**BusinessNZ**
Major Companies Group

# Guidance ON Economic Plan FOR New Zealand Post Covid-19

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> This paper merges the contributions of around 60 CEOs of NZ's largest companies – members of the BusinessNZ Major Companies Group CEO Forum, collected in a series of sprints via Zoom. The views and suggestions below are not exclusive and will be consistent with much of the thought leadership that is already being produced by member businesses and industry organisations[1]

Four key themes emerged from our discussion:

- **NZ border**
- **NZ economy**
- **Infrastructure**
- **Jobs**

The themes operate against a backdrop of uncertainty, disruption and change - some Covid-related, some not - in large industrial businesses, some of which are industries in their own right within the NZ economy.

Policy recommendations recognise there can be multiple collateral benefits from any one intervention; examples below indicate proposals that do 'double duty' across more than one key theme.

[1] Excellent examples include: The Rebuild series produced by PWC, the Respond, Recover, Thrive Covid Portal developed by Deloitte, Infrastructure Resilience and Economic Recovery for New Zealand produced by the Digital Trust and MATTR and Visionweek – a week long web summit focused on reimagining New Zealand.

# NZ Border

CEOs consider that economic activity and NZ's ability to grow our way out of the Covid crisis are under threat as a result of inadequate border settings.

They consider it essential to expand NZ's border management capability to maintain economic activity, with the help of private sector skills operating under a Government-mandated framework.

For example, uncertain immigration settings are preventing critical workers from coming into NZ. This is putting other NZ jobs at risk, particularly within our industrial base.

A simple, fast process for bringing critical workers across the border is required to enable widespread resumption of economic activity.

CEOs want to see NZ's biosecurity management strengths leveraged, and border management improved to create the world's smartest border.

Private border processes are recommended, including private sector solutions for testing, and tracing and user-pays quarantine and isolation services.

> **Example:** Detailed explicit plan for opening the border should include:

- Implementation in stages according to risk levels

- Rules for travel to and from different countries set differently, based on level of risk

- A timeframe for tourism

- Priority for Pacific travel bubble/s

- More certain rules for entry of migrant workers, international students and others based on levels of risk

- Simpler, clearer rules around immigration

- Tracing protocols and applications developed in close consultation with the NZ software industry

- Responsibility for elements of the plan contracted to the private sector, in line with Government-mandated specifications

- Use of private sector for testing, tracing and user-pays quarantine and isolation services, in line with Government-mandated specifications

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