Proactive Release

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Investment

Title	Reference
New Zealand-India FTA: Approval of Final Outcomes and Approval to Sign	
India Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction codes:

- s6(a): to protect the international relations of the New Zealand government;
- s9(2)(f)(iv): to maintain the constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials;
- s9(2)(g)(i): to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through free and frank opinion between Ministers and officials;
- s9(2)(h): to maintain legal professional privilege; and,
- s9(2)(j): to carry on, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations.

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Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Cabinet

New Zealand-India FTA: Approval of Final Outcomes and Approval to Sign

Proposal

1. This paper seeks approval of the final outcomes of the Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and India (NZ-India FTA or FTA) and approval to sign the FTA and seven side letters. Approval is also sought for the National Interest Analysis (NIA) of the FTA and, following signature, for tabling of the FTA text and NIA in the House of Representatives for parliamentary treaty examination.

2. Further, the paper seeks approval for the Minister for Trade and Investment and relevant portfolio Ministers to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft the India Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill.

Executive summary

3. Despite the size of its economy, India is only New Zealand's 21st largest goods export market. Prohibitively high tariffs have severely constrained our ability to access the Indian market.

4. The NZ-India FTA provides significant new opportunities in one of the world's largest and fastest-growing economies, supporting New Zealand's economic growth and the government's goal of doubling the value of exports including through:

   1. preferential access on 95% of New Zealand's current exports to India, through duty-free access or sharply reduced tariffs providing access to India's growing middle class that is expected to number 715 million by 2030;

   2. a more level playing field with key competitors who already have FTAs or other advantages in India[1]; and

   3. opportunities for diversification, including to mitigate global risks and uncertainty.

5. In return, New Zealand will remove tariffs on goods imports from India, facilitate increased access to our services and labour market, through temporary visas for defined groups of service providers, professionals, and certain workers. We have also confirmed work arrangements for students and established a capped working holding scheme for young Indian graduates. A range of safeguards will apply to all visa commitments. New Zealand will also commit to a range of cooperation activities, to promote private sector investment into India, and to undertake a review of the protections of geographical indications.

[1] India has concluded 23 trade agreements, covering over 60 countries (including Australia, UK and Chile), and has more than a dozen negotiations under way. Since the start of this year alone, India has concluded negotiations with the EU and an interim deal with the US.

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Background

6. India matters to New Zealand's prosperity, security and society. s6(a)

7. Alongside the United States, India is a critical missing piece of New Zealand's global FTA coverage[2]. An FTA with India would increase that coverage, extend preferential access, increase commercial certainty for exporters, and provide a foundation for future growth. It would support the Government's priority of lifting New Zealand's productivity to increase opportunities, employment, and incomes for New Zealanders through diversification and creation of new pathways for exporters, as well the Government's strategy to double the value of exports.

8. After sustained political and bilateral engagement which culminated in the Prime Minister's visit to India, the NZ-India FTA negotiations were launched on 17 March 2025 and concluded on 22 December 2025[3].

Comment

9. By 2030, India's GDP is expected to reach around US$7 trillion, and its rapidly growing middle class is projected to reach 715 million – a consumer market that will out-number the European Union or ASEAN. Despite this, India is only our 21st largest goods export market, primarily due to prohibitively high tariffs (up to 150% on wine).

Benefits

10. Tariff savings under the FTA are estimated at $43 million per annum on entry into force, and $62 million per year after 10 years based on current trade levels and not accounting for the expected growth in exports under the FTA. Independent modelling suggests that the NZ-India FTA, relative to a non-FTA baseline, has the potential to grow New Zealand's annual exports to India by $842 million by 2037, and $1.3 billion by 2050, and New Zealand's real GDP by $400 million each year by 2037, and $658 million each year by 2050[4]. It is important to note that past practice has demonstrated that modelling of the impacts of trade agreements has often been conservative in

[2] New Zealand has long sought an FTA with India. Bilateral negotiations were first launched in 2009. These were challenging and eventually suspended in 2015 in favour of the plurilateral Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) before India ultimately withdrew from those negotiations in 2019.

[3] India had experience concluding FTAs quickly, including a 3-month negotiation with the UAE in 2021. It was motivated to conclude negotiations with New Zealand quickly, given its busy negotiating agenda, including with key players such as the EU and US (which also proceeded at rapid pace). s6(a)

[4] Motu, 'Economic Impact Assessment of the NZ-India FTA', in 2024 dollars versus the non-FTA baseline.

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estimating likely benefits. The modelling for previous FTAs such as China and the EU failed to predict the significant trade growth following the FTA[5].

11. The FTA removes or reduces tariffs for over 95% of New Zealand's current **goods** exports to India. This includes: immediate elimination on sheep meat, wool, coal and almost all forestry and wood exports; elimination over seven years for most seafood; elimination over ten years for cherries, avocados, blueberries and persimmons; elimination for most industrial products on day one or over 3-10 years; the best access of any of India's FTA partners to date for apples, kiwifruit and honey; significant reductions on tariffs on wine over 10 years (with a guarantee to further reduce tariffs to match those outcomes granted to future FTA partners[6]); tariffs are eliminated for bulk infant formula and other high-value dairy preparations, and peptones, over seven years – as well as a 50% cut in the tariffs for albumins (a high-value dairy protein product) for a volume above recent current trade. While, as with all of India's recent trade agreements, including most recently with the EU and US, tariffs (33-60%) will remain in place for core dairy products (which account for 28% of New Zealand's global goods exports), New Zealand did secure two novel commitments from India on dairy. The FTA includes a commitment to implement a dedicated fast-track arrangement to facilitate the supply of New Zealand products (including dairy products) duty-free to India for use in the manufacture of goods of export. India has also committed that, if it offers dairy access to a comparable country in the future, it will consult with New Zealand about extending similar treatment to us. Further detail on the goods outcomes is set out in Annex 1.

12. The outcome provides commercially meaningful benefits for our **services** exporters with nearly 100 WTO-plus commitments across a significant portion of India's services market, including areas of interest for New Zealand such as FinTech, education, professional services, and environmental services. The outcome includes a most favoured nation (MFN) commitment to ensure our services exporters will not get left behind if India opens key sectors to other trading partners in the future[7]. The outcome also provides domestic regulation provisions to make India's registration and qualification processes easier for New Zealand services providers.

