



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Requiring cargo ship crew and passengers to hold an NZeTA	Date to be published	28 August 2024

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2024	Requiring cargo ship crew and passengers to hold an NZeTA	Office of the Minister of Immigration
12 July 2024	Regulatory Impact Statement-Requiring more classes of person to hold an NZeTA before travel	MBIE
24 July 2024	Requiring cargo ship crew and passengers to hold an NZeTA ECO-24-MIN-0131	Cabinet Office

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 for the reasons of commercial information and confidentiality.



Cabinet Economic Policy 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.

Requiring Cargo Ship Crew and Passengers to Hold an NZeTA

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 24 July 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in 2023, the previous government agreed that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) consult with the maritime and aviation sectors on:
 - 1.1 requiring cargo ship crew and passengers, crew of foreign ships authorised to carry coastal cargo, and private aircraft crew to hold a New Zealand electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA) before travel to New Zealand;
 - 1.2 the deemed visa period for cargo and cruise ship crew and passengers (currently a maximum of 28 days);

[DEV-23-MIN-0023]
- 2 **noted** that consultation in early 2023 (and refreshed in June 2024) highlighted:
 - 2.1 broad support for requiring cargo ship passengers and crew visa to hold an NZeTA;
 - 2.2 no significant concerns in relation to crew of foreign ships authorised by the Minister of Transport to carry coastal cargo;
 - 2.3 some concern about including unscheduled private and commercial aircraft crew;
 - 2.4 concerns about the potential impacts of a longer deemed visa period for foreign cargo ships on the sustainability of domestic coastal shipping;
 - 2.5 no evidence of need for a longer deemed visa period for the cruise ship sector;
- 3 **agreed** to make the following classes of person visa waiver for travel to New Zealand on the condition they hold a valid NZeTA:
 - 3.1 cargo ship passengers and crew;
 - 3.2 crew of foreign ships authorised by the Minister of Transport under section 198(2) of the Maritime Transport Act 1994 to carry coastal cargo;
- 4 **agreed** that the classes of person in paragraph 3 above are deemed to hold a visa and entry permission on arrival in New Zealand if they hold an NZeTA or are exempt from the requirement to do so;

- 5 **agreed** that the existing NZeTA policy framework apply to the classes of person in paragraph 3 above, as follows:
- 5.1 maritime or aircraft crew are not required to pay the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL) when they request a Crew NZeTA;
 - 5.2 a request for a Traveller NZeTA must be accompanied by payment of the IVL;
 - 5.3 'positioning' crew (flying to New Zealand to join a vessel or craft they are working on) can travel to New Zealand on their Crew NZeTA and apply for a visa and entry permission on arrival (rather than applying for a visitor visa prior to travel);
- 6 **agreed** to maintain the existing deemed visa period for cargo and cruise ships and not require private aircraft crew to hold an NZeTA before travel to New Zealand due to the operational complexity potentially outweighing benefits;
- 7 **agreed** to amend the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) to require any photos of customers' heads submitted with NZeTA requests to be of acceptable quality;
- 8 **noted** that amendments to the Regulations will be required to give effect to the changes in paragraphs 3 to 5 and 7 above;
- 9 **noted** that:
- 9.1 the cost of the above NZeTA policy changes is expected to be \$906,000 over five years, and will be met by increased third-party revenue generated by the changes and the current surplus in the NZeTA memorandum account;
 - 9.2 no additional funding or changes to appropriations is required;
- 10 **agreed** to implement the NZeTA requirements by April 2025, which will allow for sufficient time to communicate changes and to on board carriers to Immigration New Zealand systems;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above policy changes and to make minor, technical, and policy decisions, as required, provided they are consistent with the policy direction in the paper under ECO-24-SUB-0131;
- 12 **noted** that work is underway to scope options for a maritime Advance Passenger Processing (APP) system, which is key to keeping risk offshore, and supports compliance with the NZeTA.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Simeon Brown
Officials' Committee for ECO