



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Changes to investor migrant policy settings to attract and facilitate investment to New Zealand	Date to be published	3 March 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
December 2024	Changes to investor migrant policy settings to attract and facilitate investment to New Zealand	Office of the Minister of Immigration
4 December 2024	CAB-24-MIN-ECO-0290 Minute	Cabinet Office
26 September 2024	Briefing 0006754 Active Investor Plus Visa: Analysis of proposed policy settings	MBIE
24 October 2024	Briefing 0004973 Active Investor Plus Visa: Targeted consultation report-back and draft Cabinet paper	MBIE
26 July 2024	Initial considerations for an Active Investor Plus Visa settings review	MBIE

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.

Information has been redacted on the following grounds:

- Privacy of natural persons
- Confidential advice to Government
- Free and frank expression of opinions
- International relations
- National security and defence



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.

Changes to Investor Migrant Policy Settings to Attract and Facilitate Investment to New Zealand

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 4 December 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that the immigration system can support the Government’s priority to rebuild the economy by increasing foreign direct investment and by providing attractive investor migration pathways and investment options to investor migrants;
- 2 **noted** that in the first two years since go-live, the Active Investor Plus (AIP) visa has attracted \$48 million in investment so far (with a potential investment value of approximately \$874 million) and approximately half the number of applications than its predecessor visas, the Investor 1 and 2 categories, had within their first two years, and that the AIP visa is likely to have disincentivised applications from investors with lower risk appetites or who are unfamiliar with New Zealand’s investment ecosystem;
- 3 **noted** that the key outcomes sought through the proposed policy changes to the AIP visa are to attract more investor migrants through a broader range of investments to cater for different risk appetites, and thereby increase the volume of foreign investment in New Zealand;
- 4 **noted** that the proposed changes to the investor visa have been calibrated to incentivise active investments, whilst also providing a pathway for passive investments;
- 5 **agreed** to the following key changes to AIP visa policy settings to simplify settings, better attract foreign investment, and to continue to provide clear incentives to invest in ‘active’ investment classes, which encourage applicants to commit both their financial and human capital:
 - 5.1 introduce two simplified investment pathways under the AIP visa that require applicants to choose from either ‘Growth’ (\$5 million minimum investment) or ‘Balanced’ (\$10 million minimum investment) categories at the time of applying, with detailed visa requirements for each category as set out in Appendix Two, attached to the submission under ECO-24-SUB-0290;
 - 5.2 expand the types of acceptable investments available to applicants to choose from by permitting specified bond and property type investments to be made under the Balanced category, providing options for investors with lower risk appetites or those who have investment preferences not permitted under the Growth category;

- 5.3 reduce the investment period requirement for the Growth category and increase it for the Balanced category, and reduce minimum time in New Zealand requirements and the number of compliance checks required for the Growth and Balanced categories;
- 5.4 remove English language requirements;
- 6 **noted** that when the previous government took decisions on implementing the AIP visa, Cabinet:
- 6.1 noted that New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) would be the steward of determining what is an acceptable investment, consistent with its expertise and function; and
- 6.2 authorised joint Ministers (the Minister for Economic Development and Ministers of Immigration and Science, Innovation and Technology) to make changes to determine what qualifies as an acceptable investment, consistent with the following criteria:
- 6.2.1 investments are into New Zealand entities that clearly contribute to the Government's economic strategy (by being high growth potential firms or contributing to positive social and economic impacts);
- 6.2.2 proper verification is conducted to ensure that the business is legitimate (this is not a test of its financial health and growth potential, which is for the investor to ascertain); and
- 6.2.3 investments do not prejudice New Zealand's reputation as a responsible member of the world community;
- [CAB-22-MIN-0162.01]
- 7 **noted** that the joint Ministers (specified in paragraph 6.2) will shortly consider advice to update immigration instructions on acceptable direct investments to better reflect the Government's economic strategy and increase investment offerings;
- 8 **noted** that in November 2024, ECO agreed to changes to enable the science, innovation, and technology system to deliver better economic outcomes for New Zealand, including establishing an investment attraction agency (Invest New Zealand (NZ)) [ECO-24-MIN-0242];
- 9 **noted** that Invest NZ is expected to be established in late 2025 or early 2026;
- 10 **noted** that Invest NZ, once established, will have a role in supporting investor migrants to foster innovation, raise domestic capabilities, and improve international connections;
- 11 **agreed in principle** that the NZTE's current function in relation to the AIP will transition to Invest NZ once established (this includes attraction and aftercare of investor migrants and the steward for determining what is an acceptable investment), subject to final Ministerial decisions authorised below;
- 12 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration and the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to take detailed decisions on the transition of these functions from NZTE to Invest NZ;
- 13 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration and Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology will consult with the Minister for Trade and Minister for Economic Development as the responsible Ministers for NZTE on the above detailed decisions;

- 14 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has consulted with targeted stakeholders on changes to increase the flow of foreign investment to New Zealand under the AIP scheme and that feedback indicated:
- 14.1 broad consensus that changes should focus on ensuring simplicity, flexibility and social licence for the scheme;
 - 14.2 divergent views about whether expanding acceptable investments (to include bonds and property) would benefit the New Zealand economy, proposed to be mitigated by:
 - 14.2.1 deliberately introducing settings designed to incentivise more active investment, such as a shorter investment period and reduced time in New Zealand requirements (compared to the Balanced category);
 - 14.2.2 NZTE/Invest NZ actively connecting Balanced category investors with more direct investment opportunities;
- 15 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make:
- 15.1 changes to immigration instructions to give effect to the paragraphs 5 and 7, and detailed settings as outlined in Appendix Two, attached to the submission under ECO-24-SUB-0290;
 - 15.2 other decisions, consistent with the decisions under ECO-24-MIN-0290, that may arise during the drafting and consultation process;
- 16 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will review the changes to investor visa settings within 18 months of implementation to ensure that they are fit for purpose and aligned with broader government objectives and reforms;
- 17 **agreed** that any future changes to the investor visa should be cognisant and aligned with the science system reforms, specifically, the establishment and role of Invest NZ.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
 Hon Shane Jones
 Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
 Hon Simeon Brown
 Hon Erica Stanford
 Hon Paul Goldsmith
 Hon Judith Collins KC
 Hon Tama Potaka
 Hon Simon Watts
 Hon Melissa Lee
 Hon Nicola Grigg
 Hon Andrew Hoggard
 Hon Mark Patterson
 Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
 Office of Hon Chris Bishop
 Office of Hon Erica Stanford
 Office of Simon Court MP
 Officials Committee for ECO