# **Hon Andrew Little**

Minister of Justice

# Proactive release – Cabinet Paper: 2020 Cannabis Referendum – Draft material for public release

Date of issue: 3 December 2019

The following documents have been proactively released in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4.

Some information has been withheld on the basis that it would not, if requested under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), be released. Where that is the case, the relevant section of the OIA has been noted and no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

No.	Document	Comments
1.	2020 Cannabis Referendum Draft Material for Public Release Cabinet paper Office of the Minister of Justice 25 November 2019	Some information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the OIA to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials, and 9(2)(h) of the OIA to maintain legal professional privilege. No public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.
2.	2020 Cannabis Referendum Draft Material for Public Release Cabinet Minute: SWC-19-MIN-0188 Cabinet Office Meeting date: 25 November 2019	Released in full.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister of Justice

Cabinet Committee

## 2020 Cannabis Referendum – Draft material for public release

# Proposal

- 1. On 17 December 2018, Cabinet agreed to hold a binding referendum at the 2020 General Election to determine whether legislative provisions for the legalisation of recreational cannabis should be adopted [CAB-18-MIN-0641.02 refers]. In May 2019, Cabinet further agreed to the parameters of the referendum including the design of the referendum question and the design of a workable regulatory model for a legal regulated recreational cannabis market [CAB-19-MIN-0198 refers].
- 2. The decision on whether or not to legalise and regulate recreational cannabis for personal use is an important one that has implications for New Zealand as a society, and for our communities. The Government is committed to a well-informed referendum, so that a definitive response can be given on the question of the preferred approach to recreational cannabis.
- 3. A Yes/No referendum question has been designed along with a first iteration of an exposure draft Bill ('draft Bill'). This version of the draft Bill (Attachment 1) is focused on the key controls and regulation of the regulated recreational cannabis market that the public will most likely interact with. An accompanying summary of current policy positions (Attachment 2) provides further context, in a format that will be more accessible to many than the draft Bill itself.
- 4. In the interests of transparency and open Government, and for the purposes of the crossparty group engagement also mandated by earlier Cabinet decisions, I propose the referendum question, draft Bill, and the draft Bill's accompanying summary of current policy positions be publicly released to update the electorate on the direction of travel and progress made.
- 5. To support and facilitate the Cross-party Working Group's engagement on this work, I propose to share the referendum question, draft Bill and the draft Bill's accompanying summary of current policy positions with them.

# Executive summary

6. In order for the referendum to be effective, the public need to know what will happen afterwards. A 'No' vote would mean continuation of the status quo. In the event of a 'Yes' vote, the parties making up the Government have committed to following through with legislation that is closely modelled on a draft Bill.

## The referendum question

The referendum question needs to convey a base level of information about the content and purpose of the draft Bill. The name of the draft Bill, the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill, indicates that the personal use of recreational cannabis is moving from an illegal to a legal status, and that it will be tightly managed and controlled.

8. The proposed cannabis referendum question will be a Yes/No question asking voters: 'Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?'

