



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Erica Stanford	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Changes to refresh New Zealand's business immigration settings	<b>Date to be published</b>	28 August 2025

### List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
25 June 2025	Changes to refresh New Zealand's business immigration settings	Office of the Minister of Immigration
25 June 2025	ECO-25-MIN-0100	Cabinet Office
25 February 2025	REQ-0009526 Changes to the Entrepreneur Visa - Options for scope and timing	MBIE
6 March 2025	REQ-0010285 Review of the Entrepreneur Visa - proposals for consultation	MBIE
16 April 2025	REQ-0011616 Refresh of Entrepreneur Category - report back on consultation	MBIE
8 May 2025	REQ-0011624 Cabinet Paper Refreshing New Zealand's business immigration settings	MBIE
5 June 2025	REQ-0015408 Options for rescoping the design of the Business Investor Visa	MBIE
12 June 2025	REQ-0013827 Final Cabinet paper – Refreshing New Zealand's business investor visa settings	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:

- International Relations (section 6(a))
- Privacy of natural persons (section 9(2)(a))
- Confidential advice to Government (section 9(2)(f)(iv))
- Free and frank expression of opinions (section 9(2)(g)(i))



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Changes to Refresh New Zealand's Business Immigration Settings

**Portfolio**                      **Immigration**

On 25 June 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that a refreshed suite of business visa settings will support the Government's Going for Growth strategy by attracting investment, skills, and international connections that will support New Zealand businesses to grow;
- 2        **agreed** to rename the Entrepreneur Category Visa to the Business Investor Visa, noting that this requires amendments to the fee and levy schedules of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulations 2010;
- 3        **agreed** to new objectives for the Business Investor Visa, to:
  - 3.1      contribute to economic growth, by lifting the amount of foreign capital invested in New Zealand;
  - 3.2      better enable the buying and selling of New Zealand businesses to ensure continuity and growth of employment;
- 4        **agreed** to the following key changes to Business Investor Visa settings, to better attract foreign business investment and simplify settings:
  - 4.1      increase the minimum investment threshold, to lift investment in New Zealand and improve the quality of applications, to \$1 million for a standard work to residence pathway or \$2 million for a fast-track to residence;
  - 4.2      expand the types of businesses that applicants can invest in, subject to limited exclusions to maximise economic benefit to New Zealand, protect the social license for the visa, and manage economic risk;
  - 4.3      set minimum skill and business experience requirements to manage immigration risk, and ensure applicants can effectively run a business in New Zealand, including:
    - 4.3.1    increasing the minimum English language proficiency requirements;
    - 4.3.2    setting minimum business experience requirements;
    - 4.3.3    setting an age limit for the category of 55 years, at the point of work visa application;

- 4.4 require applicants to maintain and grow their business for three years to be eligible to apply for residence;
- 4.5 require fast-track applicants to maintain and grow their business for 12 months to be eligible to apply for residence;
- 5 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has consulted with targeted stakeholders on changes to attract more business investor migrants, and they are overall supportive of the proposed changes;
- 6 **agreed** to close the current Entrepreneur Category to new applications ahead of implementation of new settings, at a date to be determined by the Minister of Immigration;
- 7 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make further decisions to give effect to policy objectives and key settings, while:
- 7.1 managing immigration risk;
- 7.2 updating immigration instructions to ensure alignment with other categories and to improve workability for applicants and Immigration New Zealand, where possible;
- 8 **invited** the Minister of Immigration to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decision in paragraph [2 above](#);
- 9 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration will review changes to Business Investor Visa settings after 12 months of operation, to ensure they are fit for purpose and aligned with broader government objectives and reforms.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Hon James Meager  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of Hon Erica Stanford  
Office of Hon Tama Potaka  
Officials Committee for ECO