13. The outcome also addresses **non-tariff barriers** (NTB) faced by exporters. This includes a requirement for India's Customs service to release all goods within 48 hours of arrival and to endeavour to release perishable goods and express consignments within 24 hours of arrival. In a first for India, the FTA creates an innovative cross-cutting Biosecurity, Food and Primary Products Committee to enhance New Zealand's ability to address NTBs in the Indian market in key areas of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) and technical barriers to trade (TBT).

14. The outcome provides for a **general review** of the FTA within one year of entry into force, and every two years thereafter – something New Zealand prioritised as it will provide a mechanism to keep the Agreement up to date, pursue our key interests, and

[5] By comparison, Australia's total exports to India (excluding price-volatile coal) rose 50% in the first year, and 123% in two years after the Australia-India FTA entered into force. This included large increases in key New Zealand exports such as forestry (+119%), sheep meat (+673%), and fisheries (+269%). Australia's services trade to India grew more than 70% in the first year, and nearly 90% within two years.
[6] This would include the EU which secured reductions for wine to 20% or 30% over 7 years.
[7] Most immediately this will secure the additional services commitments India has extended to the EU (assuming the New Zealand agreement enters into force first).

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aim to address any priority gaps in the FTA, s9(2)(j)

15. Important policy areas of defensive sensitivity were secured, including New Zealand's established **Treaty of Waitangi** exception, which preserves New Zealand's ability to, among other things, fulfil obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi. This is the same provision agreed to by Cabinet in this term of Parliament in the EU, UAE and GCC FTAs.

Costs

16. The outcome does not address all our export interests and is not without costs. Some key exports are excluded, including core dairy products such as milk, butter and cheese (consistent with all of India's recent FTAs)[8], beef (for religious reasons), other agricultural products including casein, retail infant formula, animal guts and tallow, venison, onions, and various industrial products. To help mitigate these gaps, (as noted above) India has committed to implement a dedicated fast-track arrangement to facilitate the supply of New Zealand products used to manufacture goods for export, and to enter consultation with us if it offers dairy access to a comparable country in the future. The outcome also includes a review after one year and every two years thereafter.

17. Consistent with other New Zealand FTAs, we have agreed to provide India 100% tariff-free access[9]. This will lower the costs for New Zealand consumers of Indian imports but result in the loss of tariff revenue of around $15 million per year from entry into force.

18. The outcome includes commitments on India's priority interests in the **temporary movement of natural persons** (see Annex 2). Alongside the orthodox two-way services commitments to facilitate temporary movement of specialist workers and businesspeople (which feature in all our recent FTAs), the outcome provides:

1. **Temporary Employment Entry (TEE) visas** of up to three years for an average of 1,667 visas per annum (capped at 5,000 at any one time), primarily for people working in areas of identified skill shortages on Immigration New Zealand's current "Green List", as well as a small number of 'iconic' Indian occupations subject to a range of safeguards requirements, including relevant qualifications, a job offer, English language skills as well as standard health and good character requirements. It is intended that the TEE visas will be implemented to not include work rights for partners or domestic student status for any dependent children.[10]

[8] Although, as noted above commercially meaningful outcomes have been achieved on bulk infant formula and other dairy-based preparations, peptones, and albumins.
[9] Goods imports from India totalled $1.45 billion in 2025 (our 14th-largest source of goods imports).
[10] s6(a)

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2. **Working Holiday Scheme (WHS)** visas for up to 1,000 Indian graduates per year (18-30 years old) to holiday for up to 12 months, while working to support their stay.

3. **In-study work rights:** A commitment that Indian students will be able to work for 20 hours per week while studying in a university or other recognised education institute in New Zealand, regardless of future policy changes.[11] **Post-study work rights** that largely align with current policy and is subject to safeguards has also been agreed for Indian students to work for a period after completing a New Zealand-based degree or postgraduate qualification.

19. The potential uptake of these outcomes is unclear. For the skilled occupation TEE visas, there are existing immigration pathways that are as, or more, attractive than the TEE visas. Similar visa provisions were included in the China FTA that have not resulted in significant uptake[12]. s9(2)(g)(i)

20. For students, given the commitment are largely consistent with current policy (apart from the additional year for PhDs) it is not expected that this will lead to significant, if any, increases in student numbers as a direct result of the FTA[14].

21. The outcome includes **cooperation commitments** which include the establishment of a dedicated Agriculture Productivity Partnership. This will require ongoing commitments of time and resources from agencies and industry. These commitments were critical to securing new market access, including for apples, kiwifruit, and mānuka honey (access is explicitly conditional on the cooperation commitments[15]). Cooperation will also provide strong ongoing benefits for New Zealand in developing meaningful government and industry relationships with relevant Indian sectors. s6(a)

22. The FTA contains a commitment for New Zealand to **promote investment** into India, with the aim to increase investment from New Zealand investors to India by the aspirational figure of US$20 billion over a period of 15 years after entry into force.

[11] This is within current New Zealand policy, which allows for students to work up to 25 hours while studying. The FTA would bind this at 20 hours for students from India.
[12] In the last ten years, around 1,800 China TEE work visas have been issued, out of a theoretical maximum of 6,000.
[13] s9(2)(g)(i)

[14] The Government's growth plan for international education seeks to double the value of international education over 10 years. India is currently the second-highest nationality for student visas, so continued growth from India could be expected over the next 10 years under existing government policies.
[15] The FTA provides for a six-monthly joint review of progress and allows India to seek consultations where New Zealand is unable to fulfil its commitments, to seek a mutually satisfactory solution; should this not be found, India may notify New Zealand of its intention to rebalance its concessions and may suspend the market access provided for the relevant product, as appropriate. These must be reinstated if New Zealand meets its commitments or a mutually agreed solution is found.

