



Cabinet Business Committee

Minute of Decision

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Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio Disability Issues

On 4 July 2022, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill (the Bill) holds a category 4 priority on the 2022 Legislation Programme (referred to a select committee in 2022);
- 2 **noted** that the purpose of the Bill includes to work towards a fully accessible New Zealand where disabled people, tāngata whaikaha, their whānau, and others with accessibility needs have an equal opportunity to achieve their goals and aspirations by progressively addressing accessibility barriers and progressing and growing current practices to accessibility;
- 3 **agreed** to change the requirements for a person who performs a function or duty under the Act from:
 - 3.1 an obligation to “honour” Te Tiriti/the Treaty to instead be an obligation “to give effect to” te Tiriti/the Treaty,
 - 3.2 referencing “Te Tiriti/the Treaty” to instead “the principles of Te Tiriti/the Treaty”;
- 4 **noted** that the above changes have been reflected in the draft Bill, attached to the paper under CBC-22-SUB-0040;
- 5 **noted** that extending the Bill’s submissions process, and subsequently the full select committee period, will help ensure disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and others with accessibility needs can participate in the process;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister for Disability Issues intends to make a motion in the House during the Bill’s first reading to extend the report back date to 9 months, requiring the Committee to report back in May 2023;
- 7 **agreed** that the Parliamentary Counsel Office can continue to make minor and technical drafting changes to the Bill prior to its introduction;
- 8 **approved** the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill [PCO 22613/8.0] for introduction, subject to the final approval of the government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;
- 9 **agreed** that the Bill, once enacted, will bind the Crown;
- 10 **agreed** that the Bill will be introduced by 31 July 2022;

11 **agreed** that the government propose for the Bill to be:

11.1 referred to the Social Services and Community committee for consideration;

11.2 commenced by Order in Council with a backstop date of 1 July 2024.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr David Clark

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet