


OC251098

10 December 2025



Tēnā koe 

I refer to your email dated 26 November 2025, requesting the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*“copies of the November 2024 Indicative Business Case for an emergency ocean response capability (EORC), the March 2025 Detailed Business Case and any associated Cabinet Papers and Cabinet Minutes.*

*These business cases were referred to in the statement below:*

*<https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/costs-outweigh-benefits-cook-strait-tug> “*

Your request was addressed to Maritime New Zealand (MNZ) and the Ministry of Transport (the Ministry). MNZ is responsible for the following part of your request:

*“the November 2024 Indicative Business Case for an emergency ocean response capability (EORC), the March 2025 Detailed Business Case”*

The Ministry is responsible for *“any associated Cabinet Papers and Cabinet Minutes”*.

On 27 November 2025, we advised you that the Cabinet papers were published on the Ministry’s website. You confirmed that you were satisfied with the versions available on the website.

We further asked whether you were only interested in the Cabinet minutes or would like the Ministry to consider Committee minutes as well. You confirmed that you were interested in the Cabinet minutes and Committee minutes.

Six documents are in scope of your request which are released in full. Some information has also been marked out of scope of your request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this response by the Ombudsman, in accordance with section 28(3) of the Act. The relevant details can be found on the Ombudsman’s website [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz)

The Ministry publishes our Official Information Act responses and the information contained in our reply to you may be published on the Ministry's website. Before publishing we will remove any personal or identifiable information.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Natasha Rave', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Natasha Rave  
**Manager, Resilience and Security**

## Annex 1: Document Schedule

Doc #	Reference number	Date	Title of Document	Decision on request
1	EXP-25-MIN-0020	25 March 2025	Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee Minute of Decision - Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Detailed Business Case	Released in full.
2	CAB-25-MIN-0092	31 March 2025	Cabinet Minute of Decision - Report of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee: Period Ended 28 March 2025	Released in full. Some information has been marked out of scope.
3	EXP-24-MIN-0067	19 November 2024	Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee Minute of Decision - Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Indicative Business Case	Released in full.
4	CAB-24-MIN-0468	25 November 2024	Cabinet Minute of Decision - Report of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee: Period Ended 22 November 2024	Released in full. Some information has been marked out of scope.
5	ECO-25-MIN-0170	22 October 2025	Cabinet Economic Policy Committee Minute of Decision - Cessation of Work on Levy Funded Emergency Ocean Response Capability in the Cook Strait	Released in full.
6	CAB-25-MIN-0376	28 October 2025	Cabinet Minute of Decision - Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 24 October 2025	Released in full. Some information has been marked out of scope.



# Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Detailed Business Case

Portfolio                      Transport

On 25 March 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP):

- 1        **noted** that in November 2024, EXP invited the Minister of Transport to report back with a Detailed Business Case (DBC) relating to investment in emergency ocean response capabilities (EORC) by March 2025 [EXP-24-MIN-0067];
- 2        **noted** that EXP also approved the procurement of an interim EORC solution until December 2025;

#### Making a decision on the way forward

- 3        **agreed** to extend the duration of an interim solution until June 2027 while advice and consultation on EORC specific levies is conducted;
- 4        **noted** that Maritime NZ will need to negotiate new contracts to give effect to paragraph 3 above;
- 5        **approved** the following changes to appropriation to provide for the decisions in paragraph 3, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & Outyears
<b>Vote Transport</b>					
Non-Departmental Other Expense:					
Emergency Ocean Response Capability	(1.910)	3.360	5.450	-	-

- 6        **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 5 be charged against the 'Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait –Tagged Contingency';

- 7 **noted** that following the adjustment(s) detailed in paragraph 5 (as well as previous adjustment(s) agreed in EXP-24-MIN-0067), the tagged contingency is now exhausted and therefore closed;
- 8 **invited** the Minister of Transport to report to the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee by July 2025 with advice and a draft consultation document on EORC specific levies;

### Supporting decisions

- 9 **agreed in principle**, subject to paragraph 10 below, that any funding in the 'Emergency Ocean Response Capability' appropriation that remains unspent due to funding variability requirements as at 30 June 2025 be transferred to 2025/26;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport jointly to agree the final amount to be transferred following completion of the Ministry of Transport's 2024/25 audited financial statements, with no impact on the operating balance and/or net core Crown debt across the forecast period;
- 11 **noted** that due to funding variability requirements (contract crosses three financial years), a further transfer of funds may be required from FY2025/2026 to FY2026/27, in which case officials will seek appropriate transfers;
- 12 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2024/25 above be included in the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
- 13 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Transport to approve changes to procure the interim solution within the scope of the Emergency Ocean Response Capability appropriation to give effect to paragraphs 3 and 4 above;
- 14 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and Minister of Transport jointly to agree any subsequent changes to reflect decisions to appropriations in line with decisions in paragraphs 3 to 6 above;
- 15 **noted** that the Minister of Transport will announce the interim solution and intended direction of travel, pending further work.

Sam Moffett  
Committee Secretary

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#### Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Hon Nicola Willis  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Chris Penk  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson

#### Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Chair  
Office of the Minister of Transport  
Office of the Minister of Defence  
Officials Committee for EXP



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee: Period Ended 28 March 2025

On 31 March 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee for the period ended 28 March 2025:

