



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Dr Shane Reti	<b>Portfolio</b>	Science, Innovation and Technology
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Going for Growth – Enabling AI uptake across the economy	<b>Date to be published</b>	7 August 2025

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
June 2025	Going for Growth – Enabling AI uptake across the economy	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
30 June 2025	Going for Growth: Enabling AI Uptake Across the Economy CAB-25-MIN-0216 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**NO**

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.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Going for Growth: Enabling AI Uptake Across the Economy

**Portfolio**                      **Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 30 June 2025, Cabinet:

#### Background

- 1        **noted** that in June 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to a strategic approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) in New Zealand, which recognised that increased uptake and use of AI in New Zealand can help deliver better outcomes for people in New Zealand, and promoted the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) AI Principles as a key direction [ECO-24-MIN-0119];
- 2        **noted** that the Coalition Government's Quarter 2 Action Plan includes a commitment to publish an AI Strategy;

#### A strategy is needed to unlock AI opportunities

- 3        **noted** that New Zealand performs poorly on AI-preparedness indices relative to small economy comparators, and is the only OECD country without an AI Strategy, negatively impacting global perceptions of New Zealand as a location for digital innovation and AI investment;
- 4        **noted** that:
  - 4.1      the AI Strategy provides a signal to the private sector that New Zealand is an economy conducive to investment into and use of AI;
  - 4.2      the Minister for Digitising Government will be coming to Cabinet in the coming months with tangible actions to drive uptake of AI across the public service;
- 5        **agreed** that the Government, through the AI Strategy, signal that New Zealand is taking a light touch, principles-based approach to AI to enable innovation and economic growth;

#### The Strategy clarifies the commitment to an enabling environment for AI

- 6        **agreed** that the AI Strategy will state the Government's commitment to:
  - 6.1      creating and maintaining an enabling regulatory environment, with New Zealand's rules no more restrictive than comparator countries in the OECD;

- 6.2 working with international partners on global rules to support the responsible use and development of AI technologies;
- 6.3 providing guidance to businesses on how AI applies to New Zealand law and, where necessary, amending legislation to manage or resolve unintended problems between AI and existing legislation;
- 6.4 fully supporting increased innovation with, and investment in AI in New Zealand, including through the New Zealand Institute for Advanced Technologies;
- 6.5 encouraging the development of Kiwi AI capabilities, including through increased support for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics education;

### **The Government is providing leadership for an AI powered future**

- 7 **noted** that the AI Strategy is framed around the five OECD AI policy principles, and sets out Government actions providing leadership for increased AI use and investment across the economy;
- 8 **agreed** that the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology publish the finalised AI Strategy;

### **Financial implications**

- 9 **noted** that Government activity related to the Strategy will be delivered either within baselines, or through separate appropriations;

### **Communications**

- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to make further, minor amendments to finalise the materials, in line with the decisions under CAB-25-SUB-0216.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet