



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Policy Approvals for Progressing a Treaty Principles Bill

Portfolio **Associate Justice (Hon David Seymour)**

On 9 September 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that a commitment to introduce a Treaty Principles Bill (the Bill) as soon as practicable and support it to a select committee is a commitment in the Coalition Agreement between the National Party and the ACT Party;
- 2 **agreed** that the principles should assist with the interpretation of any enactment where Treaty principles would normally be considered relevant;
- 3 **agreed** that the Bill should state that it does not alter or amend the text of the Treaty itself or Treaty settlements;
- 4 **invited** the Associate Minister of Justice (Hon David Seymour) (the Associate Minister) to issue instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft the Treaty Principles Bill to implement the principles described in the paper under CAB-24-SUB-0348;
- 5 **agreed** that the referendum provisions in the Bill should be similar to the Referendum Frameworks Act 2019, subject to further policy approvals in November 2024;
- 6 **invited** the Associate Minister to report back to Cabinet in November 2024 to seek decisions on the conduct of a referendum for the Bill;
- 7 **noted** that the proposals in the paper under CAB-24-SUB-0348 will be given effect through the Treaty Principles Bill, which holds a category five priority on the 2024 Legislation Programme (to be referred to a select committee by the end of the year);
- 8 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Treaty Principles Bill be considered by a select committee until the week ending 16 May 2025;
- 9 **agreed** that, in accordance with agreed coalition processes, the coalition parties will be free to differentiate publicly regarding the Treaty Principles Bill, including on progression in the House beyond the first reading.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

