

# CVD Noting Paper

## COVID-19: ALL OF GOVERNMENT PLAN FOR MANAGING STRANDED PEOPLE

<b>To</b>	COVID-19 Group of Ministers		
<b>From</b>	All of Government Group	<b>Date</b>	30/03/2020

### Purpose

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- 1 This paper provides an overview of the all-of-government approach to managing stranded foreign nationals in New Zealand and New Zealanders stranded overseas to ensure the success of the lock-down strategy during Alert Level 4.

### Summary

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- 2 Limiting and managing the movement of people around New Zealand is mission critical to containing the spread of COVID-19 under Alert Level 4. However, there are thousands of New Zealanders seeking to return home from overseas, and thousands of foreign nationals stranded here who wish to be evacuated.
- 3 A holistic approach is needed across arriving and departing flights (commercial, charter, and repatriation) to ensure we have the right resources in place to manage a safe, smooth arrivals process. This must allow for adequate physical separation with a parallel departures process to minimise transmission risk.
- 4 Public health risks associated with airport transfers, arrivals and departures can be managed through a staggered approach. Avoiding a concentration of people at any one point will allow travellers, airport and airline staff to most importantly maintain physical distancing and separation between arriving and departing passengers. Airport and airline staff will continue to follow established public health protocols, including use of Personal Protective Equipment and maintaining physical distancing in aircraft and at airports.
- 5 We have stood up a managed process for arrivals. This has required significant Government resource at the border, but arrivals on commercial flights have peaked and will now rapidly decline as commercial flights tail off. Consular support is available but limited for those New Zealanders unable to secure a flight home, and advice on and planning for their repatriation is underway.
- 6 There are over 383,000 foreign nationals temporarily in New Zealand. We estimate a quarter of these are stranded foreign national: people who had only planned to be in New Zealand for a very short period and cannot secure a flight home. The vast majority are here on a more settled basis, including students, migrant workers, and partners or dependents of workers. These people are not stranded in the same way. They had planned to remain here for an extended

period, with access to accommodation and funding for living costs a condition of their visas. Some of these may now also wish to leave and return home.

- 7 Foreign nationals are permitted to depart New Zealand where commercial options exist and if private domestic travel to airports is possible. However, a process of managed evacuation to repatriate foreign nationals will be required at scale and is being planned for, as commercial options will not suffice.
- 8 In the interim, these people need to shelter in place. Many will have a safe place to stay and means to support themselves directly (or resources offshore to call on). If they do not, consular assistance from their own governments and travel insurance should be their first port of call.
- 9 As a last resort, assistance is available to find accommodation, for emergency healthcare, and for limited access to welfare (eg food, services) through their regional Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups. This is discretionary and only after other sources of support have been exhausted or are not available. This support is temporary and offered on an extraordinary basis, in light of the overriding public health interests associated with a pandemic.
- 10 So far, demand is low and there are very few acute cases reported among this group. Officials will monitor demand as plans for assisted evacuation are put in place. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 11 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 12 Temporary migrants here on a settled basis, like many New Zealanders, may be facing unemployment or income loss. For some, accommodation depends on their employment. s6(a)  
The expectation would normally be these temporary migrants return home. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 13 Repatriation of foreign nationals at such a scale is unlikely to be possible s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

### **Managing New Zealanders returning home from overseas**

- 14 Over the past week, officials have stood up a managed process for the arrival of returning New Zealanders so they are placed in managed isolation facilities for 14 days or, where they have a suitable isolation plan and transport, self-isolating in homes in close proximity to the arrival airport.

