



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 7 November 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-305

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 date	Status update
A2025-348	MfR to reconsider MFR2025-247 Regulatory Standards Bill - Fees and skills for the Regulatory Standards Board	13 November	In progress

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-296	Regulatory Standards Bill House Pack - Committee of the Whole	3 November
MFR2025-150	Draft Cabinet paper and draft Summary Report for the Telecommunications Regulatory Review	6 November
MFR2025-277	[REVISED] Regulatory Standards Bill: implementing requirements for regulatory system stewardship and review of existing legislation	6 November
MFR2025-295	Early Childhood Education review report back	6 November

Papers delivered to the Ministers Office		Date delivered
MFR2025-300	Retirement Villages Act Review: legislative reform proposals	3 November

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-307	Regulatory Standards Bill - Legislative statement for third reading	10 November
MFR2025-304	Regulatory Standards Board - Further advice on Fees and Skills	13 November
MFR2025-306	Regulatory Standards Bill: Draft statutory guidance	13 November
MFR2025-302	2026 Legislation Programme: Requirements for Submitting	28 November

Monthly highlights for October 2025

Enactment and implementation of the Regulatory Standards Bill (RSB)

- Implementation work continued at pace, including advice to you on how the Ministry can support the Board to maximise its success and, templates to support implementation by agencies and on the implementation of stewardship requirements
- Small technical changes to the RSB, for introduction during the Committee of the Whole stage, recommended

4 Sector Reviews per annum

Telecommunications

- Advice provided setting out provisional findings and recommendations following public consultation
- Talking points prepared for your meeting with Minister Goldsmith
- Continued engagement with regulated parties

Product Labelling

- Advice provided on short-term options to address food labelling barriers to entry in the supermarket sector
- Terms of Reference and Summary of Engagement publicly released.

Hospitality

- Hospitality review announced
- Ongoing engagement with industry stakeholders, who are very positive about the review.

16 Deregulatory outcomes

- Provided advice on excessive school audit requirements and a recommended approach to ensure they are changed
- Batch of 4 new deregulatory opportunities identified and presented to you for your approval to progress
- Industrial hemp deregulation considered in Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

Building system capability

- Chief Executive presented to Institute of Directors Wellington Branch
- Chief Advisor presented at Small Business Advisory Group meeting
- Manager of Regulatory Stewardship Team delivered NZIER webinar
- Multiple engagements with regulated parties in the context of sector reviews

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
October - November	Various	Ongoing Ministerial engagement with hospitality sector	Regional events with chambers / hospitality businesses
TBC	Wellington	Regulatory Standards Bill returns to House for subsequent readings	Ministerial press release when Bill passes Third Reading
12 November	Wellington	Chorus annual stakeholder event	Speech

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
November	Ongoing Hospitality Review sector engagement - direct and online
November	Product Labelling Review consumer sector engagement continues
6 November	Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Regulatory Practice roundtable – Ministry bringing together experienced regulators in a workshop to share insights on the challenges and opportunities AI presents for regulatory systems
12 November	Submissions through engagement hub close on Hospitality Review
12 November	Economic Research Community Event – Chief Economist – Ministry and Auckland University of Technology co-hosted event to provide guidance to economic researchers on the kind of research the Ministry would find helpful
12-20 November	Series of international meetings by Deputy Chief Executive Policy with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development colleagues, Focused on simplification of deregulatory activity
4 December	Open Council of Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) – Chief Executive keynote, Chief Economist on panel
9 December	University of Canterbury Regulatory Economics - CEO Forum – Chief Economist and Chief Executive – Sector Reviews and What they Mean for Businesses (Minister opening TBC)

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Engagement [s 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

Updates

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

The Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee agreed to all recommendations from the review into Industrial Hemp Regulations. Cabinet will consider the paper Addressing unnecessary regulatory burden on the hemp sector [MFR2025-298 refers] on 10 November 2025. We are preparing for an announcement of Cabinet decisions.

