

## CABINET DECISION, 19 MAY 2003

### Regulatory Control Inquiry into Airfield Activities

On 19 May 2003, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that in 1998 the previous government initiated a Commerce Commission inquiry into airfield activities provided by Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch International Airports, following the Crown's decision to sell its shares in Auckland International Airport Ltd (AIAL), and a concern that privatisation of important infrastructure may result in competition concerns;
- 2 **noted** that the Commerce Commission has advised the Minister of Commerce that she should recommend to the Governor-General that regulatory control be imposed on airfield activities supplied by AIAL;
- 3 **noted** that the Minister of Commerce must make any decision on regulatory control under section 53 of the Commerce Act 1986, and that her decision may take into account a wider range of matters than those considered by the Commerce Commission;
- 4 **noted** that once the Minister of Commerce has made her decision, she will make a media release announcing it (taking into account sharemarket implications);
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Commerce will be asking officials to carry out a review of Part 4: Controlled Goods and Services, and Part 5: Authorisation and Clearances of the Commerce Act, to ensure that the regime is appropriately targeted;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Commerce indicates that consultation is not required with the government caucuses or with other parties represented in Parliament.