- 15 This process has required significant government resources. We have seen some additional flights being scheduled over recent days as people seek to travel home before flights run out and borders are completely shut. This has led to more flights than anticipated and shifting flight schedules, but with continued low loading of passengers compared to potential flight capacity (due to no shows and missed connections).
- 16 So far, we have been able to balance supply of managed isolation facilities and transport to them with demand from arriving passengers. We continue to work through improved ways to manage the flow of passengers through and to/from airports, including:
- 16.1 Airlines and airports are now directly providing to OCC regularly updated schedules with a five day outlook and estimated passenger numbers,
  - 16.2 Airlines are seeking information from passengers at check-in whether they have self-isolation plans, and are providing final flight manifests at take-off to Customs in New Zealand, and
  - 16.3 Potential diversion of passengers to regional hotels further from Auckland and/or diverting flights to other international airports if required to manage supply and demand for managed isolation facilities.
- 17 We expect the numbers of New Zealander arrivals requiring support to isolate is likely to have peaked, with most of the international carriers now having ceased services to New Zealand from 31 March.
- 18 From April we expect a few providers to offer very limited commercial services, including Air New Zealand and potentially Qatar Airlines. s9(2)(ba)

However, if demand continues for flights, and transit routes are viable, commercial operators may be able to schedule additional arrivals.

### **Government support for New Zealanders stranded overseas**

- 19 There are New Zealanders stranded overseas who do not have a realistic prospect of commercial flights becoming available in the short term, but who wish to return. Some are in increasingly difficult circumstances and are seeking consular support. Consular support, including loans, are already available for New Zealanders overseas who are experiencing financial distress and are unable to return home.
- 20 A draft Cabinet paper has been developed by officials and will be considered at the CVD meeting on 2 April. It provides advice on extending New Zealand Superannuation and benefits for people who otherwise would have been back within the legislated timelines, s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

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- 22 All options for assistance come with considerable practical and operational challenges and limitations. These include a lack of comprehensive data about the number and location of New Zealanders overseas who may need financial assistance in the future. Of the 23,331 people registered on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's SafeTravel database as at 28 March, 6,369 individuals or tours are registered as "travelling" or on a cruise. The remaining 16,962 are registered as "residing" in the country they are in.
- 23 However, pre-COVID-19 estimates were that there were around 80,000 New Zealanders were travelling offshore on a short-term basis and some 800,000 residing offshore. These numbers are likely to have reduced somewhat, as many New Zealanders have made their way home in recent weeks, but may not have updated their SafeTravel records.

#### **Evacuation of foreign nationals stranded in New Zealand**

- 24 Border agencies are already being stretched to manage the arrival of New Zealanders returning from overseas. Seeking to facilitate the departure of thousands of foreign nationals at the same time risks compromising public health imperatives and will exacerbate pressure on the system.
- 25 Ministers last week agreed not to support evacuation flights for foreign nationals until April. This has provided much needed time to support the flow of people in and out of the system.

#### *Some departures may be possible while commercial options remain available*

- 26 We are currently allowing planned commercial international air services to depart New Zealand. With most commercial international departure services ending by 31 March (and very limited options through Air New Zealand and possibly Qatar Airways through April), we advise that if people are already in the city of their departure, they should be able to take a private vehicle to the airport to leave on these flights. Just as people returning to New Zealand can use a private vehicle to return to their place of self-isolation. Domestic air travel to connect to these flights is not currently permitted under Alert Level 4, but we are working through options to support departures from more remote areas.
- 27 Overseas nationals with tickets on confirmed departing international flights (either commercial or charter) will be allowed to board provided that they do not meet established case definition criteria, i.e. they are not symptomatic nor have they had close contact with confirmed cases in the past fourteen days.

- 28 If these conditions cannot be met then clear guidance will be conveyed to seek health advice (if symptomatic) or to remain in situ for fourteen days (since coming into close contact with a confirmed case). This further justifies the need to work with international governments to stagger evacuation flights in order to give access to those completing their isolation period.

*Managed evacuation of stranded foreign nationals will then be required*

- 29 As arriving New Zealanders reduce in number, we will have more space to manage evacuation of foreign nationals out of New Zealand. This will necessitate a highly managed process, similar to arrivals, in order to meet the public health objectives of Level 4, including:

- 29.1 facilitated domestic transport of foreign nationals from across New Zealand to international departure points to minimise transmission risk
- 29.2 appropriate health screening measures for those departing to ensure that they are able to board flights, and
- 29.3 government to government agreements to allow transit through third countries and, in some cases, transit through New Zealand for evacuations from eg the Pacific.

- 30 Work is underway to develop the operational plan for an assisted departures process for these evacuations (Annex 1 sets out the high level approach in development)<sup>1</sup>

- 31 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

- 32 s9(2)(j)

- 33 In the interim, ahead of mass evacuations being organised, it is critical that foreign nationals shelter in place to support the lock down being effective, and do not undermine the public health objectives of shifting to Alert Level 4.

**Overview of foreign nationals unable to depart New Zealand under Level 4**

- 34 There are currently around 383,000 temporary student, visitor, and work visa holders in New Zealand. We estimate that:

- 34.1 around a quarter of these are stranded foreign nationals – people who had only planned to be in New Zealand for a very short period and cannot secure a flight home, however

34.2 the majority are temporary visa holders who are here on a more settled basis. This includes students, temporary migrant workers, and the partners or dependents of migrant workers (on visitor visas).

35 Table 1 provides an overview of these different visa groups' situation, potential support needs and available support options, with more detail provided in following paragraphs.

**Table 1. Foreign nationals temporarily in New Zealand – potential support needs**

	<b>Short term visitors</b> <i>Tourists, working holiday makers</i>	<b>Settled temporary migrants</b> <i>Student, temporary work visas, seasonal workers, partners or dependents on visitor visas</i>
<b>Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About a quarter of visa holders.</li> <li>Stranded in New Zealand: likely had imminent plans to return home or bring that forward, but with plans disrupted as air routes close down.</li> <li>Typically tourists or working holiday makers, some other types who were due to return home.</li> <li>Being stranded may present additional costs to this group, but many will have the financial means on hand (or available to call on offshore) to meet a shorter-term extended stay.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Majority of temporary visa holders.</li> <li>Not stranded. Most had planned to be in New Zealand for months/years, some may now wish to return home.</li> <li>May be well placed with accommodation and financial support (which is a visa condition).</li> <li>Need good communication to stay put until lockdown completes or evacuation arrangements in place.</li> <li>Expiring visas have been extended through Epidemic Notice. They remain lawful and have relaxed work rights conditions.</li> </ul>
<b>Support potentially required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If evacuation is slow, even visitors with financial means may need non-financial assistance to find suitable accommodation or support to comply with Level 4.</li> <li>In the first instance, this group can look to travel insurance or consular support from their countries.</li> <li>Where this is not available, and to manage the public health risk of people movements during lockdown, support can be provided by TAS, and (as a last resort) Local Authorities / CDEM Groups.</li> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some may have lost employment and income due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.</li> <li>If low earners or in non-essential services sectors could face financial difficulties while waiting to return home or find alternate employment (if they have open work rights).</li> <li>s6(a)</li> <li>Access to Business Continuity Package (won't help those unemployed), TAS, and as a last resort, CDEM Groups.</li> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)</li> </ul>

36 Annex 2 provides a more detailed breakdown of these different groups of foreign nationals estimated to be in New Zealand and their comparative likelihood of needing to seek support and available avenues for support under current settings. This is informed by the number with visas expiring in the next month and the assumption people have the means to support themselves at least until the end of their visa (the basis on which applications are assessed and granted).

### **Managing short term visitors stranded in New Zealand**

37 Many short term visitors to New Zealand will have a safe place to stay and the means to support themselves directly (or resources offshore to call on). To date,

there have been minimal reports of tourists or working holiday makers unable to find accommodation or fund immediate living costs. This is higher in some areas with higher concentrations of eg working holiday makers who would have been working in hospitality and tourism sectors (such as Queenstown). Even in these locations, there are relatively few acute cases at this early stage.

- 38 Some of these people are becoming increasingly anxious to leave, with their governments seeking to facilitate their evacuation. The most reported anxiety is related to this group being unable to secure flights home, or for those who have booked flights, but finding these are being cancelled with a financial loss.
- 39 The longer it takes to evacuate these stranded foreign nationals, the more likely it is that support may be required to ensure they can shelter in place. Where short term visitors do not have the means to support themselves:
- 39.1 consular assistance from their own governments and travel insurance should be the first port of call
  - 39.2 some may also be able to continue work to support themselves in essential services (eg working holiday makers with jobs in horticulture)
  - 39.3 limited support can be made available to match these people to suitable accommodation (eg via the TAS), to access emergency healthcare, and, as a last resort access to emergency welfare support (eg accommodation support, food) through regional CDEM Groups.
- 40 These measures would be temporary and undertaken on an extraordinary basis, in light of the overriding public health interests associated with a pandemic. If we do not achieve widespread compliance with limitations on people movements, we risk having to keep Level 4 in place for longer.
- 41 Overall, based on requests for assistance to date and assumptions about circumstances, we consider only a small group of these short term visitors may need anything more than facilitative support during a 4 week self-isolation period. The size of this group would grow if routes out of New Zealand remain difficult for longer periods and assisted evacuation is slow or not possible for some time.
- 42 If agreed, communication of these measures should be clear that this support is time limited and that this does not create a precedent for future situations.

s6(a)

#### *Consular assistance and insurance as the first port of call*

- 43 Foreign diplomatic and consular missions have responsibility to provide consular assistance to their nationals in New Zealand. s6(a)

s6(b)

Should Ministers agree to provide assistance to foreign nationals in New Zealand, officials would note in messaging to the diplomatic

corps the continued expectation that the primary consular burden remains the responsibility of the sending state.

### *Accommodation*

- 44 MBIE activated its Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) on 20 March 2020, to provide accommodation support for people unable to self-isolate. As at 1300 hours on 29 March 2020, TAS has around 100 active accommodation placements, with a further 100 households registered to the service. Support is being provided to those who usually reside here and those who do not.
- 45 TAS is providing a matching service to find suitable accommodation for those with the ability to pay, as well as providing financial assistance for those who cannot. Clear information and guidelines are being provided to hotels around the self-isolation of guests. TAS has established an accommodation supply register of around 4,500 hotel rooms and 2,000 motorhomes situated around the country.
- 46 TAS is coordinating with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development's work to secure motel accommodation for rough sleepers and other vulnerable people for self-isolation. TAS is working with MSD to develop processes for people who may have ongoing accommodation requirements following their self-isolation or lock-down period.

### *Healthcare*

- 47 People who have or who are suspected of having an infectious or quarantinable disease (ie COVID-19) are eligible for funded services relating to the surveillance, diagnosis, treatment, follow-up and contact tracing services to the extent appropriate to manage the public health risk. All travellers waiting for repatriation flights can access free assessment at general practice and hospital related care.
- 48 Those not eligible for other publicly funded services have to pay for them. Many may have travel or health insurance but this is not mandatory for all visitors. Fee paying foreign students must hold acceptable insurance as a condition of their visa from the period of their enrolment until the expiry of their student visa and most Working Holiday Visa applicants are required to obtain medical and comprehensive hospitalisation insurance. RSE visa holders must have and maintain medical insurance whilst in New Zealand. UK and Australian citizens on a temporary stay requiring urgent treatment will usually be eligible under the reciprocal agreement with those countries.

49 s6(a)

there is no legal liability to provide such care and DHBs are not funded to provide such care. DHBs may also breach their duties under the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act if they provide such care to non-eligible persons without payment (such as at section 41 - obligation to act in a financially responsible manner). s6(a), s9(2)(j)

If emergency care is required by ineligible persons at a DHB, it will usually be provided on a fee-paying basis. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)



s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

### *Living assistance*

- 50 Accommodation and financial support would only be provided on the basis of genuine need, as many foreign nationals will be able to support themselves through the lockdown period.
- 51 Cabinet agreed last week to an amendment to the Guide to the National Civil Defence Emergency Management Plan 2015 ('the Guide') to enable local authorities to be reimbursed by government for costs they incur in providing welfare support to people who are self-isolating or sheltering in place – previously they could only do so in relation to displaced people.
- 52 Welfare support includes accommodation support, food, and transportation required to support self-isolation / confinement due to COVID-19. Local authorities / CDEM Groups have discretion to decide who (including foreign nationals) should receive welfare support, based on their assessment of an applicant's need. They do not provide direct financial assistance to individuals but work with government agencies, NGOs, community-based organisations and commercial providers to match, procure or contract the provision of essential goods and services to meet identified and prioritised needs.

s6(a), s9(2)(j)

- 53 The level of demand for material assistance and the duration of travel disruptions are unknown. Officials will monitor the situation in the coming weeks. If demand, including from foreign nationals, exceeds local authority and CDEM response capacity, scheme funding could be increased to ensure safe self-isolation continues. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 54 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 55 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 56 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Managing settled temporary migrants and students

- 58 There is a far larger group of temporary migrants in New Zealand who are here on a more settled basis, including students, temporary migrant workers, and partners/dependents of workers here on visitor visas. They make up the bulk of the 383,000 visa holders.
- 59 These people are not stranded in the same way. They had planned to remain in New Zealand for an extended period of months or years. Access to accommodation, insurance and funding for living costs was a condition of their visas being granted and entry to New Zealand.
- 60 Like many New Zealanders, many of this group will be facing unemployment and income loss. For some, there is a real risk of losing their accommodation where it is tied to their employer (such as for RSE workers).s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(j)
- 61 Those with expiring visas have had these extended through the issuing of an Epidemic Notice, providing the means to support themselves if they have, or can find, work. While they also have access to the Business Continuity Package, this will not assist those who are unemployed or are in need of accommodation.
- 62 Evacuation of this group at this scale is unlikely to be possible s6(a)
- 63 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

## Recommendations

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The Office of the Prime Minister recommends that the COVID-19 Group of Ministers:

- 1 **Note** that limiting and managing the movement of people around New Zealand is mission critical to containing the spread of COVID-19 under Alert Level 4. However, there are thousands of New Zealanders seeking to return home from

overseas, and thousands of foreign nationals stranded here who wish to be evacuated.

- 2 **Note** that a holistic approach is needed across arriving and departing flights (commercial, charter, and repatriation) to ensure we have the right resources in place to manage a safe, smooth arrivals process. This must allow for adequate physical separation with a parallel departures process to minimise transmission risk.
- 3 **Note** that there are a suite of actions in place, or being developed, to manage departures of stranded foreign nationals in New Zealand and arrivals of New Zealanders stranded overseas in order to ensure the success of the lock-down strategy during Alert Level 4, namely:
  - 3.1 Standing up a managed process to safely process and accommodate New Zealanders returning home. This has already been agreed to by Cabinet with respect to arriving flights and is in operation.
  - 3.2 Developing a similar centrally-managed process for those foreign nationals wishing to leave New Zealand, through an orderly evacuation process which prevents uncontrolled and large-scale domestic movements.
  - 3.3 In implementing an evacuation process, measures will include:
    - 3.3.1 allowing people who are in the city of their departure to take a private vehicle to the airport to leave on planned international air services departing New Zealand;
    - 3.3.2 developing transport options for foreign nationals across New Zealand to international airports, while maintaining physical separation, including domestic flights
    - 3.3.3 working with the airlines and diplomatic missions to proactively manage the schedule of departing Government, charter and repatriation flights to stagger these in a manageable way
    - 3.3.4 s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 4 **Agree** that officials should report back on 2 April 2020 on:
  - 4.1 a process to transport people by land, in addition to private vehicles, to Auckland and Christchurch International Airports consistent with Level 4 requirements and the capacity of the Airports to process people;
  - 4.2 a process to use domestic Air New Zealand flights to get people from regional centres to Auckland and Christchurch International Airports consistent with Level 4 requirements and the capacity of the Airports to process people; and

