



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 5 September 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-248

Recipient

Action sought

Hon David Seymour
MINISTER FOR REGULATION

Note the contents of this report

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

Minister's comments:

Actions

Action		Due date	Status update
A2025-268	RegRoom: Send Minister his log in details and a slide pack	August	In progress
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
A2025-275	Develop a clear commission on the next steps with RISs and RIA compliance report	August	Complete
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
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Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-238	RSB - Further advice and responses to FEC questions	1 September
MFR2025-229	Information release: CBC-25-SUB-0010 Telecommunications Sector Regulatory Review: Terms of Reference	4 September
MFR2025-237	Draft Terms of Reference for the Hospitality Review	4 September
MFR2025-241	Low Complexity Reviews Deregulatory Options September 2025	4 September
MFR2025-249	RRT Weekly Report 5 September 2025	5 September
MFR2025-250	Potential opportunities to progress deregulatory options	5 September

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-246	Advice on implementing Consistency Accountability Statements under the Regulatory Standards Bill	11 September
MFR2025-243	Draft Product Labelling Review Terms of Reference	18 September
MFR2025-244	Final Hospitality Review Terms of Reference	25 September
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MFR2025-245	Final Product Labelling Review Terms of Reference	30 September

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
TBC September	Wellington	Release of the first Regulatory Impact Analysis compliance report	Press release
10 September	Auckland	Minister's speech at the Financial Services Council Conference	Speech
11 September	Wellington	RegRoom launch event hosted by the Ministry	Minister to address small group of regulators
TBC September	Wellington	Next review/s	Press release and potential media standup at appropriate venue

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
TBC September	Publication of the first Regulatory Impact Analysis compliance reporting on the Ministry website, and Ministry press release
10 September	Chief Executive panellist at the Financial Services Council Annual Conference - <i>small, strategic changes to financial regulation that can shape a better future for New Zealanders</i>
11 September	RegRoom launch event and public sector communications campaign

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

Monthly highlights for August 2025

Enactment and implementation of the RSB	4 Sector reviews per annum
• Cabinet approval received on all outstanding Regulatory Standards Bill policy decisions • Departmental Report delivered to the Finance and Expenditure Committee	Product Labelling: • Review publicly announced via Ministerial press release on product labelling review (joint with Hon Scott Simpson) • engagement hub opened and direct engagement with a large number of regulated parties and other stakeholders
16 deregulatory outcomes	
• Ministerial press release on relaxation of “garden sheds” regulation (joint with Hon Chris Penk) • s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED] • Red Tape Tipline have 35 investigations underway (relating to 160 public submissions) resulting in a healthy pipeline of low-complexity reviews. • 381 Red Tape Tipline submissions received	Telecommunications Review: • Public consultation launched • Ministerial press release on telecommunications review (joint with Hon Paul Goldsmith)
Engaging with New Zealanders	Build system capability
• Ministerial address to the Canterbury Club • Chief Executive speech to the Financial Markets Authority board • Chief Economist guest lecture at Canterbury University (Economics Department) • Chief Advisor guest lecture at Buddle Findlay • Chief Executive presentation at Crown Board Chairs Forum • Chief Executive presentation on Hāpai Public webinar “Voices from the Centre” • Chief Executive on a panel at the National Regulators Community of Practice Conference in Brisbane • Lead Advisor, Economics presentation to Victoria University Masters students	• Four new Quick Guides from the Regulatory Practice Essentials project released on the MFR website: ○ Regulatory approaches, models and tools ○ Evidence-informed regulatory practice ○ The law and judiciary ○ Investigations and evidence • Marcial Boo (CEO, UK Institute for Regulation), posted about the Ministry’s Quick Guides: <i>“The guides should be required reading for all who aspire to lead regulatory work. New Zealand’s Ministry for Regulation is again setting the international pace...there’s little better globally for practising regulators to learn from. The UK has many good regulators. But as a country, we are 15 years behind New Zealand in systematising and promoting good regulatory practice in this way.”</i> • Ministerial speech at the National Regulators Community of Practice Conference Dinner in Brisbane

Updates

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

The key dates for the consideration of the Regulatory Standards Bill by the Finance and Expenditure Committee (FEC) are unchanged from our last update, which are:

- **10 September:** Consideration of our additional advice and revise track version of the Bill
- **17 September:** Further consideration
- **Week of 1 October:** Formal deliberation and report back.

We have now provided FEC with the responses to questions we received on 13 August 2025, and further recommendations to clarify two matters identified during the drafting of the revision-tracked version of the Bill (as per briefing MFR2025-238).

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. We anticipate providing you with a briefing on this within the next couple of weeks.

Contact: Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive Policy | s 9(2)(a)

Telecommunications Review

For information

Public consultation for the Review launched on 28 August 2025. The Review team has received six submissions in response to the consultation to date. The engagement hub will close on 25 September 2025. Whilst the consultation is live, the team is focusing on completing analysis and drafting the final Report.

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

Industrial Hemp

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

The first draft of the Terms of Reference and early insights from engagement analysis have been sent to agencies, with agency consultation taking place between 2-4 September 2025. We are engaging with the following agencies:

- Commerce Commission
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Environmental Protection Authority
- Ministry of Business, Information and Employment
- Ministry for Primary Industries
- Ministry for the Environment
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Justice
- New Zealand Trade and Enterprise
- WorkSafe.

Provisional in-scope areas for the review, subject to agency and Ministerial consultation, are:

- **supermarket competition:** the Review will evaluate the effects of current product labelling regulations on prospective entrants to the supermarket sector and provide recommendations to remove product labelling barriers and improve retail grocery competition.
- **food and beverage products (alcoholic and non-alcoholic):** while supporting and recognising the significant value of the harmonised approach to this sector made possible through the Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code, regulated parties have identified a number of potential areas for further improvement in this sector. The Review will consider issues including specific labelling requirements, regulatory practices, implementation, and opportunities for multi-market labelling (for example, via broader alignment, regulatory reliance or regulatory recognition).
- **over the counter medicines:** the Review will assess current labelling requirements to identify opportunities for facilitating multi-market labelling with comparable jurisdictions.
- **digital labelling:** regulated parties across a range of sectors raised digital labelling as an area of opportunity. In some sectors and jurisdictions, new requirements and practices are emerging. The Review will look at emerging trends and innovative practices in product labelling including digital labelling, and the role of government in providing direction and guidance in this area.

We are also investigating the inclusion of hazardous substances in scope of the Review. Regulated parties have identified challenges navigating labelling requirements for products containing hazardous substances, which can be subject to multiple overlapping regulatory regimes. There may be an opportunity for the Review to consider opportunities to streamline and improve regulatory requirements and practice in this area, however agencies have indicated that a

much broader review of regulatory framework for hazardous substances in the workplace is required.

Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | S 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

This week we have provided you with the draft Terms of Reference for the Hospitality Review. It describes the high-level scope for what is currently included in the Review, as well as our approach. This Terms of Reference differs from previous reviews that have narrowed the scope of the review before it starts as we do not want to constrain the initial engagement with regulated parties, particularly when there is already reform underway in many of the regulatory systems the sector interacts with i.e. food, alcohol and health and safety.

If you are happy with the draft, we ask that you start consulting with Ministerial colleagues to get their approval on the Terms of Reference, as required by the Cabinet minute (CAB-25-MIN-0234.01 refers). We have provided a suggested list in our cover briefing (MFR2025-237).

Regarding public announcement of the Review, officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment have advised the Minister for Hospitality and Tourism would like to be involved in any public announcement.

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

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Tipline

For information

We have provided you with a briefing this week with proposals for deregulatory actions you could pursue and a summary of work the team has undertaken that has not led to proposals for change. We will discuss this with you at this week's Agency meeting.

As of 2 September 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1,232 submissions on red tape issues. We currently have 35 investigations underway (relating to 160 public submissions).

We are continuing to work through the higher than usual number of submissions we have received since 5 August 2025. A significant proportion of submissions received since that date are related to building consent and resource management issues. We are analysing the themes of those issues and will provide you with advice on any potential areas to complete the reviews within those submissions.

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

National Regulators Community of Practice Conference

For information

The National Regulators Community of Practice (NRCoP) Conference brought together regulators and academics from across Australia and New Zealand and provided insights directly relevant to the Ministry's aim of improving regulatory quality and efficiency.

Noting your attendance at the conference dinner where you gave a speech, Gráinne Moss closed the conference on a panel about stewardship and better regulation, emphasising the value of fixing small issues that compound over time, not just large reforms.

The key insights from the conference were:

- **Efficiency and duplication:** Fragmentation across regulators is a shared problem. Other jurisdictions are pursuing shared tools, digital platforms, and joint oversight to cut costs and speed up decisions.
- **Innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI):** Regulators are trialling AI for triage, licensing, and complaints handling. Lessons: pair innovation with transparency and accountability, not red tape. Productivity & trust: Regulation can enable growth by creating certainty and fair competition. International peers stressed measuring impact not just in metrics but in real improvements to people's lives.
- **Leadership and culture:** Capability gaps remain; leadership signals and culture shape risk appetite and regulatory behaviour more than structural reform.

Implications for the Ministry

- Prioritise tools that lift efficiency across multiple regulators (shared templates, digital platforms, common standards).
- Back innovation pilots like sandboxes, with simple evaluation to test results quickly.
- Keep pushing for leaders' accountability in regulatory practice, as capability and culture drive outcomes.

Contact: Alex McMinn, Head of Regulatory System Capability | § 9(2)(a)

Victoria University of Wellington Guest Lecture

For information

On 29 August 2025, Isabelle Sin, Lead Advisor, Economics, gave a guest lecture to a class of Master of Public Policy students at Victoria University of Wellington. The lecture formed part of a course titled "An Introduction to Quantitative Analysis for Public Policy", and Isabelle spoke on "Conducting empirical research in a government agency".

The lecture first covered the context of the Economics Team within the Ministry for Regulation. It then discussed some central questions faced by empirical researchers in government, such as how to best provide value to taxpayers. It delved into some of the challenges these researchers

face, such as buy-in from the agency and how to conduct useful, credible, and unbiased research in a setting where freedom from political interference cannot be guaranteed.

The students appreciated the frank discussion of the realities of research within government and were very engaged both about conducting research and on the Ministry's broader work programme.

Contact: Isabelle Sin, Lead Advisor | S 9(2)(a)

Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Draft Cabinet papers that we have been consulted on will appear here.

Contact: Gwen Rashbrooke, Manager, Regulatory Policy Design **S 9(2)(a)**

New or updated papers

Title	Probable Committee	Comment
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Title	Probable Committee	Comment
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