



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Immigration
Title of Cabinet paper	Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025	Date to be published	4 November 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
September 2025	Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025	Office of Immigration Minister
18 September 2025	Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 LEG-25-MIN-0183 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

NO (please select)

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Cabinet Legislation Committee

Minute of Decision

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Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025

Portfolio Immigration

On 18 September 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in April 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) agreed to a 12-month trial of visitor visa waiver status for individuals from Pacific Island Forum countries and China, who:
 - 1.1 have a valid Australian visitor, work, family or student visa on the day they travel;
 - 1.2 are travelling from Australia (and not simply transiting); and
 - 1.3 hold a New Zealand Electronic Travel Authority (NZeTA);[ECO-25-MIN-0042]
- 2 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration (the Minister) has since made decisions on the list of eligible visa types in line with the authority delegated by ECO and these are attached at Appendix One under LEG-25-SUB-0183;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister will report back to Cabinet after the completion of both the 12-month trial period and the formation of Government as a result of the 2026 General Election to seek decisions about the continuation, revocation or amendment of the policy;
- 4 **noted** that the Minister will report back to Cabinet with an update on the progress of the trial prior to the election period if it becomes clear that significant risks are emerging;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to Parliamentary Counsel Office, where the Minister considers updates to the list of eligible visa types is necessary throughout the course of the 12-month trial, so long as the updates to visa types fall within the categories of work, family, student and visitor visas, and are in line with the original policy intent of the trial to support visitors and tourism to New Zealand;
- 6 **noted** that in May 2025, Cabinet agreed that China be added to the list of Transit Visa Waiver countries, on the proviso that a Chinese Airline set up flights between South America and Asia within 12 months [CAB-25-MIN-0174];
- 7 **noted** that the requirement for a Chinese Airline to set up flights between South America and Asia within 12 months has since been met;

- 8 **noted** that the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 (the Regulations) will give effect to the decisions referred to in paragraphs 1 and 6 above;
- 9 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission, and Related Matters) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 [PCO 28218/15.0];
- 10 **noted** that the Regulations will come into force on 27 October 2025 (allowing individuals to apply for an NZeTA from this date), but that the Regulations contain a transitional provision for the trial of Visitor Visa waiver status for Chinese and Pacific Island Forum nationals holding specific Australian visas, that will prevent individuals utilising this policy from travelling to New Zealand until 3 November 2025.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Stuart Smith, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Office of the Leader of the House