



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr. Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Establishment of Invest New Zealand	Date to be published	1 July 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
February 2025	Establishment of Invest New Zealand	Office of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
5 March 2025	Establishment of Invest New Zealand ECO-25-MIN-0016 Minute	Cabinet Office
24 February 2025	Regulatory Impact Statement – Establishment of Invest New Zealand	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.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of Confidential advice to Government, free and frank opinions.



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.

Establishment of Invest New Zealand

Portfolio **Trade and Investment**

On 5 March 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in November 2024, ECO agreed to progress work to establish an investment attraction agency, Invest New Zealand [ECO-24-MIN-0242];
- 2 **noted** that in December 2024, Cabinet agreed in principle, subject to final policy design decisions, to establish Invest New Zealand as an Autonomous Crown Entity, with accelerated legislation enabling the entity to come into force as soon as practicable [CAB-24-MIN- 0504.02];
- 3 **agreed** to establish Invest New Zealand as an Autonomous Crown Entity;
- 4 **agreed** that the overall goal of Invest New Zealand will be to increase all forms of foreign direct investment into New Zealand, subject to the Overseas Investment Act 2005 and guided by priorities set by Cabinet;
- 5 **noted** that while Cabinet has agreed that Invest New Zealand will not lead specifically on the attraction of investment into public infrastructure [CAB-24-MIN-0504.02], it will work closely with National Infrastructure Funding and Financing Limited (NIFFCo) including in engaging and attracting investment;
- 6 **noted** that it is envisaged that Invest New Zealand will undertake a number of activities, such as:
 - 6.1 acting as a one-stop-shop to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) – increasing all forms of FDI into New Zealand by marketing New Zealand internationally as an ideal location for business and innovation;
 - 6.2 encouraging Multinational Corporations (MNCs) to set up operations in New Zealand, particularly key sectors identified by government;
 - 6.3 maintaining a pipeline of investable opportunities (excluding infrastructure), including Māori businesses, so that international investors have impactful proposals to invest in;
 - 6.4 investor onboarding by helping investors find suitable locations in New Zealand and to navigate the regulatory environment;

- 6.5 facilitating collaboration – encouraging partnerships between MNCs, New Zealand businesses, and research institutions;
 - 6.6 supporting existing investors – assisting multinational companies already in New Zealand with expansions, new projects, and innovation;
 - 6.7 acting as a source of expertise – providing insights into government around the policies needed to improve New Zealand’s investment attractiveness, including by identifying and developing regulatory reforms to enable further investment;
- 7 **agreed** that the functions to be enshrined in legislation are the need for Invest New Zealand to be:
- 7.1 knowledgeable about the offshore investment community;
 - 7.2 knowledgeable on New Zealand’s investment opportunities and related agencies;
 - 7.3 able to work to connect foreign investors with investable opportunities and government agencies;

Financial implications

- 8 **noted** that funding for Invest New Zealand is subject to Budget 2025 decisions;
- 9 **noted** that the following Budget 2025 bid has been submitted:

	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 and outyears
Reappropriation of NZTE investment related activities	\$11.15m	\$11.15m	\$11.15m	\$11.15m
Additional funding sought through Budget 2025	\$9.85m	Confidential advice to Government		
Total	\$21m			

- 10 **noted** that Invest New Zealand will be a public authority under the Income Tax Act 2007, and therefore exempt from income tax;
- 11 **noted** that the legislation to establish Invest New Zealand will reserve the option to charge for the provision of some specialist or other services in addition to the recovery of costs;

Transitional arrangements

- 12 **noted** that, to enable the transfer of activities from New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) to Invest New Zealand, it will be necessary to transfer the NZTE employees who perform those activities and any associated assets and liabilities (including any existing grants and loans contracts);
- 13 **noted** that, if certain conditions are met, NZTE staff may be transferred to Invest New Zealand under the provisions of Schedule 8 of the Public Service Act 2020 but in all other cases provisions in primary legislation will be necessary to transfer staff without triggering redundancy clauses in employment agreements;

- 14 **agreed** that the Invest New Zealand Bill (the Bill) provide that staff associated with the activities being transferred who are offered equivalent roles at Invest New Zealand will not be entitled to redundancy compensation in their current employment agreements should they decline the equivalent role;
- 15 **agreed** that the Bill provide that the assets and liabilities (including any existing grants and loans contracts) associated with the activities being transferred to Invest New Zealand will be transferred to Invest New Zealand;

Legislative implications

- 16 **agreed** that the above decisions be given effect through the Bill;
- 17 **agreed** that the Bill provides for all consequential and related amendments to other legislation needed to give effect to the above paragraphs, including amendments to the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Act 2003, the Crown Entities Act 2004, the Official Information Act 1982, and the Ombudsmen Act 1975;

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- 19 **noted** the intention for the Bill to be passed and enacted by 1 July 2025;
- 20 **invited** the Minister for Trade and Investment to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for a Bill giving effect to the above decisions;
- 21 **authorised** the Minister for Trade and Investment to make further decisions, consistent with the overall policy in the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0016, on any issues which relate to the establishment of Invest New Zealand, and the transfer of certain functions of NZTE under the New Zealand Trade and Enterprise Act 2003 to Invest New Zealand;
- 22 **noted** that the above authorisation excludes funding decisions, which will be considered in consultation with the Minister of Finance and Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of Hon Chris Bishop
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for ECO

