



Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Government Strategy for Aquaculture

Portfolio **Fisheries**

On 11 September 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1 **noted** that aquaculture contributes significantly to regional economies, and that there is potential for increased productivity and value while transitioning to a low emissions economy;
- 2 **noted** that aquaculture development faces challenges due to inshore aquaculture having largely reached its limits, and the implications of climate change and biosecurity risks;
- 3 **noted** that the government aquaculture strategy promotes sector-led aquaculture growth, with an emphasis on open ocean and land-based farm development as avenues for future growth;
- 4 **noted** that the strategy is an all-of-government action plan, with the primary responsible agencies being Fisheries New Zealand, the Department of Conservation and the Ministry for the Environment, and that other agencies with responsibilities have been consulted on the proposed strategy;
- 5 **noted** that the strategy aligns with the government's vision for a sustainable, productive and inclusive economy;
- 6 **noted** that:
 - 6.1 there are no financial implications from the proposed strategy;
 - 6.2 an annual implementation plan will be developed and agreed between agencies, led by Fisheries New Zealand, and any resourcing implications arising would be addressed through normal budgetary processes;
- 7 **noted** that the strategy promotes a broader Māori-Crown relationship and recognises Māori values and aspirations across the government's aquaculture work programme, but would not alter existing obligations under the Māori Commercial Aquaculture Claims Settlement Act 2004;
- 8 **noted** that the strategy is not a statutory instrument and would be subject to existing regulatory requirements;

- 9 **noted** that any regulatory change needed to support the strategy would follow ordinary legislative and Cabinet decision-making processes;
- 10 **approved** the Government Aquaculture Strategy, attached to the paper under DEV-19-SUB-0239, subject to any final amendments that may be approved by the Minister of Fisheries;
- 11 **noted** that the Minister of Fisheries will launch the strategy at the annual New Zealand Aquaculture Conference in Blenheim on 18 September 2019.

Jack Petterson
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Phil Twyford (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway
Hon Jenny Salesa
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Kris Faafoi
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon James Shaw
Hon Eugenie Sage

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for DEV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Fisheries