Out of Scope

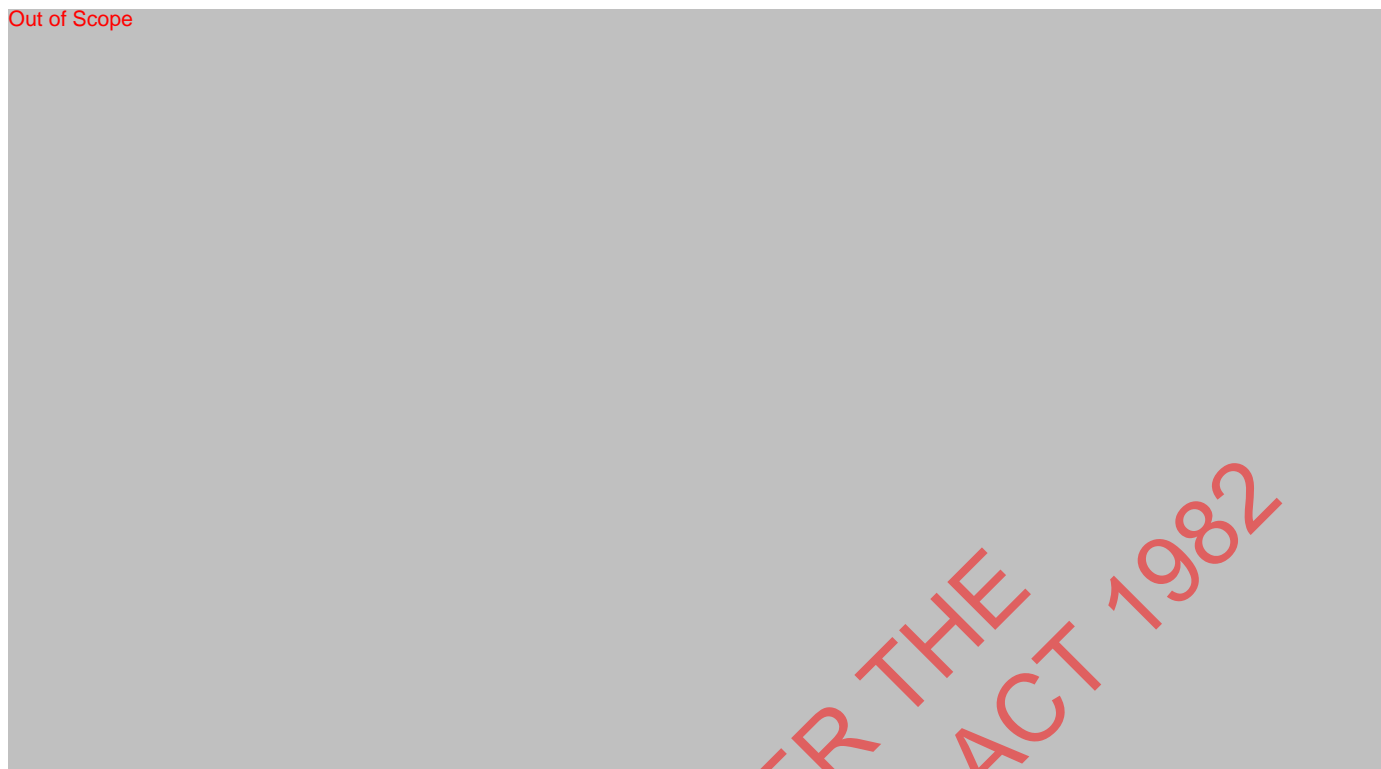


EXP-25-MIN-0020

**Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Detailed  
Business Case**  
Portfolio: Transport

CONFIRMED

Out of Scope



RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet



# Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Indicative Business Case

Portfolio                      Transport

On 19 November 2024, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

#### Business case approval

- 1        **noted** that Budget 2024 directed the Ministry of Transport and Maritime NZ to develop a business case that considers options to improve New Zealand's maritime emergency ocean response capability (EORC), specifically the ability to stabilise and/or tow vessels that encounter difficulties at sea;
- 2        **approved** the Indicative Business Case, attached as Appendix 1 to the paper under EXP-24-SUB-0067;
- 3        **approved** the short-list of options to be progressed for detailed analysis at the Detailed Business Case stage, as outlined in the submission under EXP-24-SUB-0067;
- 4        **invited** the Minister of Transport to bring a Detailed Business Case about the preferred and alternative options to the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee by March 2025;
- 5        **noted** that a Budget Bid 2025 for the preferred option will be developed, contingent on Cabinet approval of the Detailed Business Case;
- 6        **noted** the intention to fund the second-strike capability through maritime levy payments in the longer term;
- 7        **directed** the Ministry of Transport to engage with the New Zealand Defence Force to ensure there is no duplication between any related procurement processes;

#### Procuring an interim solution

- 8        **noted** that there is a risk that the one remaining regional second-strike capability, *MMA Vision*, will leave New Zealand waters around mid-2025;
- 9        **noted** that an opportunity exists to mitigate this risk in advance of Cabinet's consideration of a Detailed Business Case through the procurement of an interim solution;

10 **noted** that through Budget 2024, Cabinet established a tagged operating contingency ‘Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait – Tagged Contingency’ (the tagged contingency) associated with Vote Transport to implement the preferred option of the EORC business case:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & Outyears
Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait - Tagged Contingency	13.400	0	0	0	0

11 **agreed** to expand the scope of the tagged contingency (as detailed below):

Tagged contingency description	Scope
<b>Current:</b> Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait	To provide for implementing the preferred option of the ‘Emergency Ocean Response Capability’ business case
<b>Proposed:</b> Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait	To provide for initiatives that improve New Zealand’s maritime emergency ocean response capability (i.e. the ability to stabilise and/or tow vessels that encounter difficulties at sea) for the Cook Strait

12 **agreed** to provide funding of \$6.5 million from the tagged contingency for the interim solution to use the OMV Vessel *MMA Vision* to operate as towage contingency capacity based in Cook Strait, in advance of final decisions on the Detailed Business Case;

13 **agreed** to establish the following new appropriation:

Vote	Appropriation Minister	Appropriation Administrator
Transport	Minister for Transport	Ministry of Transport

Title	Type	Scope
Emergency Ocean Response Capability	Non- Departmental Other Expenses	This appropriation is limited to providing funding to Maritime New Zealand for emergency ocean response capability.