4.3 s6(a), s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

- 5 **Agree** that in the interim the moratorium on approving foreign government assisted charter flights should continue
- 6 **Agree** that officials should assure foreign governments that the New Zealand Government is working through these issues as a matter of urgency while the moratorium is in place.
- 7 **Note** that while they wait to be evacuated, stranded foreign nationals will need to shelter in place and that many will have the means to do support themselves, but where they do not:
- 7.1 consular assistance from their own governments and travel insurance should be the first port of call;
  - 7.2 some may also be able to continue work to support themselves, including in essential services; and
  - 7.3 limited support can be made available to match these people to suitable accommodation, to access emergency healthcare, and, as a last resort, access to emergency support through regional Civil Defence and Emergency Management Groups.
- 8 **Note** that these measures would be temporary and undertaken on an extraordinary basis, in light of the overriding public health interests associated with a pandemic. If we do not achieve widespread compliance with limitations on people movements, we risk having to keep Level 4 in place for longer.
- 9 **Note** that communication of these measures should be clear that this support is time limited and that this does not create a precedent for future situations.
- 10 **Note** that demand for support from stranded foreign nationals is uncertain, but currently low. s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 11 **Note** that the officials are preparing advice on and plans for repatriation of New Zealanders s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)
- 12 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

## **Annex 1 – Approach to managing assisted evacuations of foreign nationals from New Zealand**

1. Ministers requested a framework allowing stranded foreign nationals to leave New Zealand under COVID-19 Alert Level 4. It needs to work seamlessly with the current process for supporting the reintegration of New Zealanders returning from offshore. Both processes need to work in a way that respects the public health priority of breaking the chain of community transmission to protect our people and prevent overwhelming the health system.
2. This proposed approach and process in this Annex have been approved by:
  - Mike Bush, head of the Operations Command Centre, and
  - Chris Seed, Chief Executive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.
3. The overview paper sets out the context: an estimated 383,000 temporary visitors in New Zealand with around a quarter estimated to be stranded foreign nationals who may wish to leave. Governments and airlines s6(b), s9(2)(ba)  
  
have made approaches to the New Zealand Government about assistance through foreign government assisted charter flights, or enhanced commercial flights, for those nationals to leave.
4. While it is hard to get precise information s6(b)
5. The attached flow diagram sets out the issues currently confronting those seeking to travel internationally. There are two key break points, regardless of whether the flight in question is an extant commercial flight, or a foreign government assisted charter flight.
  - The ability to take land-based transport, other than a private vehicle, to the airport of departure in New Zealand
  - The ability to take a domestic flight (commercial or charter) to get to the airport of departure
6. Both of the above are currently not permitted under Alert Level 4. A dedicated team is working to establish whether means can be devised to allow them to be resolved, freeing up travel while protecting the overriding public health driver and so realising the benefits of the Alert Level 4 lockdown. As well as capability – can such solutions be found – we need to consider capacity – can airports and the structures around them cope with significantly increased travel than that currently happening under Level 4.

7. If these issues could be resolved, foreign nationals could use extant commercial flights to travel home, if those flights corresponded to their desired destination. At present, the schedule of commercial flights until mid-April per week is as follows:

- Air New Zealand – Los Angeles (3), Hong Kong (2), Shanghai (2), Sydney (3), Melbourne (2), Brisbane (2), Rarotonga (1), Niue (1)
- Qatar Airways – Doha (7) with onward connections, including into Europe

8. If these connections continue in place, passengers would have access to destinations in Europe, the Middle East, the United States, Australia and certain Pacific Island countries. The increased passenger flow out of New Zealand would improve the viability of commercial flights, including for the purposes of freight options for essential goods.

9. It is unlikely that commercial pathways alone would be a viable means of managing demand from foreign nationals, and their governments, to facilitate departures – at least in a timeframe that would meet their expectations, given potential numbers and the cost of commercial air tickets. s6(a)

If we resolve the land-based transport check point, most stranded foreign nationals, assuming they are within driving distance of Auckland and Christchurch, would be able to leave.

10. It is very clear that the process of evacuating stranded foreign nationals needs to work closely with the process of managing those New Zealanders still returning home; s6(a) The new measure whereby New Zealanders arriving in Auckland can take dedicated flights to their city of domicile without going through 14 days self-isolation in Auckland is still being stood up and implemented. This step reduces significant pressure on managed facilities around Auckland Airport for self-isolation and quarantine. But the process of moving arrivals through the airport in a way which respects health protocols supporting Alert Level 4, including physical distancing, will slow airport use and capacity from normal levels. Increasing outflows of passengers through the airport on international flights will need to be managed so as not to negatively impact the repatriation process and management of health protocols.

11 s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i)

s9(2)(ba), s9(2)(j)

12. The inter-agency team, stood up under Brendan Boyle and reporting through COVID-19 Operations Command Centre head Mike Bush, working closely with airport authorities and airlines, will think through the identified issues.
13. To allow time to design a process that can manage both returning New Zealanders and evacuating foreign nationals, while respecting the public health drivers underlying Level 4 and avoid overwhelming the system, it is recommended, in line with the overview paper recommendations, that COVID-19 Ministers:

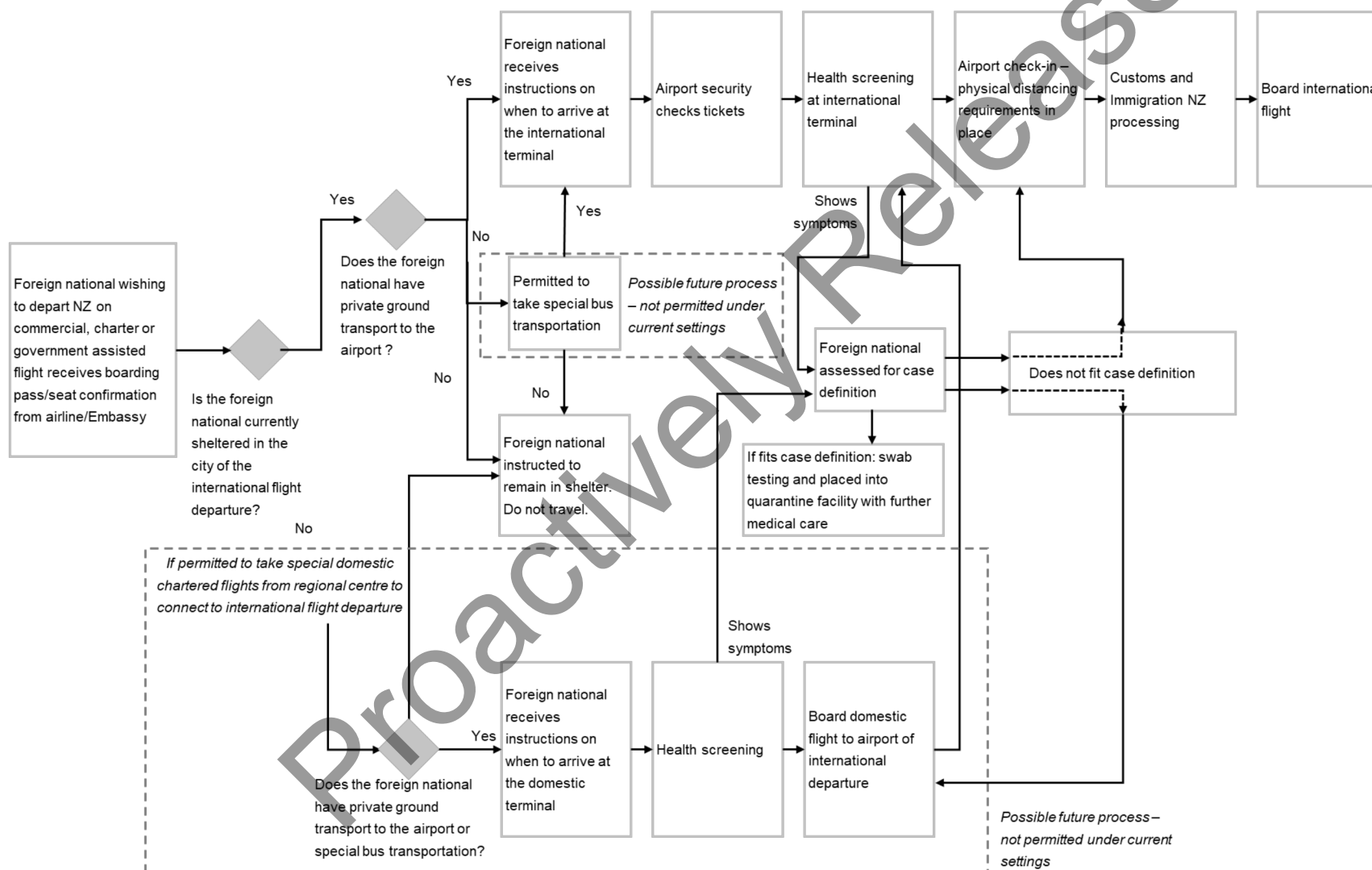
- Agree that officials should report back on 2 April 2020 on:
  - a process to transport people by land, in addition to private vehicles, to Auckland and Christchurch International Airports consistent with Level 4 requirements and the capacity of the Airports to process people.
  - a process to use domestic Air New Zealand flights to get people from regional centres to Auckland and Christchurch International Airports consistent with Level 4 requirements and the capacity of the Airports to process people.

s9(2)(f)(iv), s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(j)

- Agree that in the interim the moratorium on approving foreign government assisted charter flights should continue, and
- Agree that officials should assure foreign governments that the New Zealand Government is working through these issues as a matter of urgency while the moratorium is in place.

# Evacuation of foreign nationals from New Zealand

## Current Process Issues





## ANNEX 2. POTENTIAL SHORT-TERM SUPPORT NEEDS OF TEMPORARY VISA HOLDERS IN NZ

	Situation	Likelihood of seeking more support during lockdown period
<b>STUDENTS (81,000)</b>	Most students are fee-paying and are required to demonstrate they can fund living costs and have work rights before entering. They already have access to pastoral care and accommodation services. Some (around 23,500) are dependants of temporary worker or student.	<p>Low - Most students should be instructed to stay put until lockdown completes or arrangements have been made to evacuate them.</p> <p>2,300 visas expiring before 30 April without an on-hand visa application to renew study.</p>
<b>VISITORS (83,000)</b>	<p>Around 64,000 visitors are here on a visa waiver or general visitor visa, and are likely to want to go home.</p> <p>Some may not be able to cover expenses for a longer period than anticipated and may not have travel insurance.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – Most should have means on-hand or on call offshore to support themselves. May need facilitation to find temporary accommodation.</p> <p>9,600 visitor visas expire by 30 April without an on-hand visa application to remain.</p>
<b>WORKERS (209,000)</b>	<p>Around 16,000 visitors are partners or children of a person residing in New Zealand. Likely to want to stay and can probably access support from partners.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – likely to be able to draw on own or partners' resources. However, some may need support where family resources are affected by COVID.</p>
	<p>Around 67,000 are here for skilled work or work-to-residence. Many are likely to want to stay in New Zealand. They are likely to have access to accommodation, but income may be affected by COVID.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – many will have employment and financial reserves, others may need income support</p> <p>630 visas expiring by 30 April without an on-hand visa application.</p>
	<p>Around 45,000 are here for a relationship, and are likely to want to stay in NZ. They are likely to have access to accommodation. Incomes may be impacted by COVID, though they may have a support system here to draw from.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – by the nature of the visa, they should be in dual income relationships and able to draw on partners resources</p> <p>460 visas expiring before 30 April without an on-hand visa application.</p>
	<p>Around 34,000 are working holiday makers, who may want to return home, and are likely to require accommodation and/or financial support if caught between jobs or have been laid off.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – small group may be facing job loss in lower paid affected sectors like hospitality, without financial resources built up. Many will be working in horticulture or other essential services. May need accommodation support.</p> <p>660 visas expiring by 30 April, however should have financial means.</p>
	<p>Around 10,000 are RSE workers here for seasonal work and are due to return home soon, but may be unable to. Employers are responsible for providing accommodation and pastoral care. Incomes are likely unaffected as food production is classed as essential.</p>	<p><b>Low</b> – In pastoral care arrangements. Options include to support workers to return home, or to extend visas/re-deploy to other employers.</p> <p>920 visas expiring by 30 April without an on-hand visa application.</p>