



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Michael Wood	<b>Portfolio</b>	Workplace Relations and Safety
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Addressing modern slavery and worker exploitation in supply chains: agreement to release public consultation document	<b>Date to be published</b>	14 April 2022

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
9 March 2022	<i>Addressing modern slavery and worker exploitation in supply chains: agreement to release public consultation document</i>	<i>Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety</i>
9 March 2022	<i>Cabinet Economic Development Committee Minute of Decision: Addressing modern slavery and worker exploitation in supply chains: agreement to release public consultation document</i>	<i>Cabinet Office</i>
4 March 2021	<i>Addressing modern slavery in international supply chains</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
4 August 2021	<i>Addressing Modern Slavery in Supply Chains: High-Level Legislative Options</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
1 October 2021	<i>Addressing Modern Slavery in Supply Chains: Further Decisions for Public Consultation</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
1 October 2021	<i>Addressing Modern Slavery in Supply Chains: Further Decisions for Public Consultation Annex Five: Literature review on the impact and effectiveness of modern slavery legislation</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
27 October 2021	<i>Further advice on the relationship between the duty to prevent employment standards breaches and modern slavery legislation</i>	<i>MBIE</i>
20 December 2021	<i>Modern slavery and worker exploitation draft discussion document and Cabinet paper</i>	<i>MBIE</i>

**Information redacted****YES / NO**

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 for the reasons of privacy of natural persons, free and frank expression of opinions, international relations, and confidential advice to government.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Addressing Modern Slavery and Worker Exploitation in Supply Chains: Release of Consultation Document

**Portfolio**                      **Workplace Relations and Safety**

On 9 March 2022, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1        **noted** that the paper under DEV-22-SUB-0027 relates to the Labour Party 2020 election manifesto commitment to explore the implementation of modern slavery legislation in New Zealand to eliminate exploitation in supply chains;
- 2        **noted** that modern slavery is a worldwide problem that, whether it occurs in New Zealand or overseas, is inconsistent with New Zealand's values;
- 3        **noted** that while New Zealand has domestic laws that make it illegal to engage in modern slavery, there is no legislation to address this in wider supply chains and operations;
- 4        **noted** that a number of other countries have legislation in place to address modern slavery in supply chains, and that New Zealand risks being seen as falling behind and not supporting collective global efforts to stamp out these practices;
- 5        **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has developed a consultation document on a proposed approach to modern slavery legislation, in consultation with a leadership advisory group chaired by Rob Fyfe and made up of business, unions and civil society;
- 6        **noted** that the proposed legislation and supporting mechanisms have the following objectives:
  - 6.1      reduce modern slavery and worker exploitation in New Zealand and elsewhere, helping to build practices based on fairness and respect;
  - 6.2      enhance New Zealand's international reputation as a country that supports human rights and transparency;
  - 6.3      strengthen New Zealand's international brand and make it easier for New Zealand businesses to continue to trade with the world;
  - 6.4      support consumers to make more informed choices in relation to modern slavery and worker exploitation risks associated with goods and services;
  - 6.5      drive culture and behaviour changes in entities that lead to more responsible and sustainable practices;

6.6 level the playing field for entities that act responsible across their operations and supply chains;

7 **noted** that there is a risk that some entities that are not already managing risks in their supply chains may see this legislation as adding further compliance costs;

8 **agreed** to release the discussion document A Legislative Response to Modern Slavery and Worker Exploitation: Towards Freedom, Fairness and Dignity in Operations and Supply Chains (the discussion document), attached to the submission under DEV-22-SUB-0027, subject to any minor or editorial changes that may be required;

## Confidential advice to Government

10 **invited** the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety to report back to DEV by the end of 2022 on:

10.1 the feedback from the public consultation;

10.2 the proposed approach to modern slavery legislation;

10.3 the benefits and costs (including detailed cost estimates) of introducing modern slavery legislation.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Michael Wood  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Rino Tirikatene MP  
Dr Deborah Russell MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV