



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford, Hon Louise Upston	Portfolio	Immigration, Tourism and Hospitality
Title of Cabinet paper	Proposed Transit Visa waiver to support Government growth priorities	Date to be published	15 July 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
May 2025	Proposed Transit Visa waiver to support Government growth priorities	Office of the Minister of Immigration, Office of the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality
26 May 2025	Proposed Transit Visa waiver to support Government growth priorities CAB-25-MIN-0174 Minute	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
- National Security or Defence
- International Relations
- Confidential Advice to Government



Cabinet

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.

Proposed Transit Visa Waiver to Support Government Growth Priorities

Portfolios **Immigration / Tourism and Hospitality**

On 26 May 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 Commercial Information [REDACTED]
- 2 Commercial Information [REDACTED]
- 3 **noted** that the utilisation of Auckland International Airport as a transit hub from China to and from South America is expected to have benefits for New Zealand's trade and tourism flows, including greater capacity and connectivity, increased visitor arrivals, and improved air cargo volumes;
- 4 **noted** that officials have assessed that the benefits of removing the transit visa requirements outweigh the risks;
- 5 **agreed** to remove the transit visa requirements for Chinese nationals and add China to the transit visa waiver list in the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010 Commercial Information [REDACTED]
- 6 **noted** that Chinese nationals will still require a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority to transit New Zealand;
- 7 **noted** that paragraph 5 above will require changes to the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Regulations 2010;
- 8 **noted** that implementation of the transit visa waiver for Chinese nationals will occur in line with other scheduled changes to visa settings, Confidential advice to Government [REDACTED]
- 9 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above paragraphs Commercial Information [REDACTED]

- 10 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration can issue a special direction under section 86(4) of the Immigration Act 2009 to give legal effect to the above paragraphs once necessary operational and technical changes have been completed;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make decisions, consistent with the above paragraphs, on any issues which arise during the drafting process;
- 12 International relations
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Diana Hawker
for Secretary of the Cabinet