



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Addressing Errors with the Winter Energy Payment Legislation

Portfolio                      Social Development

On 4 March 2019, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the purpose of the Social Security (Winter Energy Payment) Amendment Bill (the Bill) is to ensure the Social Security Act 2018 reflects the policy intent in order to ensure that Winter Energy Payments can be lawfully paid to all intended recipients;
- 2        **noted** that the Bill will have a retrospective effect for Winter Energy Payments made unlawfully during the 2018 winter period, and that this is in line with the Legislative Guidelines (2018);
- 3        **confirmed** that the policy intent, as outlined in the Social Security (Winter Energy Payment) Amendment Bill, is that Winter Energy Payments are paid:
  - 3.1      for up to four weeks to eligible individuals who are absent from New Zealand for longer than four weeks at one time; and
  - 3.2      to people who receive government funding for long-term residential care or residential care services, but are not eligible for Residential Care Subsidy or Residential Support Subsidy;
- 4        **s 9(2)(f)(iv)** [REDACTED]
- 5        **approved** the introduction of the Social Security (Winter Energy Payment) Amendment Bill [PCO 21859/1.11], subject to the final approval of the government caucuses and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 6        **agreed** that the Bill be introduced on 4 March 2019;
- 7        **agreed** that the government propose that the Bill be:
  - 7.1      referred to the Social Services and Community Committee for consideration and report back by no later than 1 April 2019;
  - 8.2      enacted by 30 April 2019.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

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Prime Minister

Deputy Prime Minister

Minister for Social Development