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s9(2)(h)

The commitment requires New Zealand to "aim to increase" investment.] Investment promotion activities will need to be undertaken, for example by the New Zealand High Commission and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise through cooperation activities, business roundtable meetings and business delegations. India will establish a New Zealand-only investment desk to facilitate access for investors and investment from New Zealand. Further detail is set out in Annex 3.[16]

23. Under a treaty-level side letter, the Parties have agreed, as part of a review of the Intellectual Property chapter, to consider creating a process for each Party to nominate and protect its **geographical indications** (GI) within the other Party's territory under the FTA. The side letter provides that the review should be undertaken with a view to amending the Agreement to provide no less favourable treatment to GIs nominated by India (including "Basmati") than is provided under the New Zealand – European Union FTA. This process must commence on signing of the FTA and be completed within six months of entry into force.

24. As noted in this Cabinet paper and the original mandate, the FTA contains certain commitments from New Zealand which are not reciprocated by India. This has been the case in other FTA negotiations with larger trading partners, e.g. China and the European Union, where the benefits on offer from the other party's considerably larger market are not able to be matched by New Zealand and our much smaller (and considerably more open) market. This was also necessary with India. In other areas, this reflects the different interests of the Parties, s6(a)

New Zealand's calibrated commitments, drawing from existing precedents from New Zealand's previous FTAs in some cases and India's recent FTAs in others, as well as novel but worthwhile commitments on agricultural cooperation, were the result of extensive negotiations and ultimately enabled us to reach a mutually beneficial agreement with a negotiated balance of benefits and concessions.

Side Letters

25. The FTA includes seven side letters to be signed alongside the Agreement. These are summarised in Annex 4 and set out in Annex 7. They include letters on: Comparable Regulators under the Annex on Medical Devices; Comparable regulators under the Annex on Pharmaceuticals; Consultations (Dairy); Geographical Indications; Organics Mutual Recognition; Wine (MFN); and Working Holiday Visas. All the side letters would be legally binding treaty-level letters except for the Working Holiday Visas letter (which is a non-binding letter).

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[16] s6(a)

Next steps

26. If Cabinet agrees, the FTA will be signed as soon as possible, at a date to be agreed with India. The FTA will then undergo parliamentary treaty examination. Legislation to give effect to the FTA's commitments would need to be introduced and passed by the House before the FTA could be ratified and come into force. s6(a)

As noted above, early entry-into-force also secures benefits from India's forward-looking commitments such as the MFN commitment to extend services benefits in subsequent FTAs (including with the EU) to New Zealand.

27. The FTA text (attached in Annex 6) is in the final stages of legal verification and is subject to minor technical changes arising from that process. We expect to release the text publicly as soon as possible or, at the latest, upon signature.

Legislative implications and Immigration instructions

28. Most of the obligations in the FTA are consistent with current New Zealand law or policy settings. However, as set out in Annex 5, some changes to New Zealand legislation are required to implement obligations and to enable entry into force of the FTA. This includes new legislation to enable separate quota administration systems for apples, kiwifruit and mānuka honey and amendments to the following: Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001; Customs and Excise Act 2018; Customs and Excise Regulations 1996; New Zealand Tariff; Tariff Act 1988; and the Overseas Investment Act 2005 and Overseas Investment Regulations 2005.

29. The legislation would be included in a single omnibus bill. I will likely seek the introduction of the Bill immediately following the parliamentary treaty examination process, s9(2)(f)(iv)

30. An Order in Council will be required to bring the Bill into force, after we agree with India the date for entry into force. The implementing legislation must come into force on the same date that the FTA enters into force.

31. Implementation of the visa commitments will require the Minister of Immigration to certify new immigration instructions under section 22 of the Immigration Act 2009. A fee will be set for the new visa categories that need to be established, in line with the existing fee for WHSs and Work Visa (Other) in Schedule 4 of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulations 2010.

Financial implications

32. The FTA is estimated to reduce Crown revenue by $15 million per annum as the result of removing tariffs on imports of Indian goods. This is based on the average of annual duties collected from 2022-2024. As per standard procedure, I have sought pre-approval from the Minister of Finance for an out-of-cycle funding request to cover these costs, and certain other necessary costs of implementing the FTA as set out below (noting all other implementation costs will be met within agencies' forecast baseline expenditure):

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1. the establishment of an electronic system for exchanging proof of origin data between New Zealand and Indian customs agencies. This is a necessary precondition for preferential trade under the FTA. s6(a) far outweighed by the commercial benefits to exporters of the preferential access negotiated in the FTA. Customs has advised that without additional funding, it would have to divert existing IT resource away from its existing work programme, delaying critical asset replacements and upgrades;

2. s6(a)

3. s6(a)

33. There will be implementation costs associated with the Immigration New Zealand-related components of the FTA s6(a) . It is expected that these costs can be covered from existing baselines, however, for implementation to take place by the end of 2026, some reprioritisation will be required, delaying the implementation of other priority policy changes.

Impact analysis

34. An extended National Interest Analysis (NIA) has been prepared in accordance with the necessary requirements for a regulatory impact analysis and is attached to this paper. The NIA sets out the advantages and disadvantages of the Agreement, its costs and benefits, and what it means for New Zealand.

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Publicity

35. The FTA and the key steps towards ratification (including signature, parliamentary treaty examination and intended ratification and implementation) will continue to attract publicity. Communication material will be prepared for release at signature, supplementing the existing material outlining key elements of the FTA published on the website of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. After signature, and before entry into force, agencies will ensure information about the FTA and its outcomes continues to be effectively communicated to Māori, business, and civil society.

Proactive Release

36. This paper will be proactively released once the FTA has been signed, with redactions where necessary, including to protect leverage in other or future negotiations.

Consultation

37. The Treasury, Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand Customs Service, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise, Ministry for Women, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry for Regulation, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, Invest New Zealand, the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, and Parliamentary Counsel Office have been consulted on this paper.

