



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Stuart Nash	Portfolio	Small Business
Title of Cabinet paper	A Focus on Small Business	Date to be published	2 December 2019

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
23 October 2019	<i>A Focus on Small Business</i>	<i>Office of the Minister for Small Business</i>
July 2019	<i>The New Zealand Small Business Strategy</i>	<i>Small Business Council</i>
July 2019	<i>Support Structures for the Small Business Sector</i>	<i>Small Business Council</i>
July 2019	<i>Defining Small Business</i>	
23 October 2019	<i>DEV 19 MIN 0284</i>	<i>Cabinet Office</i>

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.

Some information has been withheld under free and frank opinions.



Cabinet Economic Development 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.

A Focus on Small Business

Portfolio **Small Business**

On 23 October 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1 **noted** the importance of small businesses, as highlighted in the government's Economic Plan [DEV-19-MIN-0244];
- 2 **noted** that the Small Business Council has provided a considered, positive and strategic report;
- 3 **agreed** that the government's response to the report is a clear and compelling opportunity to build on the Economic Plan's focus on improving the productivity of small businesses;
- 4 **noted** that the Small Business Council report suggests further work in areas such as understanding the needs and experience of small business, access to finance, skills and capability development, and an enabling regulatory system;
- 5 **noted** the initial government response, attached as Annex Two to the paper under DEV-19-SUB-0284, which proposes to:
 - 5.1 improve data collection to enable better understanding of the needs and experience of small business;
 - 5.2 develop a detailed work programme to improve access to appropriate finance options for businesses;
 - 5.3 develop a detailed work programme to feed in the Small Business Council's recommendations into a consideration of the wider business support system;
 - 5.4 use the 'Better for Business' programme as a foundation to improve understanding of key business pain-points and help with the design of regulations and cross agency services for small businesses;
- 6 **noted** that further work is needed to develop this initial government response so that the government can effectively prioritise effort, identify the costs involved, and effectively signal and message this work to small businesses and the community;
- 7 **noted** that this is a compelling opportunity for the government to focus on lifting small business performance by working in partnership with small business owners and Māori across all sectors of the economy;

8 **invited** the Minister for Small Business and the Minister for Economic Development to report back to DEV on detailed work programmes in the four areas outlined in paragraph 5 above, following further work. Free and frank opinions

9 Free and frank opinions

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11 **agreed** that the paper under DEV-19-SUB-0284, including Annex Two, serve as the government's initial response to the Small Business Council report;

12 **authorised** the Minister for Small Business to release the government response to the Small Business Council report;

13 **authorised** the Minister for Small Business to make any minor changes necessary prior to release, consistent with the paper under DEV-19-SUB-0284.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon James Shaw
Hon Julie Anne Genter
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister for Small Business