



Cabinet Business Committee

CBC Min (12) 5/6

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Minute of Decision

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Plain Packaging of Tobacco Products: Approval of Draft Consultation Document

Portfolio: Associate Health (Hon Tariana Turia)

On 2 July 2012, the Cabinet Business Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in April 2012, the Cabinet Social Policy Committee (SOC):
 - 1.1 agreed in principle to introduce a plain packaging regime in alignment with Australia, subject to the outcome of the public consultation process to be undertaken before final decisions are made;
 - 1.2 invited the Associate Minister of Health (Hon Tariana Turia) to report:
 - 1.2.1 to Cabinet by 30 June 2012 seeking approval for the release of the consultation document, and with an update on the issues faced by Australia in relation to its plain packaging regime and research undertaken in the United Kingdom on plain packaging;
 - 1.2.2 to SOC by 30 November 2012, following consultation, with recommendations for final policy decisions on plain packaging;
- [SOC Min (12) 5/4]
- 2 **approved** the release of the consultation document *Proposal to introduce plain packaging of tobacco products in New Zealand* and the annexed Regulatory Impact Statement, attached to the paper under CBC (12) 51;
- 3 **authorised** the Associate Minister of Health (Hon Tariana Turia) to make editorial changes to the text and layout of the consultation document before its release;
- 4 **noted** that the consultation will run for a period of 75 days, from 23 July 2012 to 5 October 2012;
- 5 **noted** that the release of the consultation document can be expected to attract considerable interest both in New Zealand and internationally, including from news media;

- 6 **noted** that in the United Kingdom, a collaboration of universities has completed a comprehensive systematic review of the research literature on plain tobacco packaging and that this confirms there is strong evidence to support the role of plain packaging in reducing smoking rates;
- 7 **noted** that a High Court of Australia decision on the constitutional challenge to plain packaging in Australia [withheld under s6(b)(i)] but that progress is slower on both the World Trade Organisation dispute consultation with tobacco producing countries and the bilateral investment treaty arbitration against Australia.

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