Recommendations

The Minister for Trade and Investment recommends that the Committee:

1. s6(a)

2. **note** that negotiations for a *Free Trade Agreement between New Zealand and India (NZ-India FTA)* were launched on 17 March 2025 and that the conclusion of those negotiations was announced on 22 December 2025, with the outcomes within the respective mandates from Cabinet provided in November 2024 [FPS-24-MIN-0032/CAB-24-MIN-0456] as updated by delegated Ministers, and that New Zealand secured the necessary policy protections, including the Treaty of Waitangi exception and the exclusion of investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS);

3. s6(a)

4. s6(a)

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s6(a)

5. s6(a)

Costs

6. **note** that the FTA will result in NZ$15 million p.a. in New Zealand tariff revenue foregone due to the removal of tariffs on imports under the FTA;

7. **note** that implementing the NZ-India FTA will require s6(a) one-off operating expenses to establish a data exchange system with India for origin data;

8. s6(a)

9. **note** that I have sought pre-approval from the Minister of Finance for an out-of-cycle funding request to treat necessary implementation costs of the FTA, as set out below;

10. **note** the foregone tariff revenue required to ratify the FTA, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Customs **Minister of Customs**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30 & Outyears**
Operating balance impact Tax Revenue:					
Tariffs	-	(7.500)	(15.000)	(15.000)	(15.000)
Total Revenue	-	(7.500)	(15.000)	(15.000)	(15.000)
Total Operating	**-**	**7.500**	**15.000**	**15.000**	**15.000**

11. **agree** the requirement to establish a data exchange system with India for origin data, necessary for New Zealand exporters to be able to trade under the FTA at preferential tariff rates, with the following changes to appropriations to give effect to this requirement, with a corresponding impact on operating balance and net core Crown debt:

	$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Customs **Minister of Customs**	**2025/26**	**2026/27**	**2027/28**	**2028/29**	**2029/30 & Outyears**
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure Border Clearance and Risk Management MCA **Departmental Output Expense:**					

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Revenue Collection and Other Services (funded by revenue Crown)	-	s6(a)	-	-	-
Total	**-**	s6(a)	**-**	**-**	**-**

12. s6(a)

s6(a)

13. **agree** that the foregone tariff revenue and implementation costs specified in recommendations 6-12 above be charged against the between-Budget contingency established as part of Budget 2025, and any other costs associated with implementation will be met through departmental baselines;

14. **note** that the above costs are expected to be easily outweighed by improved market access for New Zealand exports under the FTA;

FTA text, signature and NIA

15. **approve** the text of the FTA, including side letters to the Agreement, (attached as Annexes 6 and 7), subject to any minor or technical changes to the legal texts arising from the final legal verification of the texts;

16. **agree** that New Zealand sign the FTA and the associated seven side letters set out in paragraph 25, with signature currently intended to take place in April 2026;

17. **authorise** officials, in consultation with the Minister for Trade and Investment, where appropriate, to make minor or technical edits to the FTA text and the associated side letters before their signature as a result of the legal verification process;

18. **approve** the content of the National Interest Analysis (NIA) for the Agreement (attached as Annex 8), subject to any minor or technical changes to the NIA;

19. **authorise** officials to make any necessary minor or technical changes and improvements to the NIA prior to its public release;

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20. **agree** following signature to table the FTA and NIA to the House for the purposes of the parliamentary treaty examination process, under Standing Order 405;

21. **agree** that the text of the FTA, associated side letters, and NIA be released and published on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website after signature, consistent with regular and established practice;

Legislative and policy changes

22. **note** that new legislation and amendments to the legislation set out in paragraph 28 of this paper will be required to implement New Zealand's obligations under the FTA and to ratify the Agreement;

23. **note** that:

    22.1 new primary legislation is required for the administration of apple, kiwifruit, and mānuka honey quotas under the FTA, with secondary legislation establishing the administration systems and technical requirements for each quota, and that I intend for New Zealand Apples and Pears Inc. to administer the quota for apples, Kiwifruit New Zealand to administer the quota for kiwifruit; and for the Ministry for Primary Industries to administer the quota for mānuka honey; and

    22.2 for the albumins quota, Schedule 5(a) of the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001 (DIRA) will need to be amended, with a new regulation power enabling 10% of the quota to be reserved for otherwise ineligible participants;

24. **invite** the Minister for Trade and Investment and relevant portfolio Ministers to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft legislation to give effect to the FTA;

25. **agree** to delegate authority to the Minister of Agriculture to make policy decisions on quota administration systems and to issue drafting instructions for the primary and secondary legislation;

26. **agree** that the Ministry for Primary Industries may share an exposure draft of the quota administration provisions in the implementing bill (including DIRA amendments) with relevant industries on a confidential basis, to consult them during the drafting process;

27. **note** that the Minister of Immigration will certify immigration instructions to implement the immigration commitments as needed;

28. **agree** that the fees to be charged for TEE visa categories and WHS will be set in line with the existing fee for WHSs and Work Visa (Other) in Schedule 4 of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulations 201;

Next steps

29. s6(a)

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s6(a)

30. s6(a)

31. **note** that Cabinet approval will be sought for New Zealand to ratify the Agreement when I seek approval to introduce the implementing bill.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Trade and Investment

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Annex 1

Goods market access outcomes

Specific Sectoral outcomes include:

1. Sheepmeat (33% tariff eliminated): Due to tariff-free access under its FTA, Australia now dominates Indian sheepmeat imports (supplying 91% of imports), while NZ's share has declined from nearly 85% market dominance three years ago to less than 9% today.

2. Tariff elimination on most other traded meat-related products (up to 33%).

3. Forestry and wood products (5.5-11% - almost all eliminated): India is an important diversification market from China and the US. Since its FTA, Australia has seen a 120% increase in exports from 2022 to 2024, while New Zealand's exports declined by 20%.

4. Fish and seafood (33% - almost all eliminated): Australia's exports increased by 55% immediately after the entry into force of the FTA, and jumped by 269% through to 2024, while New Zealand's seafood exports to India declined by 67%.

5. Coal, iron and steel, and other industrial products (0-35%): tariff elimination on most industrial products, at entry into force or over 3-10 years.

6. Kiwifruit (33%): tariff elimination for a quota growing to 15,000 tonnes per annum (almost four times our three-year average of 4,000 tonnes). India has also agreed a 50% cut (i.e. to 16.5%) for all out-of-quota trade. This is the best access of any significant kiwifruit exporter.

7. Apples (50%): A quota growing to 45,000-tonnes, with the tariff cut in half to 25%. This volume is nearly double our three-year average exports to India. New Zealand was the first country to secure access for apples into India in any FTA negotiation.

8. Mānuka Honey (66%): India will cut the tariff by three quarters to 16.5% for Mānuka honey. Over the past five years we have exported an average of just six tonnes of honey to India per year due to high tariffs. New Zealand is the first country to secure preferential access for honey into the Indian market.

9. Wine: (150% - cut to 25% for NZ wines (above US$15 per bottle) and 50% (between US$5-15 per bottle) over 10 years from entry into force, the same as Australia. In addition, an MFN commitment whereby any advantages India extends to future partners (including the improvements in its recently concluded negotiations with the EU) will be automatically extended to New Zealand.

10. Dairy: Consistent with its existing FTAs (including Australia, the UK and the EU) and domestic political sensitivities, India excluded any outcome on core dairy products (such as milk powder, cheese, butter, liquid milk and cream). New Zealand has, however, secured the following dairy outcomes:

    10.1 Bulk infant formula and dairy-based food preparations (33% tariff eliminated)

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10.2 Peptones (dairy ingredient for probiotic powders, amino acids, and microbiology) (22% tariff eliminated).

10.3 Albumins (whey protein concentrates; protein powders etc) 22% tariff cut in half for a quota growing to 3,000 tonnes per year, above recent average export volumes.

10.4 Import for Re-Export Programme: a dedicated fast-track arrangement will be implemented by entry into force to facilitate the tariff-free supply of New Zealand ingredients – notably dairy – to Indian food manufacturing exporters. Note: this is the first time India has agreed to such a mechanism as part of an FTA and could over time lead to new opportunities for integration into India's export supply chain. s6(a)

10.5 Dairy review mechanism: a side instrument has been agreed that if India provides dairy concessions to future comparable FTA partners, we will have a formal mechanism to seek to have those advantages extended to New Zealand. This is within the context of an early review of the FTA which happens within one year of entry into force of the agreement. Note: New Zealand is the first FTA partner to secure such a dairy-specific mechanism.

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Annex 2

Temporary Movement of Natural Persons outcomes

1. The FTA includes orthodox services outcomes to facilitate entry of specialist workers and businesspeople. These are in line with New Zealand's existing FTA commitments with others (e.g. the United Kingdom, the European Union) and commitments under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and include:

 1.1 Contractual Service Suppliers / Independent Professionals – those completing a legitimate contract for service as an employee of an Indian organisation, or as an individual. Visas will be up to 12 months or the duration of the contract, (whichever is shorter).

 1.2 Installers and Servicers – installers or servicers of machinery or equipment, where installation or servicing is a condition of the purchase or lease of equipment. Visas will be no more than 90 days in a 12-month period.

 1.3 Business Visitors – those travelling for the purpose of meetings, consultations, conferences and other business purposes. Visas will be no more than 90 days in a 12-month period.

 1.4 Intra-Corporate Transferees – Executives, Managers or Specialists who are transferred from Indian companies to New Zealand locations. Visa may be up to 3 years. Partners and the dependent children of Intra-Corporate Transferees with visas longer than 12 months duration will have the ability to enter New Zealand.

2. Note that India has made similar commitments in the FTA for New Zealand regarding the entry into India of New Zealand Contractual Services Suppliers, Independent Professionals, Installers and Servicers, Business Visitors, Intra-Corporate Transferees and regarding the entry and stay of spouses and dependents, although the lengths of stay and conditions will in some cases differ.

3. Alongside the orthodox two-way arrangements to facilitate temporary movement of specialist workers and business people, the negotiated outcome provides for:

 3.1 Temporary Employment Entry (TEE) visas of up to three years for an average approximately 1,667 visas per annum, capped at 5,000 at any one time. It is unclear how much uptake of the skilled occupation TEE visas there will be, as there are existing immigration pathways that are as, or more, attractive than the TEE visas. Similar visa provisions were included in the China FTA that have not resulted in significant uptake: s6(a)

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3.2 The India FTA TEE visas are split into two categories: skilled occupations[17] and iconic occupations[18]. All TEE visas – both skilled and iconic occupations - will require a genuine job offer from an accredited New Zealand employer, evidence of proficient English language skills, meet all standard eligibility requirements of the immigration system including health and character requirements, and must have a relevant recognised tertiary level qualification (other than those applying for the iconic (Indian chef) visas who must provide evidence of a recognised diploma-level course in Indian cuisine). In addition, there is a three-year stand-down period following the completion of a TEE visa which the person must spend outside New Zealand before they can re-apply for a further TEE visa[19], and the visas do not provide a pathway to residence or create a right to bring family members;

3.3 A new Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) will be introduced that provides young Indian nationals the ability to holiday in New Zealand, while working to support their stay. Visa conditions will align with similar WHS arrangements with other countries, including China, Viet Nam, and the Philippines. The programme provides for up to 1,000 12-month visas each year for Indian citizens 18-30 years old. Applicants must have health insurance, evidence of sufficient funds to support their stay, a three-year tertiary qualification, and evidence of functional English language proficiency;

3.4 Post-study work for Indian students to allow them to work after completing a New Zealand-based degree for: up to 2 years for graduates with bachelor's degrees (students from all countries can currently get up to three years); up to 3 years for graduates with master's degrees (as per students from other countries, consistent with current policy); up to 3 years for graduates with bachelor's degrees with first-class honours in STEM fields, including ICT fields (as per students from other countries, consistent with current policy); and up to 4 years for graduates with PhDs (an additional year compared to other students); and

3.5 In-study work for Indian students which guarantees the ability to work up to 20 hours per week while they are studying in New Zealand regardless of any future policy changes (current policy allows students of all nationalities to work up to 25 hours per week).

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[17] Skilled occupations are all derived from New Zealand's existing Green List of occupations where New Zealand has a skills shortage. These include: **IT Sector** (software engineers, software and applications programmers, ICT project managers; Engineers): up to 1,000 at any one time; **Engineering Occupations** (civil, mechanical, structural and environmental engineers): up to 1,000 at any one time; **Construction sector** (construction project managers, building construction managers): up to 700 at any one time; **Education sector** (primary and secondary school teachers): up to 500 at any one time; **Health sector:** registered nurses (up to 900 at any one time), and physiotherapists (up to 300 at any one time). The maximum number will total an average of 1,467 visas per annum (up to 4,400 three-year visas at any point in time).

