recognition of New Zealand's international obligations and interests.

The following people will be exempt from payment of the levy:

- › Australian citizens and permanent residents, who are granted resident visas on arrival in New Zealand under the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement
- › people from many Pacific Islands countries, such as Tonga and Samoa
- › those on diplomatic, military, medical and humanitarian visas
- › those transiting New Zealand
- › business visitor visa and APEC business traveller card holders
- › airline and ship crew.

■ How will the money be spent?

The money collected will be split 50:50 between tourism infrastructure and conservation activity.

The Government will be talking to stakeholders to finalise the details of how this will work, including what the money can be spent on, how these programmes and projects will be identified, and the best way to report on what the funding has achieved.

■ When would the levy come into effect?

The levy first needs to be written into legislation and will likely come into effect in the second half of 2019.

■ Where can I find out more?

Visit www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes





Introducing an Electronic Travel Authority

What is an Electronic Travel Authority?

Government is introducing an Electronic Travel Authority for some groups of travellers. It is a new security and facilitation measure that will help to speed things up at the border.

The Electronic Travel Authority aims to:

- › enhance security and reduce immigration risks
- › address smuggling and biosecurity risks
- › improve the traveller experience
- › support New Zealand's international relationships and agreements
- › adapt to the changing needs and requirements of the government, stakeholders and travellers over time.

■ Why an Electronic Travel Authority?

The number of visitors to New Zealand has grown strongly over the past few years, and growth is expected to continue. Most short term visitors arriving by air or sea do not need to apply for a visa, which supports our tourism industry by making it easy to travel.

However, when people don't have to apply for visas, we only learn about them once they are enroute to New Zealand. We are unable to screen these travellers in advance for border and immigration risks and have a reduced ability to make entering New Zealand smoother and faster as technology evolves.

The Electronic Travel Authority aims to deal with these issues and is part of wider government efforts to make border crossing as seamless as possible.

■ How will it work?

Before coming to New Zealand, travellers required to hold an Electronic Travel Authority will fill out a simple form and pay their fee online, creating an electronic account that will be easy to set up and update.

Some travellers will also have to pay the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy at this point. Find out more about the levy here: www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes

The Electronic Travel Authority will be valid for two years.

What sort of information will people have to provide?

Electronic Travel Authority applicants will need to provide:

- › name and birthdate
- › passport details
- › contact details
- › some declarations, such as about criminal conviction history and travel intention.
- › optional biometric information (passport photo).



■ Who will have to hold an Electronic Travel Authority?

Most travellers who aren't required to get a visa before entering New Zealand will have to hold an Electronic Travel Authority. This includes citizens of visa waiver countries, cruise ship passengers, cruise ship crew and commercial airline crew.

Australian citizens will be exempt, although Australian permanent residents will not.

New Zealand citizens and holders of valid New Zealand visas (both resident visas and temporary visas) will continue to be able to enter New Zealand without an Electronic Travel Authority.

■ Is an Electronic Travel Authority a visa?

No. An Electronic Travel Authority is a condition of visa waiver travel. New Zealand will maintain its current suite of visa waiver arrangements with countries.

■ How much will it cost?

Final costings are still under development, but we expect it will cost between \$9 and \$12.50 per person. The Government will announce the final fee in the first half of 2019.

■ When will the Electronic Travel Authority come into effect?

It will likely come into effect for air passengers and crew in the second half of 2019.

We expect that it will come into effect for cruise passengers and crew in 2020.

■ Where can I find out more?

Visit www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes





Changes to immigration fees and levies

What are the changes?

The Government is increasing some immigration fees and levies so that enough money is collected to pay for the cost of providing services and managing risks related to immigration. These costs have increased as more people come to New Zealand and the risks associated with immigration become more complex.

Fees for some classes of visa will increase, while others will decrease. This is to ensure that the fees reflect the cost required to process the different kinds of visa.

Summary of changes:

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Work visas (excluding Recognised Seasonal Employers and Working Holiday visas) | + 54 per cent |
| Student visas | - 6.5 per cent |
| Group visitor visas | - 45 per cent |
| Business/Skilled Residence visas | - 1 per cent |
| Other visas | + 10 per cent |
| Immigration levies | + 43 per cent |

In addition, the current online discounts for certain visa applications will be removed (this will impact on some visitor, work and student applications) and there will be an increase to the employer accreditation fee.

How will the money be spent?

The increases are needed to cover the following increased costs (over five years):

- › \$119.774 million to meet the increasing cost of visa processing services
- › \$39.576 million to enhance border security and strengthen the regulation of immigration advisers.

Increases are also required to make up for a shortfall accumulated over the past few years where not enough funding was collected to cover Immigration New Zealand costs. The current deficit is expected to be paid off over the next three years.