14 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to provide for the decision in paragraph 12 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & Outyears
Vote Transport	3.500	3.000	0	0	0
Non-Departmental Other Expense: Emergency Ocean Response Capability					

- 15 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 14 above be charged against the tagged contingency;
- 16 **noted** that, following the adjustment detailed in paragraph 14 above, the remaining balances and indicative phasing of the tagged operating contingencies described in paragraph 10 above will be:

	\$m				
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & Outyears
Emergency Ocean Response Capability for the Cook Strait - Tagged Contingency	0	6.9	0	0	0

- 17 **agreed** that the tagged contingency will expire on 30 June 2026;
- 18 **agreed** that the changes to appropriations for 2024/25 above be included in the 2024/25 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increases be met from Imprest Supply;
- 19 **agreed** in principle that any funding in the tagged contingency that remains unspent at 30 June 2025 be transferred to the 2025/26 financial year;
- 20 **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport jointly to agree the final amount to be transferred following completion of the Ministry of Transport's 2024/25 audited financial statements;
- 21 **noted** that Maritime NZ will immediately enter contract negotiations with OMV to procure the interim solution;
- 22 **agreed**, subject to paragraphs 11 and 12, that the Minister of Transport and Minister of Finance can approve changes to the use of the tagged contingency to procure the interim solution within the repurposed scope;
- 23 **agreed** to announce the interim solution and intended direction of travel (i.e. the two strike approach) pending further work.

Sam Moffett  
Committee Secretary

**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Hon Chris Bishop  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Erica Stanford  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Mark Mitchell  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon Andrew Bayly  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson

**Officials present from:**

Ministry of Transport  
Maritime New Zealand  
Officials Committee for EXP



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee: Period Ended 22 November 2024

On 25 November 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee for the period ended 22 November 2024:

EXP-24-MIN-0067    **Emergency Ocean Response Capability: Indicative Business Case**    CONFIRMED  
Portfolio: Transport

Out of Scope

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet



# Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Cessation of Work on Levy Funded Emergency Ocean Response Capability in the Cook Strait

Portfolio                      Transport

On 22 October 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in March 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) noted that procurement of emergency ocean response capabilities (EORC) on a predominately user-pays basis would be explored and invited the Minister of Transport (the Minister) to report back with further advice and a draft discussion document on EORC-specific levies [EXP-25-MIN-0020];
- 2        **agreed** that procurement of EORC is not warranted as the low risk and high costs indicate that a comprehensive solution cannot be provided in a cost-effective way;
- 3        **agreed** to cease work on EORC-specific levies and instead retain the status quo;
- 4        **noted** that in November 2024, Cabinet noted that Maritime New Zealand would enter contract negotiations to procure the services of the MMA Vision as an interim EORC for the Cook Strait from December 2024 to December 2025, and approved funding of \$6.5 million for the interim solution [CAB- 24-MIN-0067];
- 5        **noted** that in March 2025, EXP agreed to extend the duration of the above interim EORC until June 2027 [EXP-25-MIN-0020];
- 6        **agreed** to:
  - 6.1        rescind the decision referred to in paragraph 5 above; and instead
  - 6.2        direct Maritime New Zealand to cancel the interim EORC for the Cook Strait (the contract);
- 7        **noted** that the earliest the contract can be cancelled is February 2026;
- 8        **noted** that cancelling the contract in February 2026 is expected to result in savings of approximately \$9.100 million which the Minister intends to reprioritise to other priorities or cost pressures within Vote Transport as part of Budget 2026.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Simeon Brown  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Dr Shane Reti  
Hon Todd McClay  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Penny Simmonds  
Hon Nicola Grigg  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Hon James Meager  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of Hon Chris Bishop  
Officials Committee for ECO

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# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee: Period Ended 24 October 2025