[18] This will comprise capped numbers for the following occupations: **Ayush practitioners** (Indian traditional medicine) (maximum 200 visas at any one time), **music teachers** (50), **Indian chefs** (250) and **yoga instructors** (100), being a total of up to 600 three-year visas at any point in time (i.e. on average 200 visas per year). s6(a)

[19] The FTA does not prevent the visa holder from seeking other visas that may be available under the policies applicable at any given time.

4. Between January and August 2025, 83,535 international students were enrolled with New Zealand education providers. Given the FTA's post-study and in-study work commitments are largely consistent with current policy (apart from the additional year for PhDs), and the FTA does not include a commitment to increase student visas, it is not expected that the FTA will lead to a significant increase in Indian student numbers.

5. There is currently no cap on the number of students from any country including India. That is a long-standing policy. The FTA provides that New Zealand will not impose a nation-specific numerical cap on international students from India. s6(a)

The FTA commitment is clear on this, in that the commitment is caveated on students fulfilling immigration requirements and eligibility conditions which are not specified or disciplined in the FTA.

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Annex 3

Investment promotion

1. The Investment Promotion and Cooperation chapter requires New Zealand to promote investment from New Zealand investors into India. This obligation is accompanied by an aspirational target of increasing investment from New Zealand to India by US $20 billion over 15 years. This differs from other agreements India has, s9(2)(g)(i)

2. To facilitate New Zealand investments, India will establish a bespoke 'New Zealand Investment Desk' to assist New Zealand investors with issues that may arise across the investment life cycle.

3. Should India consider, after 15 years, that New Zealand has not met its obligation to promote investment, it may initiate a review and consultation process beginning at officials' level and moving to Ministerial level over a 14-month period.

4. If, following this review and consultation period, the matter remains unresolved and India determines New Zealand has not met its obligation to promote investment, India may impose proportionate measures to 'rebalance' the market access commitments given to New Zealand. The measures are intended to be temporary.

5. s6(a)

6. New Zealand already does a lot of promotional activity of business opportunities for New Zealand companies in India through the New Zealand High Commission and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. This will continue and be expanded to include encouraging investment along with other cooperation and promotional activities to ensure New Zealand can demonstrate it is meeting its obligations to promote investment into India.

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Annex 4

Summary of Side Letters to be signed alongside the New Zealand-India FTA

The following seven side letters have been agreed as part of the negotiation to be signed and exchanged alongside the signature of the FTA:

1. **Wine Trade - Most Favoured Nation**

   India affirms that wine imports from New Zealand will be automatically subject to treatment as favourable as that provided to imports of wine from any non-party with respect to customs duties or other charges connected to that importation.

2. **Dairy Consultations**

   Confirms the understanding that if India offers tariff concessions on core dairy products such as milk powders, cheese, butter, or liquid milk or cream as part of a free trade agreement in force with a comparable non-Party, on New Zealand's request, India agrees to consult on whether to offer similar treatment to New Zealand in the Agreement as part of and during the review of the Agreement. Unless the Parties agree otherwise, such consultations may commence no later than 60 days after the date of the request and will be undertaken with the view to conclude consultation within 180 days.

3. **Organics**

   This side letter confirms the understanding that India and NZ have negotiated an Interim Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) that facilitates reciprocal trade in organic products based on the acceptance of a mutually accepted third country's standard (Australia). Parties also agree to endeavour to conclude negotiations of an MRA of organics equivalence of their own technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures within 12 months of the Agreement coming into force.

4. **Comparable Regulators – Medical Devices**

   To support the outcome in the Annex on Medical Devices, this side letter lists regulatory authorities that are recognised as 'comparable regulator' by each Party and allows parties to amend the list by written notice.

5. **Comparable Regulators - Pharmaceuticals**

   To support the outcome in the Annex on Pharmaceuticals, this side letter lists regulatory authorities that are recognised as 'comparable regulator' by each Party and allows parties to amend the list by written notice.

6. **Working Holiday Visas**

   A new Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) will be introduced that provides young Indian graduates (18 to 30 years) the ability to holiday in New Zealand, while working to support their stay. Visa conditions will align with similar WHS arrangements with other countries, including China, Viet Nam and the Philippines. If India implements a similar youth mobility program in the future with any country, it will extend the opportunity to participate in such a program to New Zealand's citizens.

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7. **Geographical Indications**

India and New Zealand will undertake a review of the Geographical Indications (GI) section of the Intellectual Property chapter commencing upon signature, with the aim of concluding the review within six months of the Agreement entering into force. The review shall, among other things: address protection of specific GIs including, in the case of India, Basmati; and be undertaken with a view to amending the Agreement to provide no less favourable treatment than is provided under the New Zealand–European Union FTA.

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Annex 5

Legislative Implications

The following is required to enable New Zealand to manage the administration of new access under **tariff rate quotas** (TRQs):

1. amendments to the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001 (DIRA) to enable TRQs for albumins under the NZ-India FTA to be brought within the existing quota administration system for dairy export quotas, by:

    1.1 adding albumins to Schedule 5(a) of the DIRA, and

    1.2 creating a new regulation making power, enabling 10% of the albumins quota to be reserved for otherwise ineligible participants.

2. the creation of a new piece of primary legislation to enable separate quota administration systems for apples, kiwifruit and mānuka honey to be established via regulations. This will enable each quota system to be created in a way that caters for the differences between the three industries and meets their technical and administrative needs, noting that there are no existing quota administration systems for these products:

    2.1 I recommend that the following organisations administer the export quotas:

Quota	**Administrator**
Apples	New Zealand Apples and Pears Incorporated
Kiwifruit	Kiwifruit New Zealand
Mānuka honey	Ministry for Primary Industries

    2.2 I consider that these three organisations have the skills, experience, access to industry information, and independence required to undertake the role. Industry stakeholders were consulted on quota administrators and have indicated that these are also their preferences.

