



# Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Aviation Relief Package

**Portfolios**                      **Finance / Transport**

On 18 March 2020, the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response, acting in accordance with its Power to Act:

- 1        **noted** that border restrictions in New Zealand and around the world have resulted in airlines reducing or cancelling services altogether;
- 2        **noted** that providing financial support to airlines to pay passenger-based government charges would assist some airlines to maintain services that provide vital international connections to New Zealand, and would send important signals to airlines resuming services during the recovery;
- 3        **agreed** to an aviation industry relief package comprising:
  - 3.1      the suspension of funding reviews across all aviation and border agencies for the next 12 months;
  - 3.2      government provision of financial support to airlines to pay passenger-based government charges for the next 6 months (with an estimated value of \$163 million GST exclusive);
  - 3.3      government provision of financial support to airlines to pay Airways fees for the next 6 months (with an estimated value of \$37 million);
  - 3.4      [REDACTED]
  - 3.5      ensuring that the government works with the sector and the Civil Aviation Authority to ensure there is no regulatory impediments to new/re-starting airlines;
- 4        **directed** officials to further develop details for implementing the package, referred to in paragraph 3 above, and associated legal matters;
- 5        **authorised** the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Transport to jointly agree further detail relating to the industry relief package referred to in paragraph 3 above, including any necessary changes to appropriations;
- 6        **agreed** to provide Airways with financial support of up to \$70 million [REDACTED]

Withheld  
under section  
9(2)(f)(iv) of  
the OIA

Withheld under sections 9(2)(b)(ii)  
and 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA

- 7 **authorised** Airways' shareholding Ministers (Minister of Finance and Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises) and the Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Dr David Clark, acting as the Minister of Finance in respect of appropriations in Vote Finance for which the Minister of Finance is the appropriation Minister) to jointly agree funding of up to \$107 million to Airways, including the necessary charges to appropriations;
- 8 **noted** that the Ministry of Transport and the Treasury will provide Ministers with further advice on the impacts of the border restriction on critical freight flows as well as possible interventions the government could take to support certain freight flows.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern (Chair)  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Julie Anne Genter

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Minister of Finance  
Minister of Transport  
Associate Minister of Finance (Hon David Parker)  
Associate Minister for State Owned Enterprises

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
State Services Commission  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment  
Ministry of Education  
Ministry for Primary Industries  
Ministry of Social Development  
Ministry of Transport  
New Zealand Customs Service  
New Zealand Defence Force  
New Zealand Police