



# Cabinet

CAB Min (12) 27/14

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## Minute of Decision

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### Afghanistan: Force Protection Enhancements for the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team

Portfolios: Foreign Affairs / Defence

On 6 August 2012, Cabinet:

- 1 noted that the increased threat of improvised explosive device (IED) attack by insurgents operating across the provincial boundaries between Baghlan, Parwan and north-east Bamyan has caused the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team (NZ PRT) to reassess its force protection measures, particularly its ability to counter IEDs;
- 2 noted that there are a number of options to mitigate the increased threat to NZ PRT personnel and improve the conditions under which the NZ PRT withdrawal will be conducted;
- 3 noted that the current NZ PRT mandate comprises 143 personnel [CAB Min (11) 15/19, ERD Min (12) 3/2];
- 4 approved an increase of seven personnel to the NZ PRT mandate to allow the deployment of an Explosive Hazard Clearance Team to improve the ability of NZ PRT patrols operating in Bamyan's north-east to detect and safely neutralise IEDs;
- 5 noted that the cost of deploying an Explosive Hazard Clearance Team from August 2012 to 30 September 2013 is assessed at \$0.956 million, and that this cost can be met from within existing appropriations for Operationally Deployed Forces:

| Vote Defence Force<br>Minister of Defence                    | \$ million |         |
|--|------------|---------|
|  | 2011/12    | 2012/13 |
| Departmental Output Expense<br>Operationally Deployed Forces | 0.659      | 0.297   |

s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(a)



Secretary of the Cabinet

Reference: CAB (12) 408

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