



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Temporary Ban of Cruise Ships

**Portfolios**                      **Health / Immigration / Customs**

On 14 March 2020, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the risk of a case of COVID-19 on-board a cruise vessel in New Zealand territorial waters is increasing;
- 2        **noted** that quarantine powers mean a response to a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 on a cruise vessel in New Zealand territorial waters is likely to be required;
- 3        **noted** that if there was a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 on a cruise vessel in New Zealand territorial waters, the government will face difficult decisions about how to respond;
- 4        **agreed** to direct cruise ship owners and operators not to bring cruise ships to New Zealand as of 23:59 on 14 March 2020 until 23:59 on 30 June 2020;
- 5        **noted** that officials require time to operationalise this decision, including notifying relevant parties;
- 6        **agreed** to issue a public advisory at 16:00 on 14 March 2020;
- 7        **noted** the maximum economic impact of a three month ban (mid-March until mid-June 2020) is estimated to be approximately \$82 million in lost expenditure. § 9(2)(f)(iv)  
[REDACTED]
- 8        **noted** that the public health benefits of temporarily banning cruise ships are assessed as outweighing the economic impacts.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

**Hard-copy distribution:**

Prime Minister  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Minister of Health  
Minister of Immigration  
Minister of Customs