#### Approach to regulation

- 9. To ensure the consequences of a 'Yes' vote are clear, a draft Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill will be prepared prior to the vote. A first iteration of an exposure draft Bill has been developed. In the interests of transparency, and in line with this Government's stated policy regarding open government, I propose to publicly release this exposure draft Bill for the first cross-party meeting on the referendum, and in order to update the electorate on the direction of travel and the progress made towards developing the final draft Bill.
- 10. This iteration of the draft Bill provides a framework for a regulated market that encompasses the licensed sphere and the unlicensed (but still regulated) sphere. It focuses on the key areas of the recreational cannabis regime that the public will most likely interact with, and have a personal interest in. It is the provisions relating to 'home grow', retail, and consumption premises that will primarily affect those people who choose to consume recreational cannabis.
- 11. The draft Bill also includes a purpose statement and establishes the regulator and its functions. The remaining parts of the draft Bill, including in relation to cultivation, harvesting, processing, manufacture, compliance and aspects of enforcement, are still being developed and will be in the completed draft Bill for early 2020.
- 12. Market structure, and the allocation of that market, is one of the main levers for a regulatory model to reduce social harms and ensure better outcomes for our communities. When thinking about those communities that have been disproportionately affected by cannabis, data shows that the bulk of cannabis is consumed by those residing in the most deprived areas of New Zealand. Within these areas we know that Māori communities are the most disproportionately affected by cannabis related harms and convictions.
- 13. The regulatory model needs to reflect the Government's commitment to Māori-Crown partnerships getting the market settings right is critical. A balance needs to be struck between creating a market model that does not encourage new uptake, but supports a price level and products sufficiently attractive to shift current consumers from the illicit market.
- 14. There are competing incentives of profit versus harm reduction to navigate. It is important to consider a spectrum of market allocation models to ensure the regulatory model does not perpetuate or exacerbate existing inequities.
- 15. Ongoing stakeholder engagement on the regulatory model is vital to ensuring a model that is workable for all and manages issues of social equity and access. Officials will continue to work with key representative groups on these outstanding matters. In early 2020, a detailed and complete exposure draft Bill will be publicly released for the electorate to consider.



# Background

- 16. On 17 December 2018, Cabinet agreed to hold a binding referendum at the 2020 General Election to determine whether legislative provisions for the legalisation of recreational cannabis should be adopted [CAB-18-MIN-0641.02 refers].
- 17. On 6 May 2019, Cabinet agreed to the framing of the referendum question as a Yes/No question supported by draft legislation of a workable regulatory model for the personal use of recreational cannabis. The referendum is to offer a clear choice between the status quo where recreational cannabis is prohibited, and a legal, regulated recreational cannabis market [CAB-19-MIN-0198].
- 18. Cabinet further agreed that the overall structure of the regulatory model be a governmentcontrolled regulated market for the cultivation, production, supply and use of recreational cannabis, with the size of the market limited to a level that is adequate for meeting current demand. To guide the development of the regulatory model, Cabinet agreed to primary and secondary policy objectives, as well as key regulatory settings, and that work on draft legislation for a regulatory model for personal use of recreational cannabis begin.
- 19. In order for the referendum to be effective, the public need to know what will happen afterwards. A 'No' vote would mean continuation of the status quo. In the event of a 'Yes' vote, all parties currently in Government will abide by the outcome of the referendum [CAB-19-MIN-0198 refers].

# The referendum question

The referendum question must be accurate, impartial and understandable

- 20. The overarching objective of any referendum is an enduring outcome regardless of the decision. Cabinet has previously agreed to the framing of the referendum question as a Yes/No question on whether draft legislation (the 'Bill') should be enacted by a subsequent government/Parliament [CAB-19-MIN-0198 refers].
- 21. There is still a risk, however, that some voters may possess limited knowledge of the draft Bill. I therefore consider that the referendum question should not be completely dependent on supplementary information and needs to convey a base level of information about the content and purpose of the draft Bill. I intend to provide this via the name of the draft Bill – the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill.
- 22. This name indicates that the personal use of recreational cannabis is moving from an illegal to a legal status, and that there will be a regulatory regime around this. Although it is slightly more complex than, for example, simply the 'Cannabis Bill', I consider it gives the clearest indication of the draft Bill's purpose.
- 23. The proposed cannabis referendum question will be framed as follows:

## Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?

Yes, I support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill

No, I do not support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill

24. This framing for the question, and the proposed name, has been developed by the Ministry of Justice, in consultation with the Electoral Commission, and with input from Statistics New Zealand. The Ministry also consulted with six external academics, research practitioners and

plain language experts throughout the process, including specifically on the name of the draft Bill. This provided useful refinement of the question from the perspective of workability, understandability and impartiality.

25. This framing of the question is consistent with the approach that has been taken for the question proposed for a referendum on the End of Life Choice Bill.<sup>1</sup> Given that both questions will be on one ballot paper, a similar format will help improve their understandability.

