



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Andrew Little	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Cyclone Response: Immigration options	Date to be published	10 November 2023

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
August 2023	Cyclone Response: Immigration options	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 August 2023	Cyclone Response: Immigration options DEV-23-MIN-0171 Minute	Cabinet Office
17 February 2023	Cyclone Response Workforce Demands and Potential Immigration Responses	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
17 February 2023	Immigration response to Cyclone Gabrielle – supporting A3	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
21 February 2023	Immigration options to support the response to the early 2023 extreme weather events	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
24 March 2023	Aide Memoire - Recovery Visa	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
20 April 2023	Next steps for the Recovery Visa	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
5 May 2023	Update on Cyclone Response Immigration Options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
31 May 2023	Draft Cabinet paper: Cyclone Response – Immigration options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment
9 August 2023	Material to support your item at Economic Development Committee on 16 August: Cyclone response – Immigration options	Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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 to maintain the privacy of natural persons and to protect the free and frank expression of opinions.



BRIEFING

Material to support your item at Economic Development Committee on 16 August: Cyclone response – Immigration options

Date:	9 August 2023	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2324-0432

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Andrew Little Minister of Immigration	Agree to lodge the attached Cabinet paper: <i>Cyclone response – Immigration options</i>	10 August 2023
Hon Rachel Brooking Associate Minister of Immigration	For information	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kirsty Hutchison	Acting Manager, Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy	04 830 7396	
Nita Sullivan	Senior Policy Advisor, Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy	04 897 5181	✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted on the content of the Cabinet paper:

Ministry of Social Development, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (Policy Advisory Group), and the Treasury. The Construction Sector Accord, the Infrastructure Commission, Civil Contractors New Zealand, the Council of Trade Unions, and the Amalgamated Workers New Zealand were consulted on specific proposals included in this paper.

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

Material to support your item at Economic Development Committee on 16 August: Cyclone response – Immigration options

Date:	9 August 2023	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2324-0432

Purpose

To provide you:

- a final copy of the Cabinet paper *Cyclone response – Immigration options* for lodging; and
- talking points to support consideration of the paper at the Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 16 August 2023.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** that the attached Cabinet paper was circulated for Ministerial consultation, and feedback from the Ministry for Primary Industries was received, which is now reflected in the paper
Noted
- b **Agree** to the lodge the final Cabinet paper *Cyclone response – Immigration options (clean version)*, as attached at Annex One
Agree / Disagree
- c **Note** the talking points to support discussion of this item at the Economic Development Cabinet Committee on 16 August, as attached at Annex Two.
Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Kirsty Hutchison
Acting Manager, Immigration (Skills and Residence) Policy
Labour, Science and Enterprise, MBIE

09 / 08 / 2023

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Immigration

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Background

1. In response to the weather events in early 2023, Cabinet agreed to establish an extreme weather event recovery visa to provide a streamlined pathway for employers to access migrant labour urgently needed to support the immediate response and clean up [DEV-23-MIN-0014]. The Recovery Visa was announced and went live on 24 February 2023. Since then, the Recovery Visa has facilitated a fast surge of workers to local employers to support immediate clean up activity.
2. In May, we provided the former Minister of Immigration with advice on options to close the Recovery Visa and provide further tailored immigration pathways for workers for the rebuild phases following Cyclone Gabrielle [BR2223-3717 refers]. The former Minister agreed to close the Recovery Visa, provide a three-month extension to support onshore Recovery Visa holders to transition to another work visa if they choose, and expand the Construction and Infrastructure Sector Agreement to include further roles likely to be needed in the rebuild.
3. In June, a draft Cabinet paper was provided for feedback and circulation for Ministerial consultation [BR2223-3997 refers]. Officials subsequently provided a revised draft Cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation, which occurred from 7-14 June. Feedback from the Ministry for Primary Industries was received through this process, which has been reflected in the final version of the Cabinet paper (set out in more detail below).
4. Subject to your approval, the final draft of the Cabinet paper will be lodged on 10 August, for consideration by the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) on 16 August 2023. Talking points to support discussion of this item at that meeting are attached at Annex Three.

Changes to the Cabinet paper

5. Some minor and technical changes have been made to the final version of the Cabinet paper. Other changes have also been made following feedback from your office and via the Ministerial consultation process. The changes are outlined in the table below:

Change made	Reference
New text to reflect the current state of workforce planning and labour needs for the rebuild	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph 12
Updated application numbers for the Recovery Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph 13.1 and footnote 1
Reflecting feedback received from the Ministry for Primary Industries on the duration of the extension and how changes will be communicated to employers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraphs 21, 47 and 48
Additional supporting rationale and clarification text on the proposed additions to the Construction and Infrastructure Sector Agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph 33 and footnote 4
Updated text regarding implementation timeframes for adding occupations to the sector agreement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraph 37
Updates to the financial implications section and corresponding recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paragraphs 38-40 and footnote 5• Recs 12 and 14
Additional recommendations regarding waiving the Tuberculosis check for the visa extension	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recs 8 and 9

Annexes

Free and frank opinions

