



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Increasing the cap for the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme	Date to be published	5 November 2019

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
23 September 2019	Increasing the cap for the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme	Office of the Minister of Immigration
23 September 2019	Cabinet Minute CAB-19-MIN-0494 Increasing the cap for the Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme	Secretary of the Cabinet

Information redacted

YES

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.

Constitutional Conventions



Cabinet

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.

Increasing the Cap for the Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 23 September 2019, following reference from the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV), Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that employers under the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme have made some progress in responding to the challenges laid out to them by the Minister of Immigration, including the construction of purpose-built accommodation in regions where there is housing pressure and improved engagement with the Ministry of Social Development to employ New Zealanders;
- 2 **agreed**, in light of the tight labour market and progress towards meeting these challenges, to increase the cap on temporary visas that can be granted under the RSE scheme by 1,550 places, to 14,400 in 2019/20, noting that this will be the third-largest increase in the cap in the history of the scheme;
- 3 **agreed** to increase the cap again in 2020/21 by a further 1,600 places to 16,000, conditional on evidence of widespread industry action to:
 - 3.1 reduce the use of residential housing in key priority regions;
 - 3.2 increase the number of purpose-built beds that add to housing stock;
 - 3.3 make jobs more attractive to New Zealanders by improving conditions (such as increasing wages beyond minimum wage increases);
 - 3.4 remove barriers for New Zealanders to participate (such as providing transport, accommodation and training for New Zealanders);
- 4 **noted** that officials will develop lead indicators (in consultation with industry) to be used to determine whether the commitments in paragraph 3 above have been met, and will report back to the Minister of Immigration before the end of 2019;
- 5 **invited** the Minister of Immigration, in consultation with the Minister for Social Development, to determine whether the conditions in paragraph 3 above have been met in order to release the additional cap places for 2020/21;
- 6 **agreed** to mitigate housing pressures by excluding the use of non-employer owned residential housing from forming part of an Agreement to Recruit (that has not previously been included in an approved Agreement to Recruit);

- 7 **agreed** that in addition to paragraph 6, the Minister of Immigration may exclude the purchase of existing residential housing from forming part of an Agreement to Recruit in particular regions, based on advice from officials;
- 8 **agreed** that the Minister of Immigration will determine whether any exemptions to the conditions in paragraph 6 and 7 above for particular regions are necessary, based on advice from officials.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:
Minister of Immigration

PROACTIVELY RELEASED