



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Louise Upston	Portfolio	Tourism and Hospitality
Title of Cabinet paper	Major Events and Tourism Package	Date to be published	7 April 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
September 2025	Major Events and Tourism Package	Office of Minister for Tourism and Hospitality
8 September 2025	Major Events and Tourism Package CAB-25-MIN-0307 Minute	Cabinet Office
2 September 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0020429: Implementing a Major Events and Tourism Investment Package	MBIE

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of:

- Confidential advice to Government



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Major Events and Tourism Package

Portfolio **Tourism and Hospitality**

On 8 September 2025, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality to appoint an advisory panel of eminent New Zealanders to support the event identification and attraction process for the Events Attraction Package;
- 2 **agreed** to progress a \$40 million Events Attraction Package to attract large-scale events in New Zealand in 2026, subject to a further event identification and attraction process;
- 3 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the *Events Attraction Package* as described in paragraph 2 above, with corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt across the forecast period:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expenses:					
Tourism and Hospitality: Tourism Strategic Infrastructure and System Capability		(10.000)	(5.000)		
Economic and Regional Development:					
Major Event Development Fund 2022-2027	40.000				
Total operating	40.000				

- 4 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2025/26 above be included in the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 5 **agreed** that:
 - 5.1 \$15 million of the Events Attraction Package will be funded by transferring funding from 2026/2027 and 2027/28; and
 - 5.2 the remaining \$25 million will be charged against the between-Budget Contingency established at Budget 2025;

6 **agreed** to provide \$10 million of funding for the Regional Tourism Boost to attract international visitors from early 2026 through marketing of travel, stay, and dine deals;

7 **agreed** to establish the following appropriation in Vote Business, Science and Innovation:

Title	Appropriation Minister	Type	Scope
Tourism and Hospitality: Regional Tourism Boost	Minister for Tourism and Hospitality	Non-departmental Other Expense	This appropriation is limited to implementation of the Regional Tourism Boost.

8 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the decision in paragraph 6 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Business Science and Innovation Minister for Tourism and Hospitality	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & outyears
Non-departmental Other Expense: Tourism and Hospitality: Regional Tourism Boost	10.000	-	-	-	-

9 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2025/26 above be included in the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

10 **agreed** that that the expenses incurred under paragraph 8 above be charged against the between-Budget contingency established in Budget 2025;

11 **agreed** to provide \$10 million of funding for the Tourism and Events Infrastructure Package, with the final fiscal envelope to be determined depending on design details and commercial negotiations;

12 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the decision in paragraph 11 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

Vote Business Science and Innovation Minister for Tourism and Hospitality	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & outyears
Non-Departmental Other Expense					
Tourism Facilities MCA – Ngā Haerenga, The New Zealand Cycle Trail Fund	5.000	-	-	-	-
Tourism and Hospitality: Tourism Strategic Infrastructure and System Capability	5.000	-	-	-	-
Total operating	10.000				

- 13 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2025/26 above be included in the 2025/26 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 14 **agreed** that that the expenses incurred under paragraph 12 above be charged against the between-Budget contingency established in Budget 2025;
- 15 **noted** that the One-off Events Boost will be funded from existing baselines and pre-committed funding from the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy;
- 16 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Tourism and Hospitality to jointly take decisions relating to the final design, financial allocation, and operational matters as required to progress the implementation of the Events Attraction Package, in alignment with the fiscal envelopes agreed above and in consultation with relevant portfolio Ministers;
- 17 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Conservation to jointly make any appropriation changes, including operating or capital swaps up to \$15 million necessary to give effect to conservation infrastructure.

Improving airline connectivity

- 18 **invited** the Acting Minister of Transport to report back to Cabinet on options for addressing rising operational costs in the aviation sector, such as different border cost structures for short-haul vs long-haul destinations, working in conjunction with the Minister of Immigration, Minister of Customs, and Minister for Biosecurity and Food Safety;
- 19 **invited** the Acting Minister of Transport to report back to Cabinet on progress to establish 24/7 Air Traffic Control Services at RNZAF Base Ohakea to support greater aviation connectivity in the short-term;
- 20 **Confidential advice to Government**

Investigation into impact of local planning rules on Eden Park

- 21 **noted** that the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform has powers to recommend regulations are made under the Resource Management Act 1991 to modify or remove provisions of a policy statement or plan, if an investigation determines they negatively impact economic growth, development capacity, or employment and specified statutory criteria are met;
- 22 **noted** that the Minister Responsible for RMA Reform will initiate an investigation into the provisions in the Auckland Unitary Plan, as they relate to events at Eden Park, to determine if they have a negative impact on economic growth, development capacity or employment.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet