

The Treasury

Advice on COVID-19 Response Information Release

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Additional Item: Wage Subsidy Scheme: Update on Third Payment

Portfolio **Finance**

On 13 September 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **agreed** that payment three of the August Wage Subsidy Scheme (WSSAUG21) will be triggered if Cabinet agrees that Alert Level 3 or 4 will remain in place anywhere in New Zealand at 11.59 pm on 17 September 2021;
- 2 **noted** that on 13 September 2021 Cabinet agreed that Auckland remain at Alert Level 4 until 11.59 pm on 21 September 2021 [CAB-21-MIN-0370];
- 3 **agreed** therefore that eligible businesses will be able to apply for a third WSSAUG21 payment from 9:00 am on 17 September 2021;
- 4 **noted** that Ministers with Power to Act authorised the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment to jointly make decisions on revenue decline assessment periods, scheme settings should the scheme be extended beyond an initial two-week period, and other minor technical and policy decisions or operational settings for the WSSAUG21 [CVD-21-MIN-0004 refers];
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment have agreed to the following clarification of the revenue decline attribution test in the declaration for WSSAUG21-2:
 - 5.1 the revenue decline test does not require sole and exclusive attribution of the 40% revenue decline to the effect the continuation of Alert Level 3 or higher (AL3+) has had on a business, but can reflect a combination of Alert Levels 4, 3, and 2 effects (though not the effect of Alert Level 2 alone);
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Finance and the Minister for Social Development and Employment may need to agree further clarifications of the revenue decline period for future WSSAUG21 payments depending on the timing of Alert Level decisions.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Secretary's note: *This minute has been reissued to clarify the wording of paragraph 1.*