



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Importation of Trout Meat and Trout Products

Portfolio                      Conservation

On 30 June 2021, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the importation of trout and trout products in any form for sale is generally prevented by the Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2018, which expires at the close of 29 September 2021;
- 2        **noted** that if imports and sale of trout or trout products are allowed, there could be risks to the recreational trout fishery and supporting businesses if the fishery declines as a result of impacts from illegal poaching of trout;
- 3        **noted** that there will be ongoing restriction in consumer choice, and there may be [REDACTED] OIA s.9(2)(d) if the trout import prohibition continues;
- 4        **noted** that some Māori have interests in wild trout fisheries and some are interested in commercial farming of trout, and that wide consultation would therefore be appropriate before changing the status quo;
- 5        **noted** that a Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order 2021 may be made under section 96 of the Customs and Excise Act 2018 only if the Minister of Customs considers the prohibition is necessary in the public interest;
- 6        **noted** that any Customs Import Prohibition (Trout) Order can, if required, be revoked by a subsequent Order;
- 7        **agreed** to continue the prohibition on the importation of trout and trout products for an indefinite period, and **acknowledged** that the mechanism available under the Customs and Excise Act 2018 is the only available statutory vehicle;
- 8        **agreed** that the import prohibition no longer apply to petfood containing trout that is commercially prepared and packaged for direct retail sale, is labelled as petfood, and is in its original sealed packaging on arrival in New Zealand;

- 9 **invited** the Minister of Customs to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft an Order in Council giving effect to the above paragraphs, to come into effect on 30 September 2021.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)  
Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Damien O'Connor (via zoom)  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Meka Whitiri  
Rino Tirikatene MP  
Dr Deborah Russell MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV

Released by the Minister of Conservation