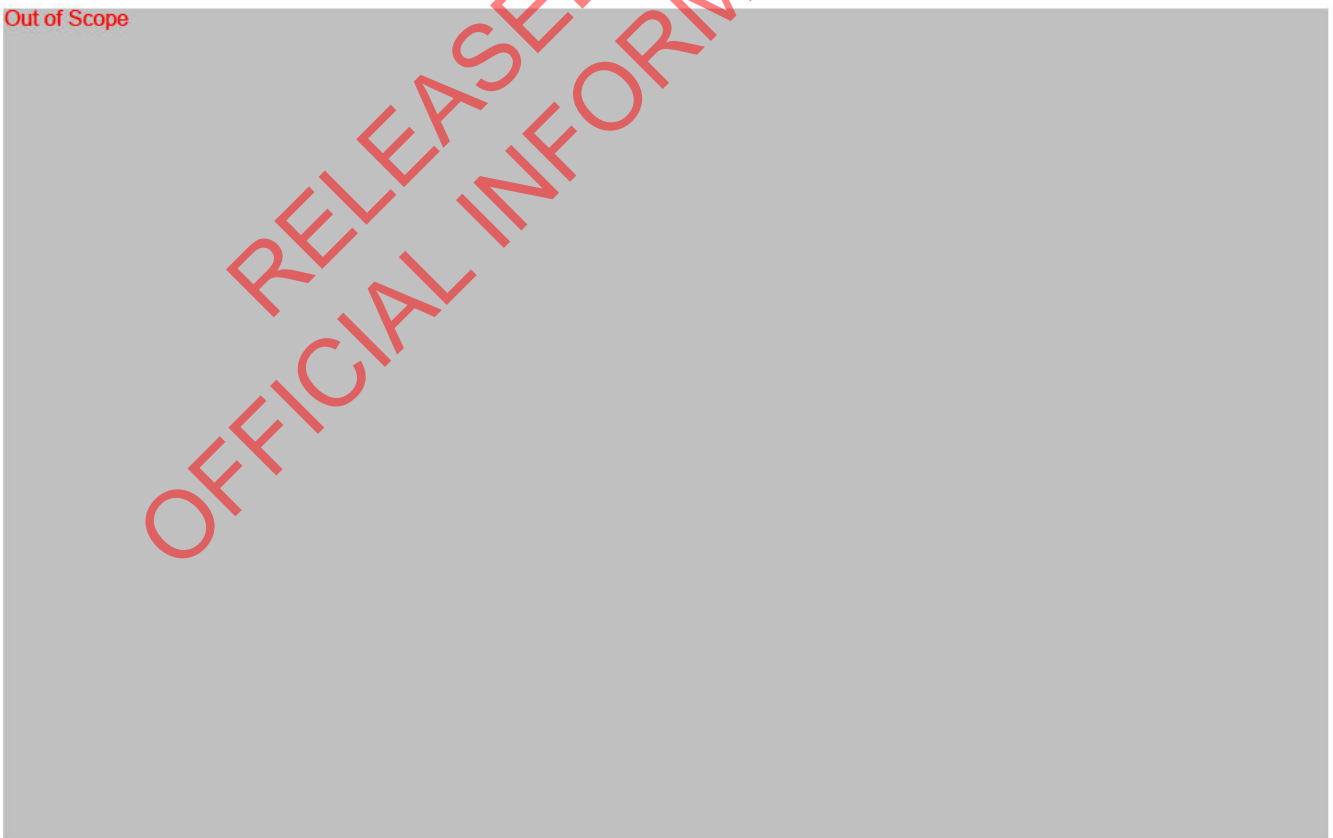
On 28 October 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee for the period ended 24 October 2025:

Out of Scope



ECO-25-MIN-0170    **Cessation of Work on Levy Funded Emergency Ocean Response Capability in the Cook Strait**    CONFIRMED  
Portfolio: Transport

Out of Scope



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Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet