



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Organised Crime Work Programme: Report-back

Portfolio **Police**

On 9 March 2020, following reference from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC), Cabinet:

Organised crime in New Zealand

- 1 **noted** that organised crime is a broad and complex term, with criminal groups existing across a spectrum of sophistication, professionalism and activity, including illicit drug manufacture and supply, money laundering, and human trafficking;
- 2 **noted** that the impacts from these illegal activities undermine New Zealand's economy, financial systems, and cause harm to the wellbeing of individuals, whānau and communities by contributing to mental health and addiction issues, dishonesty offending, family harm, sexual violence, child neglect, and poor health, education and employment outcomes;
- 3 **noted** that socio-economic conditions can increase vulnerability to gang recruitment, particularly in the context of poverty, poor access to support services and limited alternative employment opportunities;

Government's broader response to organised crime

- 4 **noted** that the government has a significant work programme underway to respond to the full spectrum of organised crime and address its harms, combining diverse enforcement action with tailored social intervention, targeting local, national, and transnational criminal activity as well as the social determinants that lead to the establishment of, and recruitment to, gangs;
- 5 **noted** that this work is driven through the government's recently agreed Transnational Organised Crime Strategy, and SWC's organised crime work programme;
- 6 **noted** that a significant amount of action is already underway including additional resource into the recently established Gang Focus Unit in Hawke's Bay, placing dedicated resource into Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti to support community-led response to the harms of organised crime, the pending launch of the Transnational Organised Crime Strategy and development of the associated Action Plan, and action to strengthen New Zealand's intelligence capability;
- 7 **noted** the importance of cross-agency coordination and support in the process of developing, implementing and operating the organised crime programme in a sustainable way;

- 8 **noted** the Prime Minister has requested relevant portfolio Ministers to enable and encourage their ministries and/or agencies to engage in the programme in a proactive and comprehensive manner in order to ensure the successful and sustainable implementation of the organised crime work programme;

Report back on Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee organised crime work programme

- 9 **noted** that on 25 September 2019, SWC agreed that Police lead work on a strategic, evidence-based approach to address harm caused by organised crime [SWC-19-MIN-0135];
- 10 **endorsed** the strategic framework that will assist with organising activity in communities to determine responses to the harm caused and compounded by organised crime;
- 11 **noted** there are no direct financial implications from endorsing the strategic framework, and the work programme will be scoped for costs to be met through baselines or subject to the outcome of funding initiatives;
- 12 **noted** the establishment of cross-agency governance through the Social Wellbeing Board, providing a national mandate to enable co-design between central agencies and local communities, and ensuring oversight of the work programme;
- 13 **noted** that Police, the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment, Health, Social Development, and partner agencies are working with Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti to develop a funding proposal for specific initiatives in the short and medium term;
- 14 **noted** that the funding proposal will be provided to the Ministers of Regional Economic Development and Police in March 2020;
- 15 **noted** that the Minister of Police will provide a further detailed report back in May 2020 on:
- 15.1 further potential locations for intervention;
 - 15.2 the development of an intervention model and monitoring framework developed with Hawke's Bay and Tairāwhiti that could be adapted in other regions;
 - 15.3 options for providing the resource and capability for the Gang Intelligence Centre to drive the analysis on potential locations and at-risk groups connected to organised crime;
 - 15.4 decisions regarding the funding proposal referred to in paragraph 13;

Opportunities to improve New Zealand's response to organised crime

- 16 **directed** Police to work with partner agencies to provide advice on the opportunities to improve and align intelligence capability across transnational and domestic organised crime, including strengthening the role of the Gang Intelligence Centre, to enable end-to-end intelligence coverage and report back to Cabinet in May 2020 with options;
- 17 **noted** that there are further opportunities to strengthen the legislative toolkit to target organised crime;

- 18 **invited** that the Minister of Justice, in consultation with the Minister of Police, to bring policy proposals to Cabinet on amendments to the Criminal Proceeds (Recovery) Act 2009 in April 2020; and report on progress of work to identify further legislative and other policy mechanisms to better target leaders and facilitators of organised crime.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

***Secretary's Note:** This minute replaces SWC-20-MIN-0010. Cabinet added new paragraphs 7 and 8.*

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Justice
Minister of Police