



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Andrew Little	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Immigration Green List Review: Proposed Additions	<b>Date to be published</b>	13 November 2023

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
August 2023	Immigration Green List Review: Proposed Additions	Office of the Minister of Immigration
30 August 2023	Immigration Green List Review: Proposed Additions DEV-23-MIN-0199 Minute	Cabinet Office

### 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 for the reason of confidential advice to government.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Immigration Green List Review: Proposed Additions

#### Portfolio                      Immigration

On 30 August 2023, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in April 2022, Cabinet agreed to introduce the Green List as part of the Immigration Rebalance, to offer a prioritised residence pathway for people in specified skilled occupations [CAB-22-MIN-0145];
- 2        **noted** that Cabinet invited the Minister of Immigration to review the Green List one year after its introduction, and to report back with any proposed changes [CAB-22-MIN-0145];
- 3        **noted** that to date, the Green List appears to be facilitating the supply of labour (rather than generating demand), filling skills and labour shortages particularly in health, information and communications technology (ICT), engineering, and construction;
- 4        **noted** that the Green List review has been informed by industry and social partner perspectives on occupations that should be on the Green List;
- 5        **noted** that the Minister of Immigration has recommended occupations be added where there is an indicator of shortage, and the occupation:
  - 5.1      will qualify for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) and is also high volume; or
  - 5.2      is unlikely to qualify for the SMC but is considered to be nationally significant; or
  - 5.3      is part of an occupational group that is already on the Green List;
- 6        **agreed** that the following occupations be added to the Green List, based on:
  - 6.1      being eligible for the SMC and high volume (straight to residence pathway):
    - Aviation Engineer (see Avionics, Aeronautical, Aerospace Engineer)
    - Naval Architects (aka Marine Designer)
    - Mechanical Engineering Technician

- 6.2 being ineligible for SMC, but considered nationally significant (work to residence pathway):

Aircraft Maintenance Engineer  
 Road Roller Operator  
 Paving Plant Operator  
 Corrections Officer  
 Metal Fabricator  
 Pressure Welder  
 Welder  
 Fitter (General)  
 Fitter and Turner  
 Fitter-Welder  
 Metal Machinist (First Class)  
 Panel Beater  
 Vehicle Painter

- 6.3 taking an approach that is consistent with the inclusive approach taken for ICT roles in the original Green List work (straight to residence pathway):

ICT Database and System Administrator

- 7 **noted** that officials will continue to monitor and report on Green List uptake and labour market conditions to reduce the risk that the domestic labour market is affected, Confidential advice to Gov
- 8 **noted** that in April 2022, Cabinet agreed that Green List applications would facilitate easier entry by providing two prioritised and streamlined residence pathways [CAB-22-MIN-0145];
- 9 **noted** that it is timely to reconsider the current priority processing rules, taking into account revised SMC settings, with recent and proposed changes to the Green List and the opening of the Work to Residence pathway in September 2023;
- 10 **agreed** that, to maintain processing times and respond to emerging labour market needs, Immigration New Zealand will take decisions relating to the prioritisation of skilled residence application processing, even if this means not all Green List applications are prioritised;
- 11 **noted** that any changes to the prioritisation of skilled residence application processing will be reported to the Minister of Immigration;
- 12 **noted** that in December 2022:
- 12.1 Cabinet agreed to extend all employer accreditations under the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) applied for before 4 July 2023 by 12 months, to support employers while they are adjusting to the new system [CAB-22-MIN-0569];
- 12.2 the Minister of Immigration noted that he would seek advice from officials about whether a permanent change in settings is appropriate, and would report back to Cabinet in the first half of 2023;
- 13 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration has received further advice from officials on accreditation duration, and does not propose any further extensions at this time, but intends to review accreditation duration when there is enough employer compliance data to better inform risk settings;

- 14 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to determine the skill thresholds of the added occupations once final decisions on additions have been made;
- 15 **noted** that officials are preparing to add the occupations listed in paragraph 6 above to the Green List as soon as possible after Cabinet decisions, but given the decisions that are required on the skill thresholds of added occupations and the significant amount of work on the Immigration New Zealand implementation programme, any additions to the Green List will likely be implemented in early 2024;
- 16 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will certify new immigration instructions under section 22 of the Immigration Act 2009 to give effect to the above paragraphs;
- 17 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will announce these changes soon after decisions are taken.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Kieran McAnulty  
Hon Dr Duncan Webb  
Hon Jo Luxton  
Hon Rachel Brooking

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV