



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Review of the Iraq Deployment

Portfolios **Defence / Foreign Affairs**

On 21 March 2016, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that:
 - 1.1 in February 2015, Cabinet agreed that New Zealand make a contribution to a joint Australia-New Zealand Building Partner Capacity mission in Taji, Iraq, until May 2017 [CAB Min (15) 5/8];
 - 1.2 the Building Partner Capacity mission is performing well and is achieving the agreed objectives;
- 2 **noted** that, in light of this success, New Zealand's contribution to the Building Partner Capacity mission will continue for the full mandate until May 2017;
- 3 **noted** that the mission continues to provide a positive contribution towards the objectives of reducing the global threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, also known as Daesh (ISIL/Daesh) in keeping with New Zealand's size and capacity;
- 4 **noted** that the unmitigated operational threat to New Zealand Defence Force personnel and platforms deployed to Iraq remains HIGH;
- 5 **noted** that, despite some losses on the battlefield, ISIL/Daesh and its affiliate groups remain a real and significant threat to international peace and security, including to New Zealand and New Zealand interests;
- 6 **noted** that the Minister of Defence has received a letter from the United States Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, requesting that New Zealand consider expanding its contribution to the counter-ISIL/Daesh coalition;
- 7 **noted** that the estimated cost of the Iraq deployment is within the current Cabinet approvals.

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