



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Confirming the Detailed Design of Two New Seasonal Visa Pathways	Date to be published	5 September 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2025	Confirming the Detailed Design of Two New Seasonal Visa Pathways	Office of the Minister of Immigration
16 July 2025	ECO-25-MIN-0108 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of confidential advice to government and maintenance of the law.



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.

Confirming the Detailed Design of Two New Seasonal Visa Pathways

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 16 July 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that in December 2024, ECO agreed in principle to implement two new seasonal visa pathways and invited the Minister of Immigration to report back by June 2025 on the detailed design of the visas [ECO-24-MIN-0286];
- 2 **agreed** that the Global Workforce Seasonal Visa (GWSV):
 - 2.1 have a three-season minimum work experience requirement;
 - 2.2 can be granted for three years based on an upfront contract for one season;
 - 2.3 be exempt from a Labour Market Test;
 - 2.4 be exempt from standard Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) English language testing requirements; and
 - 2.5 not have a maximum continuous stay;
- 3 **agreed** that the following roles be eligible for a GWSV:
 - 3.1 Agricultural and Horticultural Mobile Plant Operator;
 - 3.2 Agricultural Technician (common job titles include sheep scanner, animal pregnancy scanner);
 - 3.3 Crane, Hoist or Lift Operator, relating to Chairlift Operators only;
 - 3.4 Flower Grower, relating to Tulip Growers only;
 - 3.5 Horse Trainer, relating to Thoroughbred Yearling Preparer only;
 - 3.6 Mobile Plant Operators NEC (not elsewhere categorised), relating to Snow Groomer only;
 - 3.7 Mountain or Glacier Guide;
 - 3.8 Outdoor Adventure Instructor;
 - 3.9 Primary Products Inspectors NEC;

- 3.10 Shearers;
- 3.11 Wine Makers;
- 3.12 Winery Senior Cellar Hand;
- 3.13 Whitewater Rafting Guide;
- 3.14 Snow Sports Instructor;
- 3.15 Stationary Plant Operators NEC, relating to Snow Maker only;
- 3.16 Technicians and Trades workers NEC, relating to Snowsport Equipment Technician only;
- 3.17 Slaughterer;

4 **agreed** that the Peak Seasonal Visa (PSV):

- 4.1 require at least one-season of previous, relevant work experience;
- 4.2 can be granted for up to seven months;
- 4.3 require employers to either engage with the Ministry of Social Development in good faith for each lower-skilled role or through an up-front endorsement approach;
- 4.4 require an acceptable level of health insurance for visas longer than three months;
- 4.5 be exempt from standard AEWV English language testing requirements;
- 4.6 have a seven-month maximum continuous stay with four-month standdown;

5 **agreed** that the following roles be eligible for a PSV:

- 5.1 Aquaculture Worker – relating to Mussel Oyster Farm Worker only;
- 5.2 Dairy Cattle Farm Worker – relating to Calf Rearer and Relief Milker only;
- 5.3 Forestry Worker;
- 5.4 Meat Boner and Slicer;
- 5.5 Meat Process Worker;
- 5.6 Seafood Process Worker;
- 5.7 Winery Cellar Hand;
- 5.8 Wool Handler;

6 **agreed** that both the GWSV and PSV visas will allow transitions to other visas, with the time spent on the GWSV or the PSV not contributing to the maximum continuous stay of an AEWV;

7 **noted** that GWSV and PSV holders will not be able to sponsor partners or dependents;

8 **noted** that other eligibility settings for the GWSV and PSV will align with settings for the AEWV;

- 9 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration in consultation with the Minister for Social Development and Employment to agree updates to the list of roles eligible under the GWSV and PSV;
- 10 **agreed** that the two new seasonal visa pathways replace the Pacific programmes for meat and seafood processing agreed by the previous government [CAB-22-MIN-0315.01];
- 11 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to make any further policy decisions required on the design of the GWSV and PSV;
- 12 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration, in consultation with the Minister for Social Development and Employment, will undertake a review of the GWSV and PSV after one year of operation.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Chris Penk
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
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Officials Committee for ECO