



Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: New Zealand Flag Referendums Orders 2015

Portfolio **Deputy Prime Minister**

On 31 August 2015, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that the New Zealand Flag Consideration Panel (the Panel) reported back to the Responsible Minister on 28 August 2015 on the outcome of its public engagement process;
- 2 **noted** that the Panel's Terms of Reference required it to report back with recommendations for a reasonable number (5-6) of alternative flag designs for inclusion in a referendum [CAB Min (14) 34/1];
- 3 **noted** that on 23 March 2015, Cabinet agreed that the Panel would select the four alternative designs for the first referendum voting paper, which Cabinet would then authorise for inclusion in the Order in Council that is required to prescribe the designs to appear on the first referendum voting paper [CAB Min (15) 9/14];
- 4 **noted** the four alternative designs for the first referendum voting paper, as selected by the Panel;
- 5 **noted** the Responsible Minister's intention to recommend to the Governor-General that Orders in Council are made covering the following aspects, pursuant to the New Zealand Flag Referendums Act 2015:
 - 5.1 the four flags for the first referendum;
 - 5.2 the dates for the closing of the referendum roll for the first and second referendums;
 - 5.3 the dates for the close of the voting period for the first and second referendums;
 - 5.4 the official description of the current New Zealand flag (for voting dictation purposes);
- 6 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the:
 - 6.1 New Zealand Flag Referendums (First Flag Referendum) Order 2015 [PCO 19285/4.0];
 - 6.2 New Zealand Flag Referendums (Second Flag Referendum) Order 2015 [PCO 19286/3.0];

- 7 **noted** that a waiver of the 28-day rule is sought to allow the administration of the two flag referendums to proceed on the following grounds:
- 7.1 the process for determining the four flags to be considered in the first referendum has been well-publicised to date as well as the in-principle dates for the referendums;
 - 7.2 there will be a high-level of advertising and promotion of the four flags, including the media announcement by the Flag Consideration Panel;
 - 7.3 the Electoral Commission's public information campaign will inform the public of the voting periods and the date by which people need to be enrolled;
 - 7.4 the public are still able to enrol after the closure of the roll specified in the Orders in Council;
- 8 **noted** that the Orders come into force on 1 September 2015;
- 9 **agreed** to a waiver of the 28-day rule so that the Orders come into force on 1 September 2015;
- 10 **noted** that the Panel intends to announce the four flags at a press conference at 10am on Tuesday 1 September 2015;
- 11 **noted** that the Panel's report to the Responsible Minister will be made publicly available following the Panel's press conference on Tuesday, 1 September 2015.