



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Immigration (COVID-19) Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Immigration**

On 29 April 2020, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-20-MIN-0183]:

- 1 **noted** that the Immigration (COVID-19 Response) Amendment Bill amends the Immigration Act 2009 to enable the government to better respond to the COVID-19 emergency situation;
- 2 **agreed** to amend the decision of the group of Ministers with Power to Act on COVID-19 matters to enable the Minister of Immigration, under the policy framework to be agreed by Cabinet, to extend the expiry dates of visas for classes of temporary entry class visa holders only, to cover the expiry dates of conditions for holders of resident class visas that have conditions;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Immigration plans to undertake targeted consultation on the policy intent of the Bill with a small number of key stakeholders prior to the introduction of the Bill, focusing on safeguards and workability;
- 4 **approved** for introduction the Immigration (COVID-19 Response) Amendment Bill [PCO 22892/8.0], subject to the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 5 **authorised** the Minister of Immigration to approve further changes to the Bill consistent with the policy intent, prior to introduction;
- 6 **agreed** that the Bill be introduced on 5 May 2020;
- 7 **agreed** that the government propose that the Bill be:
 - 7.1 referred to the Epidemic Response Committee for consideration; and
 - 7.2 enacted by mid-May 2020, if possible.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Phil Twyford
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon David Parker
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Poto Williams
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV

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