When will the changes come into effect?

The new fee and levy rates will come into effect on 5 November 2018.

Where can I find out more?

Visit www.mbie.govt.nz/border-changes



Removal of departure cards

What are the changes to departure cards?

From 5 November 2018, travellers flying out of New Zealand will no longer need to fill in a departure card.

■ Why are departure cards being removed?

Departure cards were originally used to process and account for all travellers departing New Zealand, but this is now done electronically. Continuing with this requirement is inconsistent with the border sector vision to provide world class facilitation for travellers. This also brings us closer to seamless travel between Australia and New Zealand for the benefit of Trans-Tasman travellers and businesses.

Stats NZ will use alternative sources and ways to produce tourism and migration statistics, removing the need for travellers to complete these cards.

■ How will the Government collect the information it used to gather from departure cards?

The Government will continue to collect the information required for the most critical functions of the card (border processing and key statistics) by electronic and other means.

Stats NZ will switch to a new system that measures actual time that travellers are away, to distinguish between short-term and long-term departures. This approach is similar to Australia's.

■ What does this mean for travellers?

It means travellers no longer need to complete departure cards when leaving New Zealand. Most importantly, travellers leaving New Zealand will have a faster, smoother and more positive experience.





How will proposed border changes affect travellers?

International visitors to New Zealand will be affected differently by changes to border fees, levies and processes.

On the following page are some examples that illustrate what the combined changes may mean for different traveller types.



Summary of cumulative impacts by persona

| | | Current | | | Proposed | | | | | Difference |
|-------------------------|---|-----------|------------------|---------|----------|------------------|-------------|-------|--------------|----------------------|
| | | Visa fee* | Immigration Levy | Total | Visa fee | Immigration Levy | ETA | IVL | Total | (Proposed - Current) |
| Australia | Citizen - individual | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Citizen - family group | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a |
| | Resident - individual | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 |
| | Resident - family group | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$36-\$50 | n/a | n/a | \$36-\$50 |
| Visitor | Visa free - individual | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | \$35 | \$44-\$47.50 | \$44.00-\$47.50 |
| | Visa free - family group | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$36-\$50 | \$140 | \$176-\$190 | \$176-\$190 |
| | Visa required - individual | \$151 | \$14 | \$165 | \$190 | \$21 | n/a | \$35 | \$246 | \$81 |
| | Visa required - family group | \$151 | \$14 | \$165 | \$190 | \$21 | n/a | \$140 | \$351 | \$186 |
| | Visa required (Pacific national) - individual | \$116 | \$14 | \$130 | \$150 | \$21 | n/a | \$35 | \$206 | \$76 |
| | Visa required (Pacific national) - family group | \$116 | \$14 | \$130 | \$150 | \$21 | n/a | \$140 | \$311 | \$181 |
| Cruise passenger | Non-Australian - individual | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | \$35 | \$44-\$47.50 | \$44-\$47.50 |
| | Non-Australian - family group | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$36-\$50 | \$140 | \$176-\$190 | \$176-\$190 |
| Student | Visa required (<12 months) | \$253 | \$17 | \$270 | \$270 | \$25 | n/a | \$35 | \$330 | \$60 |
| | Visa required (>12 months) | \$253 | \$17 | \$270 | \$270 | \$25 | n/a | n/a | \$295 | \$25 |
| | Visa free (<3 months) | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | \$35 | \$44-\$47.50 | \$44-\$47.50 |
| Temporary Work | Essential skills (<12 months) | \$260 | \$38 | \$298 | \$440 | \$55 | n/a | \$35 | \$530 | \$232 |
| | Essential skills (>12 months) | \$260 | \$38 | \$298 | \$440 | \$55 | n/a | n/a | \$495 | \$197 |
| | Recognised Seasonal Employer (Pacific national) | \$240 | \$10 | \$250 | \$270 | \$15 | n/a | n/a | \$285 | \$35 |
| | Working Holiday | \$170 | \$38 | \$208 | \$190 | \$55 | n/a | n/a | \$245 | \$37 |
| Residence | Skilled Migrant Category | \$2,505 | \$580 | \$3,085 | \$2,480 | \$830 | n/a | n/a | \$3,310 | \$225 |
| Crew | Non-Australian - commercial aircraft | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | \$9-\$12.50 |
| | Non-Australian - cruise ship | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | n/a | \$9-\$12.50 | \$9-\$12.50 |

*Visa fees shown are for visas applied offshore online. Pacific national rates reflect discounts for citizens of Pacific countries. Family group visa fees and levy rates are for a family of four (two adults and two dependent children aged under 18 years old)