



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Shane Jones	<b>Portfolio</b>	Resources
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Further advice on critical minerals and next steps	<b>Date to be published</b>	23 April 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
March 2026	Further advice on critical minerals and next steps	Office of the Minister of Foreign Affairs  Office of the Minister for Resources
1 April 2026	Further advice on critical minerals and next steps ECO-26-MIN-0042 Minute	Cabinet Office

### 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.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of negotiations, international relations, free and frank opinions, confidential advice entrusted to the government, commercial information, confidential advice to government and legal professional privilege.



# 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.*

### Further Advice on Critical Minerals and Next Steps

**Portfolio**                      **Foreign Affairs / Resources**

On 1 April 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

1        **noted** that in February 2026, Cabinet:

- 1.1      noted that New Zealand will be represented at a ministerial meeting hosted by United States (US) Secretary of State Rubio in Washington DC on 4 February 2026 on a proposed agreement with the US on a *Framework for Securing of Supply in the Mining and Processing of Critical Minerals and Rare Earths* (the Framework);
- 1.2      invited the Minister for Resources to report back with further advice on the proposed Framework, and to seek approval for the next steps;

[CAB-26-MIN-0018]

2        **noted** that at the ministerial meeting in Washington DC on 4 February 2026, the US announced its intention to launch negotiations for an *Agreement on the Trade in Critical Minerals* (ATCM), which is expected to create a binding preferential trade bloc;

3        International relations

4        **agreed** that officials should reengage with the US Negotiations on the bilateral Framework, Negotiations

5        **noted** that officials will provide further advice to Cabinet after further information is known about the ATCM text and the implications of the ATCM on the proposed bilateral Framework are clearer;

6        **noted** that Cabinet approval will be sought for the conclusion of the Framework, and to confirm subsequent steps on the ATCM;

7        **noted** that:

- 7.1      further engagement with Māori groups has confirmed their concern with the process and substance of the Framework, alongside reservations with cooperation with the US given recent geopolitical developments;

7.2 officials will undertake further engagement with Māori groups, and this will inform further advice to Cabinet;

8 **noted** that the negotiation of a proposed binding ATCM would engage the Crown's settlement obligations relating to Crown minerals because of the potential for it to result in policy changes.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Hon James Meager  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of Hon Judith Collins KC  
Office of Hon James Meager  
Officials Committee for ECO