



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Barbara Edmonds	Portfolio	Minister for Economic Development
Title of Cabinet paper	Government Response to the petition of Amy Blaikie: New Zealand wool products used in public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes	Date to be published	9 October 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
August 2023	Government Response to the petition of Amy Blaikie: New Zealand wool products used in public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes The Government Response (Appendix One of Cabinet paper) was published by the House and can be found here .	Office of the Minister for Economic Development
24 August 2023	Government Response to the Petition of Amy Blaikie: New Zealand wool products used in public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes LEG-23-MIN-0167 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

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.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Economic Development
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

Government Response to the petition of Amy Blaikie: New Zealand wool products used in public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks approval of the government's response to the Petitions Committee entitled "*Amy Blaikie: New Zealand wool products used in public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes*".

Background

- 2 On 11 February 2021, the Petitions Committee referred the petition of Amy Blaikie to the Minister for Economic and Regional Development under Standing Order 380.
- 3 The petition requests: *That the House of Representatives ensure all public-funded buildings and KiwiBuild homes are built or refurbished with New Zealand wool carpet and New Zealand wool insulation.*
- 4 The Minister for Economic and Regional Development wrote to the Petitions Committee in April 2022 to respond to the issues raised by the petitioner.
- 5 A Government response must now also be presented to the House of Representatives in accordance with Standing Order 380.

Comment on the government response

- 6 New Zealand's international free trade agreements, as well as procurement principles, constrain the Government's ability to implement preferential treatment policies in favour of a particular product or material.
- 7 Over recent years government procurement policy and system settings have shifted to take into consideration wider social, economic, environmental and cultural outcomes, and align with priority initiatives to reduce emissions and improve environmental sustainability practices. This included the introduction of new requirements on agencies to support the transition to a net-zero emissions economy and reduce waste. These settings are complemented by the introduction of a sustainable building rating system policy to reduce carbon emissions and waste in construction.
- 8 The strong sustainability focus of the current procurement system settings can provide a comparative advantage to low environmental impact products, such as those potentially made from wool, in the evaluation of tender bids.

Agencies must also consider whole of life costs, quality and performance in any procurement activity.

Consultation

- 9 The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Kaīnga Ora have been consulted.

Financial implications

- 10 There are no financial implications.

Publicity

- 11 The Government Response, attached as Appendix One, must be presented to the House before the dissolution of Parliament on 8 September 2023.

Proactive Release

- 12 The Minister proposes to release this paper proactively. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

The Minister for Economic Development recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** the submission of the Minister for Economic Development and in particular her advice that there should be no policy changes in this area;
- 2 **approve** the Government response, attached as Appendix One;
- 3 **invite** the Minister for Economic Development to present the government response to the House in accordance with Standing Order 380;
- 4 **invite** the Minister for Economic Development to write to the petitioner enclosing a copy of the government response, after the response has been presented to the House.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Barbara Edmonds

Minister for Economic Development