



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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International Labour Organisation's Forced Labour Protocol 2014: Release of Discussion Document

Portfolio **Workplace Relations and Safety**

On 6 March 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1 **noted** that in 2014, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) adopted the Forced Labour Protocol (the Protocol), which supplements and modernises the ILO's Forced Labour Convention (No. 29);
- 2 **noted** that New Zealand's ratification of the Protocol would:
 - 2.1 highlight the importance the government places on addressing forced labour and other forms of contemporary slavery occurring within New Zealand's jurisdiction;
 - 2.2 align with government initiatives already underway on people trafficking, forced labour, and temporary migrant worker exploitation more broadly;
- 3 **noted** that public consultation is required to further inform any decision on whether New Zealand should formally consider ratifying the Protocol;
- 4 **noted** that if New Zealand ratifies the Protocol, New Zealand will be legally required to implement the provisions of the treaty;
- 5 **noted** that:
 - 5.1 preliminary analysis shows that New Zealand is already largely compliant with the requirements of the Protocol;
 - 5.2 work is already underway on refreshing the current National Plan of Action to Prevent People Trafficking, which will position New Zealand to be more consistent with the requirements of the Protocol;
- 6 **agreed** to the release of the discussion document *Have Your Say: Should New Zealand Ratify the 2014 Forced Labour Protocol?* (the discussion document), attached to the paper under DEV-19-SUB-0033, subject to any minor or technical amendments that may be required;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety intends to announce that the government will be publicly consulting on the potential implications of New Zealand ratifying the Protocol, and inviting feedback on the proposal prior to the government making a decision;

- 8 **invited** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety to report back to DEV in May 2019 with advice and a National Interest Analysis recommending whether or not New Zealand should ratify the Protocol.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Tracey Martin
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Eugenie Sage

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Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV

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