    2.3 I am seeking delegated authority in my capacity as the Minister of Agriculture to make policy decisions for the primary and secondary legislation, and to direct MPI to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office.

3. Delegated authority will enable officials to work through the various policy issues associated with quota systems, consult with key industry stakeholders and intended quota administrators on quota system design, and develop legislation within agreed timelines for the FTA.

4. The FTA requires that quota systems are transparent, objective, non-discriminatory, and minimally burdensome. Policy decisions will be subject to these principles and confirmed when I return to Cabinet with the draft FTA legislation.

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5. Amendments are also required to the following:

   5.1 the **Customs and Excise Act 2018** to allow the chief executive of the New Zealand Customs Service to designate an authorised certification body to certify that goods originate in New Zealand for the purposes of the NZ-India FTA;

   5.2 the **Customs and Excise Regulations 1996** to implement the agreed rules of origin and product specific rules of origin for goods imported from India;

   5.3 the **New Zealand Tariff** to enable the application of the preferential tariff rates agreed in the NZ-India FTA and to implement obligations relating to the tariff treatment of goods returned after repair or alteration;

   5.4 the **Tariff Act** 1988 to provide a provisional transitional safeguard mechanism for imports from India; and

   5.5 the **Overseas Investment Act 2005** and **the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005** to increase from $100 million to $200 million the monetary threshold above which consent is required for investments by non-government investors from India in "significant business assets" in New Zealand in relation to the provision of services.

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Office of the Minister for Trade and Investment

Cabinet Legislation Committee

India Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Proposal

1 This paper seeks approval for:

1.1 the introduction of the India Free Trade Agreement Legislation Amendment Bill (Bill) to the House of Representatives; and

1.2 New Zealand to ratify the *Free Trade Agreement between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the Republic of India* (India FTA or FTA).

Executive Summary

2 Passage of the Bill is required to implement a limited number of legislative and regulatory changes necessary for New Zealand to meet its obligations under the India FTA and to enable ratification, following Cabinet's decision on 23 March 2026 to approve the final outcomes of the India FTA and for New Zealand to sign the FTA.

3 Most of New Zealand's obligations under the India FTA are already met through existing domestic law and policy settings. The Bill addresses specific implementation requirements, including establishing new tariff-rate quota administration arrangements for certain primary products, amending existing quota and customs frameworks, implementing tariff commitments and rules of origin for goods imports from India, and adjusting overseas investment screening thresholds for qualifying Indian investors.

4 Approval of the Bill and ratification of the India FTA will allow the Agreement to enter into force once both Parties have completed their respective domestic processes.

5 s9(2)(f)(iv)

Policy

Cabinet's decision to sign the India FTA

6 On 23 March 2026, Cabinet approved the final outcomes of the India FTA and agreed that New Zealand sign the FTA [CAB-26-MIN-0084 refers]. The FTA was subsequently signed on 27 April 2026.

7 Alongside the United States, India is a critical missing piece of New Zealand's global FTA coverage. Despite the size of its economy, India is only New Zealand's 21st largest goods export market. Prohibitively high tariffs have severely constrained our ability to access the Indian market. The India FTA will extend preferential access, increase commercial certainty for exporters, create a more level playing field with key

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competitors, and provide a foundation for future growth. This will support the Government's priority of lifting New Zealand's productivity to increase opportunities, employment, and incomes for New Zealanders through diversification and creation of new pathways for exporters, as well the Government's strategy to double the value of exports.

Legislation required for New Zealand to ratify the India FTA

8 The Bill is required because it will allow New Zealand to ratify the India FTA and, after India has ratified the FTA, allow the FTA to enter into force. Most of the obligations in the India FTA are already met by New Zealand's existing domestic legal and policy regime. A limited number of legislative and regulatory amendments are required to align New Zealand's domestic law with certain obligations in the India FTA.

9 On 23 March 2026, Cabinet noted that new legislation and amendments to certain legislation will be required to implement New Zealand's obligations under the India FTA and to ratify the FTA [CAB-26-MIN-0084 refers].

10 The Bill will create a new piece of primary legislation to enable separate tariff-rate quota (TRQ) administration systems for apples, kiwifruit and mānuka honey to be established via regulations. This will enable each quota system to be created in a way that caters for the differences between the three industries and meets their technical and administrative needs, noting that there are no existing quota administration systems for these products.

11 The Bill also introduces amendments to the following:

11.1 the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001 (DIRA), to enable TRQs for albumins under the India FTA to be brought within the existing quota administration system for dairy export quotas by:

11.1.1 adding albumins to Schedule 5(a) of the DIRA;[1] and

11.1.2 creating a new regulation making power, enabling 10% of the albumins quota to be reserved for otherwise ineligible participants;

11.2 the Customs and Excise Act 2018, to allow the chief executive of the New Zealand Customs Service to designate an authorised certification body to certify that goods originate in New Zealand for the purposes of the India FTA;

11.3 the Customs and Excise Regulations 1996, to implement the agreed rules of origin and product specific rules of origin for goods imported from India;

[1] The India FTA includes tariff relief within quotas for albumins, apples, mānuka honey and kiwifruit. Albumins will be administered as part of the long-established quota administration regime for dairy quotas in the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001 (DIRA). The DIRA uses the term 'export licences' when referring to the allocation of quota to applicants. This is unlike the new legislation implementing the legislative framework for the administration of apple, kiwifruit and mānuka honey quotas where the term 'quota' is used.

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11.4 the Tariff Act 1988, to provide a provisional transitional safeguard mechanism for imports from India;

11.5 the New Zealand Tariff, to enable the application of the preferential tariff rates agreed in the India FTA and to implement obligations relating to the tariff treatment of goods returned after repair or alteration; and

11.6 the Overseas Investment Act 2005 and the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005, to increase from $100 million to $200 million the monetary threshold above which consent is required for investments by non-government investors from India in "significant business assets" in New Zealand. This increased investment screening threshold only relates to investments enabled by New Zealand's services commitments.

12 Further details about the content of the Bill, including regulation-making powers and offences agreed under delegated authority by the Minister for Agriculture are set out in Annex One of this paper.