Effective public information will support voters to understand the draft cannabis Bill

- 26. I reiterate my support for an approach in the lead up to the referendum that is focused on encouraging public awareness and discussion. This will ensure the public can participate meaningfully in the referendum process and that the outcome is perceived as legitimate.
- 27. The public information programme I am proposing in my paper 'Provision of public information for the 2020 referendums' is to ensure that voters can be made aware of the referendum issues. These will support voters in making an informed choice about the referendum. The explanatory materials will be available online, on a standalone Govt.NZ website, in a range of languages. A summary information sheet will also be included with the Electoral Commission's enrolment update and EasyVote card mail-outs to voters.<sup>2</sup> Publicity will be placed in a range of media including print, radio, television, online, social media, billboards and bus shelters to ensure voters know how to access the explanatory materials.

## Approach to regulation

- 28. Approval by the electorate to legalise the personal use of recreational cannabis would open the way to a new policy approach beyond mere prohibition. However, any change in this approach would be significant, and it is important that any mandate derived from the referendum is clear and unequivocal. To achieve this, Cabinet agreed it is necessary to have a fully worked-up regulatory model that would deal with the risks and provide appropriate mitigations.
- 29. Cabinet has agreed that the primary policy objectives to guide the development of the regulatory model for the personal use of recreational cannabis are harm reduction, and to lower the overall use of recreational cannabis over time.
- 30. With the agreed objectives in mind, the draft Bill attached provides a framework for a regulated market that encompasses two spheres operating in parallel:
  - 30.1. the licensed sphere; and
  - 30.2. the unlicensed (but still regulated) sphere.

Question: Do you support the End of Life Choice Act 2017 coming into force?

Response: Yes, I support the End of Life Choice Act 2017 coming into force

No, I do not support the End of Life Choice Act 2017 coming into force

<sup>2</sup> For example, Ministry of Justice, Electoral Commission's election advertising, news media coverage and other online and print sources.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The proposed End of Life Choice Bill referendum question/response (SOP 361) is:

- 31. The provisions contained within this iteration of the draft Bill are those that focus on the key areas of the recreational cannabis market that the public will most likely interact with, and have a personal interest in. Specifically these are:
  - 31.1. the purpose of the Bill;
  - 31.2. the establishment and functions of the regulator;
  - 31.3. the 'home grow' provisions; and
  - 31.4. retail and consumption premises licensing requirements (including age restrictions).

#### Ongoing areas of policy development

- 32. Some parts of the draft Bill are still being developed. The remainder of the draft Bill will be completed by early 2020, including:
  - 32.1. licensing requirements for cultivation, harvesting, processing and manufacturing, and the management of associated waste products;
  - 32.2. supervision, compliance and enforcement, and offences and penalties for noncompliance with the licensed and unlicensed (but still regulated) sphere, including provisions for young people; and
  - 32.3. the structure and allocation of the licensed market.

### Appropriate market settings are crucial for meeting harm reduction objectives

- 33. Market structure, and the allocation of that market, is one of the main levers for a regulatory model to reduce social harms and ensure better outcomes for our communities. When thinking about those communities that have been disproportionately affected by cannabis, data shows that the bulk of cannabis is consumed by those residing in the most deprived areas of New Zealand. Within these areas we know that Māori communities are the most disproportionately affected by cannabis-related harms and convictions.
- 34. In July 2019, I directed the Ministry of Justice to undertake engagement with communities to hear perspectives on recreational cannabis in Aotearoa to inform the draft Bill. Ten wānanga were held in locations favourable to cultivation and/or where Māori experience a high level of harm related to recreational cannabis. Participants<sup>3</sup> confirmed that cannabis use is widespread in their communities, and that the regulatory model should seek to remedy the disproportionate harms experienced within those communities under prohibition. The regulatory model needs to reflect the Government's commitment to Māori-Crown partnerships and participants asked that we ensure Māori involvement in a legal regime at every level, including governance, design, and ongoing administration.
- 35. A balance needs to be struck between a market structure that supports an approach to pricing and products that will not encourage new uptake, but is still sufficiently attractive to shift current consumers from the illicit market. There are competing incentives of profit versus harm reduction to navigate. In a fully competitive market, participants are primarily driven to maximise profits, so it is important to consider a spectrum of market allocation

<sup>3</sup> Participants included iwi and marae representatives, frontline health, mental health, addiction and social service responders, youth advocates, academics, and those with knowledge of the current cannabis supply chain and use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes.

models to ensure the regulatory model does not perpetuate or exacerbate existing inequities.

- 36. Ongoing stakeholder engagement on the regulatory model is vital to ensuring a model that is workable for all and manages issues of social equity and access. Officials will continue to work with key representative groups on these outstanding matters.
- 37. In early 2020, a complete and detailed exposure draft Bill will be publicly released for the electorate to consider. The Bill will encompass both the licensed sphere and unlicensed but regulated sphere, including all licensing, compliance and enforcement provisions.
- 38. In the interests of transparency, and in line with this Government's stated policy regarding open government, I propose to publicly release this exposure draft Bill in order to update the electorate on the direction of travel and the progress made towards developing the final draft Bill. I propose that the release of the Bill coincide with the first meeting of the crossparty group.

# Managing the interfaces between the recreational cannabis referendum, medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp

Current regulation of cannabis

- 39. Currently, cannabis is a controlled drug and prohibited plant regulated under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975. The Act prohibits the recreational use of cannabis, in line with our international obligations under the United Nations Drug Conventions to only allow access to psychoactive substances for research and medicinal purposes.
- The Act allows regulations for the use of cannabis for medicinal purposes, and the 40. production of industrial hemp. Industrial hemp contains low levels of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the psychoactive element extracted from the cannabis plant.

Regulation of medicinal cannabis and industrial hemp

- 41. A medicinal cannabis scheme is currently being established. The scheme will enable domestic cultivation and manufacture of medicinal cannabis. 59(2)(()(iv)
- 42.



- 43. The Misuse of Drugs (Medicinal Cannabis) Amendment Act 2019 provides an exception and statutory defence to the charge of possessing and using cannabis for people requiring palliation. The ongoing need for this exemption will be reviewed, commencing in late 2020.
- 44 The Misuse of Drugs (Industrial Hemp) Regulations 2006 regulate industrial hemp. The Industrial Hemp Regulations allow the cultivation, harvesting, and trading in industrial hemp under licence.

Clear messaging will be needed

- 45. It is important that there is clarity for the electorate concerning the differences between these three schemes for regulating the cannabis plant. A public release of the exposure draft Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill (Attachment 1), along with an accompanying summary of current policy positions will help provide that (Attachment 2). Careful public messaging will be required to manage potential confusion about the draft Bill for an adult recreational cannabis scheme (which includes licensing), and the draft regulations supporting a medicinal cannabis licensing scheme, along with the existing hemp licensing scheme.
- 46. As is this Government's stated policy, I propose to proactively release the attached exposure draft Bill, accompanying summary of current policy positions and referendum question. Ministry of Justice officials will take on the responsibility for managing the interface between the public and this process, and will continue to liaise closely with their Ministry of Health colleagues to mitigate the associated risks where possible.

# Aligning the work underway with drugged driving and workplace impairment to manage the associated risks

- 47. This paper focuses on the questions that immediately follow any legalisation of recreational cannabis; that is, issues of the supply, distribution, and consumption. The controls in relation to these aspects are necessary to achieve harm minimisation, which is an objective of the legalised regime. Two other risks referred to in previous Cabinet papers, those relating to the heightened risk of drugged driving, and of workplace impairment, must also be part of a total regime of best practice regulation if a decision is made by the electorate to legalise.
- 48. Aligning any new regulatory regimes for these risk areas are a priority once we have developed the supply, distribution, and control regime, but that work will need to be done. I have asked the Ministry of Justice to liaise with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Ministry of Transport over work underway to address these risks. In relation to workplace issues, I am aware the previous Government commenced work on codifying rules in relation to workplace alcohol and other drug testing, and in relation to the workplace impairment risk. It may be appropriate to retrieve and review that work as a starting point.

# Consultation

49. The following government agencies have been consulted on this paper: Ministry of Health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, New Zealand Customs, New Zealand Police, Ministry of Transport, Inland Revenue Department, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Primary Industries, State Services Commission, the Treasury, and the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.





# **Financial Implications**

52. The proposals in this paper form part of the work programme previously agreed to by Cabinet and the public release of the referendum question, exposure draft Bill and accompanying summary of current policy positions do not constitute a request for additional funding.

# **Human rights**

- 53. Establishing a minimum age of 20 to use and purchase cannabis limits the right to be free from discrimination under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (NZBORA).
- 54. I consider that the limitation is justified as it meets the Government's objective of improving the wellbeing of young people who have a greater risk of harm from recreational cannabis use. A minimum age of 20 would create social and cultural norms against use by young people and seeks to limit the supply of recreational cannabis away from those in secondary school. It also aligns with the minimum age of entry into casinos and the zero tolerance/drink driving age.
- 55. Crown Law Office will complete a final determination of the consistency of the Bill with NZBORA, including any limits on minimum age, once the Bill is fully drafted.

# Legislative implications

56. The referendum question at the 2020 General Election asks the electorate to vote Yes/No on whether legislative provisions for the legalisation of cannabis should be adopted. The introduction of the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill is dependent on the outcome of that referendum. Legislative implications, if any, will commence following the 2020 General Election.

# Regulatory impact analysis

- 57. The purpose of this proposal is to inform the public and stakeholders on the cannabis referendum question and those parts of the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill that the public will most interact with. The proposal provides more information on previous Cabinet decisions in May 2019 that set the policy direction and for which Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) was completed.
  - As per Cabinet Office requirements, a RIA and a Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) must be prepared to support the Cabinet decision on a complete proposal of the

recreational cannabis regulatory framework prior to its public release in early 2020. This RIA needs to cover policy options included in the current exposure draft of the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill as well as policy alternatives raised during consultations on the current draft.

# **Gender implications**

59. In New Zealand, surveys indicate that women are much less likely to use cannabis and are less likely to report harm from cannabis use. Some research suggests that women may experience different impacts from cannabis use than men. However, further research is required to fully understand the impacts of cannabis use on women. Officials will work with the Ministry of Health and Ministry for Women to ensure that the proposed regulatory model facilitates further research to better address the needs of different groups, including women.

# **Disability perspective**

60. The proposed model limits how people can purchase recreational cannabis, which may raise issues of access for people with disabilities. Officials are looking at wider equity of access issues as a result of external engagement with stakeholder. They will work with the Office for Disability Issues to consider issues of equal access and protections.

# Publicity

61. I will make public announcements in due course about the referendum and the nature of it. My Office will provide your Offices with key points to assist with any other public statements.

#### **Proactive Release**

62. I propose to proactively release this Cabinet paper, the exposure draft Bill, explanatory material and referendum question as part of the public engagement on the recreational cannabis referendum. My Office will work with other relevant Ministers' Offices on the timing of the release.

# Recommendations

The Minister of Justice recommends that Cabinet:

- 1. **Note** that on 17 December 2018 Cabinet agreed to hold a binding referendum at the 2020 General Election to determine whether legislative provisions for the legalisation of recreational cannabis should be adopted [CAB-18-MIN-0641.02 refers]
- 2. **Note** that in May 2019 Cabinet further agreed to the parameters of the referendum including the design of the referendum question and the design of a workable regulatory model for a legal regulated recreational cannabis market [CAB-19-MIN-0198 refers]

#### The referendum question

- 3. **Note** that Cabinet has previously agreed to the framing of the referendum question as a Yes/No question on whether draft legislation should be enacted by a subsequent government [CAB-19-MIN-0198]
- 4. **Note** that the referendum question is framed as 'Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?' with a Yes or No response option
- 5. **Agree** to a public release of the referendum question:

# Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?

- Yes, I support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill
- No, I do not support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill

### Approach to regulation

- 6. **Note** that the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill is a first iteration of an exposure draft Bill and is focused on the regulation of those parts of the system that the public will most interact with
- 7. **Note** that some parts of the draft Bill are still being developed and that the remainder of the Bill will be completed by early 2020 including:
  - 7.1. licensing requirements for cultivation, harvesting, processing and manufacturing, including the management of associated waste products;
  - 7.2. supervision, compliance and enforcement, and offences and penalties for noncompliance with the licensed and unlicensed (but still regulated) sphere, including provisions for young people; and
  - 7.3. the structure and allocation of the licensed market
- 8. **Note** that stakeholder engagement with the regulatory model is vital to ensuring a regime that is workable for all and that manages issues of social equity and access
- 9. **Note** that the accompanying summary of current policy positions (Attachment 2) for the exposure draft Bill sets out key aspects of the regulatory model and the rationale and is intended to further aid and support the understanding of the electorate

# Public release

**Agree** to a public release of the exposure draft Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill (Attachment 1)

- 11. **Agree** to the public release of the exposure draft Bill's accompanying summary of current policy positions (Attachment 2)
- 12. **Note** that the referendum question, exposure draft Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill and accompanying summary of current policy positions will be shared with the Cross-party Working Group
- 13. **Authorise** the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Counsel Office to make minor technical and drafting changes to the Bill prior to public release

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Andrew Little

SWC-19-MIN-0188



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

# Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

# 2020 Cannabis Referendum: Draft Material for Public Release

Portfolio

Justice

On 20 November 2019, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in December 2018, Cabinet agreed to hold a binding referendum at the 2020 General Election to determine whether legislative provisions for the legalisation of cannabis should be adopted [CAB-18-MIN-0641.02];
- 2 **noted** that in May 2019, Cabinet further agreed to the parameters of the referendum, including the design of the referendum question and the workable regulatory model for a legal regulated recreational cannabis market [CAB-19-MIN-0198];

# The referendum question

- 3 **noted** that in May 2019, Cabinet agreed to the framing of the referendum question as a Yes/No question on whether draft legislation should be enacted by a subsequent government [CAB-19-MIN-0198];
- 4 **noted** that the referendum question is framed as 'Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?' with a Yes or No response option;
- 5 **agreed** to a public release of the referendum question:

Do you support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill?

Yes, I support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill

No, I do not support the proposed Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill

# Approach to regulation

6 **noted** that the Cannabis Legalisation and Control Bill (the Bill), attached to the submission under SWC-19-SUB-0188 as attachment one, is a first iteration of an exposure draft Bill and is focused on the regulation of those parts of the system that the public will most interact with;

**noted** that some parts of the draft Bill are still being developed, and the remainder of the Bill will be completed by early 2020, including:

7.1 licensing requirements for cultivation, harvesting, processing and manufacturing, including the management of associated waste products;

- 7.2 supervision, compliance and enforcement, and offences and penalties for noncompliance with the licensed and unlicensed (but still regulated) sphere, including provisions for young people; and
- 7.3 the structure and allocation of the licensed market;
- 8 **noted** that stakeholder engagement with the regulatory model is vital to ensuring a regime that is workable for all and manages issues of social equity and access;
- **9 noted** that the accompanying summary of current policy positions for the exposure draft Bill, attached to the submission under SWC-19-SUB-0188 as attachment two, sets out key aspects of the regulatory model and the rationale and is intended to further aid and support the understanding of the electorate public release;
- 10 **agreed** to a public release of the exposure draft Bill;
- 11 **agreed** to the public release of the exposure draft Bill's accompanying summary of current policy positions;
- 12 **noted** that the referendum question, exposure draft Bill and accompanying summary of current policy positions will be shared with the Cross-party Working Group;
- 13 **authorised** the Minister of Justice and Parliamentary Counsel Office to make minor technical and drafting changes to the Bill prior to public release.

Vivien Meek Committee Secretary

#### Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Rt Hon Winston Peters Hon Grant Robertson Hon Dr Megan Woods Hon Andrew Little Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair) Hon Dr David Clark Hon Nanaia Mahuta Hon Stuart Nash Hon Jenny Salesa Hon Kris Faafoi Hon Aupito William Sio Jan Logie, MP

Hard-copy distribution: Minister of Justice **Officials present from:** Office of the Prime Minister Officials Committee for SWC Office of the Chair