



Proactively Released

Weekly Report

Week ending:	4 July 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	MFR2025-174

Recipient	Action sought
Hon David Seymour MINISTER FOR REGULATION	Note the contents of this report

Aisling Risdon
s 9(2)(a)
Ministry for Regulation

Minister's comments:

Actions

Action	Due	Status update
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date Delivered
MFR2025-177	Industrial Hemp update - 2 July 2025	2 July
MFR2025-172	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	3 July
MFR2025-176	Information Release: Regulatory Standards Bill - Further Key Advice Papers July 2025	3 July
MFR2025-178	Regulatory Standards Bill: Process update	3 July
MFR2025-154	s 9(2)(f)(iv)	4 July

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-179	Industrial Hemp Biweekly Update – 9 July 2025	9 July
MFR2025-147	Results of targeted engagement for telecommunications regulatory review	10 July
MFR205-163	Response to Post-hearing questions: Estimates 2025-26	17 July
MFR2025-148	August update on the Telecommunications Regulatory Review	7 August

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
TBC July	Wellington	Announcement of next sector reviews	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn
5 August	Auckland	Ministerial visit	MfR will work with your office to identify suitable visit opportunities in the area.
TBC August	Wellington	Update on Telco – public engagement through online platform	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn MfR key stakeholders' email

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
26 June	Deputy Chief Executive Policy – one year update on the Ministry for Regulation to ILANZ/Bell Gully GC forum (Wellington)
19-30 June	Telecommunications stakeholder direct engagement
7 July	Telecommunications monthly update email

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Engagement | s 9(2)(a)

Monthly highlights – June 2025

Delivery Highlights	
Establishing the framework for good regulation	Significant work in progress: advising the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee including analysing submissions and developing departmental report, and preparing for RSB enactment including s 9(2)(f)(iv) and enabling new legislative reform channels (RSABs)
Progressively improving our regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressing & Barbering Review: Revocation of Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 approved by Executive Council and gazetted • Telco Review: Targeted stakeholder engagement completed, providing a clearer picture of the regulatory issues of most concern to the sector • s 9(2)(f)(iv) • s 9(2)(f)(iv) • 33 red tape investigations completed
Engaging New Zealanders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Executive on panel at APHANZ conference • Chief Executive and Chief Economist meeting with Aurecon CE • Chief Executive and Chief Adviser meeting with Westpac CE • Presentation by Deputy Chief Executive Policy of an update on the Ministry to the ILANZ/Bell Gully General Counsel forum • Presentation by Chief Economist to NZ Association of Economists Conference
Broadcasting progress	Ministerial press release on work to fix New Zealand's outdated financial threshold for probate

Updates

Public Service Census Results - Embargoed Until 8 July

For information

Te Taunaki Public Service Census is a survey of New Zealand public servants working in departments and departmental agencies.

The 2025 Census ran from 3-21 March. It covered employee experiences and demographic information, giving valuable insights about capability and culture across Public Service organisations. This is the second public service census, with the first being held in 2021.

The Ministry had an excellent response rate of 98.9% (90/91 responses).

Overall, we are really pleased with our results which show:

- A high level of engagement
- A culture of integrity, innovation and productivity
- That we care about providing value for taxpayer's money
- A respectful culture where people feel valued and can be themselves

The Public Service Commission has directed agencies to develop an action plan reflecting the results. The Ministry's draft action plan is attached in **Appendix 1** which includes two focus areas.

The results, as well as our draft action plan, will be released to our staff in line with the public release of census results by the Public Service Commission on 8 July 2025. Our action plan will be finalised following feedback from staff.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations | s 9(2)(a)

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

On 3 July, the Ministry provided you with advice on process steps for drafting the Cabinet paper and Departmental Report on the Regulatory Standards Bill (MFR2025-178).

Our attendance was not required at the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC) hearing on 8 July.

s 18(c)(ii)

Contact: Gwen Rashbrooke, Manager Regulatory Policy Design | s 9(2)(a)

Regulatory Systems Amendment Bills – Guidance under development

For information

The Regulatory Stewardship team is preparing guidance on how agencies can use Regulatory Systems Amendment Bills (RSABs) to repair their existing legislation stock. RSABs are ‘clean-up’ omnibus bills that update and maintain laws to keep them fit for purpose. Recent RSABs have focused on reducing red tape, improving efficiency and providing time and cost savings for regulated parties. These bills will become more important as agencies undertake consistency assessments on their legislation stock after the RSB is enacted.

Currently, RSABs aren’t formally acknowledged by any guidance, standing orders or cabinet circulars. This ambiguity means that agencies only use RSABs sporadically (or not at all). When we last updated you in November 2024, we were meeting with the Office of the Leader of the House, PCO and regulatory agencies, who have since indicated their strong support for guidance in this area.

We are now well underway drafting guidance, which draws on best practices and efficient approaches. This guidance will support effective RSB implementation by promoting RSABs as a tool to maintain legislation stock.

Guidance is planned for launch in October. We will reach out to your office to provide an update on the draft guidance and to discuss further engagement with the Office of the Leader of the House and Office of the Clerk.

Contact: Erin King, Manager Regulatory Stewardship | s 9(2)(a)

Telecommunications Review

For information

The targeted engagement that has occurred over the last couple of weeks is ending, with the last of the initial meetings held this week (ongoing engagement is anticipated). You and Minister Goldsmith are due to be updated on the views of stakeholders next week.

Work has started on analysing the information gathered, and further meetings are planned. Stakeholders have been asked to provide information to inform the cost benefit analysis work.

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Hairdressing and Barbering Regulatory Review

For information

Last week the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) authorised submission of an order to revoke the Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 to the Executive Council. The revocation will come into force on 31 July 2025, 28 days after we expect the Order in Council to be gazetted.

The draft public health guidance for hairdressers and barbers has been reviewed by sector representatives and experts and has now been passed on to the Ministry of Health to go through their sign-out process. There has been a slight delay in completing this due to late feedback from sector groups, and an iterative process that followed involving the infection prevention and control expert and further questions to sector contacts. This delay is likely to impact the timing of

publication of the guidance by the Ministry of Health (originally planned for 10 July, three weeks before revocation), but the guidance will still be available before the regulations are revoked.

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Industrial Hemp

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Future Reviews

For information

We understand that Ministerial and coalition consultation on the Future Reviews Cabinet paper commenced on 2 July.

The current timeline for this cabinet paper is below, and for discussion at the Agency meeting:

Date	Action
Friday 4 July	Ministerial and coalition consultation concludes
Monday 7 July	Ministry makes changes based on consultation
Tuesday 8 July	Final paper provided to you for approval
Thursday 10 July	Cabinet paper lodged
Tuesday 15 July	Cabinet paper discussed at committee
Monday 21 July	Cabinet consideration

Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Portal

For information

The Ministry has received a total of 803 submissions to date. We currently have 34 investigations underway, investigating issues relating to 94 public submissions. We have closed 633 submissions. The latest RRT report was provided to your office on the 18 June (MFR2025-159).

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

We are awaiting further direction from your office on the issues outlined below:

Title	Source	Date advice sent	Action awaited
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
DIA's Digital Identity programme of work (RRT2024-0455,0495,0507) (MFR2025-096)	Public submissions	15 April 2025	We have now received the response from Minister Collins and will work with her officials on the letter of understanding to outline the role of MfR in this work.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

Title	Source	Date advice sent	Action awaited
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

We are actively working on the following issues. This is not a full view of all investigative work happening, only those that we will be providing you or your office with advice on shortly:

Title	Source	Investigation stage
Playground equipment standards (RRT2025-0714)	A direct commission from your office	Preparing briefing
Lead-free product requirements for plumbers (RRT2025-0697)	A direct commission from your office	Preparing briefing
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Contact: Lucy Pritchard, Principal Advisor, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)