Approval to ratify the India FTA

13 I also seek approval for New Zealand to ratify the India FTA. The India FTA must be ratified by both Parties before it can enter into force. Ratification would involve India and New Zealand exchanging diplomatic notes promptly after the Bill receives the Royal assent, which confirm we have completed our respective domestic processes required to bring the India FTA into force. The domestic processes required for New Zealand primarily involve passing the Bill and implementing India FTA visa commitments through immigration measures that do not require legislation (as outlined below). s6(a)

Impact analysis

14 In accordance with the Cabinet Manual and Standing Orders 405 to 408, all multilateral treaties or "major bilateral treaties of particular significance" concluded by New Zealand require the preparation of a National Interest Analysis (NIA). An extended NIA was prepared in accordance with the necessary requirements for a regulatory impact analysis (RIS) and was approved by Cabinet on 23 March 2026 [CAB-26-MIN-0084]. This paper does not seek any additional policy decisions to those sought at Cabinet on 23 March 2026 and therefore are no additional RIS requirements.

15 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a RIS on the grounds that it would substantively duplicate the extended NIA. This exemption is granted on the condition that the document contains the key features of a RIS. The Ministry for Regulation has reviewed the extended NIA and confirmed that it contains these requirements.

16 The Climate Implications of Policy Assessment (CIPA) team at the Ministry for the Environment has been consulted and confirmed that the CIPA requirements do not apply to this policy proposal, as the threshold for significance is not met. This paper

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does not seek any additional policy decisions to those sought at Cabinet on 23 March 2026 so there are no additional CIPA requirements.

Compliance

17 The Bill complies with:

17.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;

17.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993;

17.3 the disclosure statement requirements (a disclosure statement has been prepared and is **attached** to this paper);

17.4 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020;

17.5 relevant international standards and obligations; and

17.6 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.

Consultation

18 The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry for Primary Industries, and the New Zealand Customs Service have worked with the Parliamentary Counsel Office on the Bill. Land Information New Zealand, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, the Ministry for Regulation, and the Treasury were consulted. The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

19 An exposure draft of the Bill was also shared with New Zealand Apples & Pears (NZAPI), Kiwifruit New Zealand (KNZ), Zespri, and New Zealand Kiwifruit Growers Incorporated (NZKGI).

Binding on the Crown

20 The Bill will be binding on the Crown.

Creating new agencies or amending law relating to existing agencies.

21 The legislation will amend the Kiwifruit Export Regulations 1999 to add a function for Kiwifruit New Zealand. This will enable Kiwifruit New Zealand to become the quota administrator for kiwifruit.

Allocation of decision-making powers

22 Not applicable.

Associated regulations

23 Regulations will be drafted as the Bill progresses through the House, with a view to being made once the Bill is enacted. s6(a)

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Other instruments

24 Not applicable.

Definition of Minister/department

25 "Ministry" has been defined in the legislation as being MPI, with the intention that this will be removed in the future, including to allow for possible future changes to MPI's name.

Commencement of legislation

26 The Bill provides for a commencement date to be appointed by an Order in Council. This form of commencement is necessary to ensure that the Bill commences on the same date that the India FTA enters into force. The date of entry into force of the India FTA will be decided by New Zealand and India in the coming months, when both countries have greater certainty on the period of time we both need to complete our respective domestic processes and ratify the FTA. I expect that the date of entry into force of the India FTA, and therefore the commencement date for the Bill, s6(a) I confirm that the explanatory note to the Bill sets out the reasons for commencement by Order in Council.

27 s6(a)

Parliamentary stages

28 I propose that the Bill is introduced as soon as possible and s6(a)

29 I propose to nominate the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee to consider the Bill.

30 During the Committee of the Whole House stage, it is intended that Part 4 of the Bill (new legislation for TRQ administration systems for apples, kiwifruit and mānuka honey) will be separated out as a separate Bill. This would give us the best legislative outcome because, after enactment, the parts of the Bill that amend legislation (Parts 1 to 3) will effectively fall away while the new TRQ legislation remains active.

Other implementation measures

31 Implementation of the visa commitments will require the Minister of Immigration to certify new immigration instructions under section 22 of the Immigration Act 2009. A fee will be set for the new visa categories that need to be established, in line with the existing fee for working holiday scheme visas and Work Visa (Other) in Schedule 4 of the Immigration (Visa, Entry Permission and Related Matters) Regulations 2010.

32 Officials will provide separate advice to Ministers on what is required to implement the measures referred to above.

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Proactive Release

33 I propose that this paper should be proactively released within 30 business days of final decision being taken by this Cabinet Committee, with redactions where necessary.

Recommendations

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

1 s6(a)

2 s6(a)

3 s6(a)

4 **note** that the Bill must be passed by the House of Representatives to allow New Zealand to ratify the *Free Trade Agreement between the Government of New Zealand and the Government of the Republic of India* (India FTA) and for the India FTA to enter into force;

5 **note** that the Bill:

5.1 amends the Dairy Industry Restructuring Act 2001, the Customs and Excise Act 2018, the Customs and Excise Regulations 1996, the Tariff Act 1988, the New Zealand Tariff, the Overseas Investment Act 2005, and the Overseas Investment Regulations 2005; and

5.2 will create a new piece of primary legislation to enable separate tariff-rate quota administration systems for apples, kiwifruit and mānuka honey to be established via regulations;

6 **approve** the Bill for introduction, subject to the final approval of the Government caucus and sufficient support in the House of Representatives;

7 **agree** that the Bill be introduced on 23 June 2026;

8 **agree** that the Government propose that the Bill:

8.1 be referred to the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee for consideration; and

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8.2 s6(a)

9 **note** that regulations and commencement orders will be drafted as the Bill progresses through the House, with a view to being made once the Bill is enacted;

10 **note** that the India FTA will be brought into force after India and New Zealand exchange diplomatic notes confirming that each country has completed its respective domestic processes required to bring the India FTA into force; and

11 **authorise** officials to exchange diplomatic notes with India to bring the India FTA into force, subject to the satisfactory completion of the parliamentary treaty examination process and the Bill being passed by the House of Representatives.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade and Investment

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