Contact: Colm Williams, Principal Advisor | s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

Sector consultations will conclude next week following great engagement with the different peak bodies representing various players in the sector. Hospitality New Zealand, the Restaurants Association and the Hotel Council Aotearoa are doing one last push amongst their members, encouraging them to have their say by 12 November 2025.

To date there have been 99 submissions (56 from business owners, 23 from regulators, 12 from hospitality workers, 4 from interested parties, and 4 from representative bodies of hospitality businesses). Remaining submissions are from regulators, hospitality workers and other interested parties, including organisations that represent hospitality businesses.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

The Review team has provided you and Minister Goldsmith with the draft Cabinet paper, briefing, and summary of the Review's final report. Agency consultation on the Cabinet paper is due to start on 11 November, and Ministerial consultation to commence on 18 November.

The Cabinet paper is due to be lodged by 27 November for Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee (EXP) on 2 December. We will provide you with the full report and summary of engagement before the Cabinet paper goes for Ministerial Consultation.

Contact: Cherie Engelbrecht, Acting Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team is considering agency feedback on the issues paper and have shared our options analysis with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Commerce Commission, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Department of Internal Affairs, and Medsafe. We are engaging with key consumer organisations like Coeliac New Zealand (NZ), Allergy NZ, the Heart Foundation, Diabetes Foundation NZ, and Stroke Aotearoa NZ. Additionally, we have engaged with Whaikaha – Ministry for Disabled People and the Office of Ethnic Communities. We are meeting with your Office on 10 November to share the Review’s emerging findings and options.

[Commercially Sensitive] Engagement is ongoing with MPI, MBIE, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as work advances on a potential import exemption to facilitate the entry of a new supermarket entrant. This week, we gave MPI further feedback on the draft Cabinet paper and consultation factsheet regarding a digital labelling trial for the import exemption proposal supporting a new supermarket entrant. Our comments focused on the exemption’s scope, timeline, and post-exemption plans. MPI plans to lodge the Cabinet paper on 6 November 2025.

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

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

House Progress

Following advice from the Leaders Office we are planning for completion of the committee stage and the third reading during the week of 17 November. We understand from your office no further material is required in preparation of your third reading speech. We will provide you with a legislative statement for the third reading on 10 November.

United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

New Zealand is due to be examined by the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In preparation for the examination, the CERD Committee has provided specific questions that will be raised. The questions include the impact of the Regulatory Standards Bill (RSB) on the role of the Treaty of Waitangi, indigenous rights protection, and the functions of the judiciary and Waitangi Tribunal.

The Ministry of Justice is currently preparing a pack of material that will support the New Zealand delegation to respond to questions during the review. The information that will be included has been pulled together from publicly available explanatory material about the RSB, and we have provided feedback.

Contact: Pip Van Der Scheer, Acting Deputy Chief Executive, Policy | s 9(2)(a)

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 5 November 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1415 submissions on red tape issues. We currently have 22 low-complexity reviews underway (relating to 179 public submissions). We will provide the next briefing with the results of these reviews, and recommendations for potential areas for deregulation before the end of November.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Government Quarterly Plan

For information

The following updates were provided to the Department of Cabinet and the Prime Minister (DPMC) on 4 November 2025 for the report on the Government's Action Plan for Quarter 4 (October-December).

Action 10: Pass the Regulatory Standards Bill

Update Required		
Action #	Delivery Update <i>Please provide your progress update for this action</i>	Delivery Status
10	<u>Timing of the passage of the Regulatory Standards Bill is subject to the legislative programme confirmed by the Leader of the House. The Bill requires the Second Reading, Committee of the whole House, and Third Reading stages to be completed for enactment.</u>	<i>Probable</i>

We understand that DPMC amended this update following the passing of the Second Reading.

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial Services 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
Retirement Villages Act Review: legislative reform proposals	Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO) 19 November 2025	<p>This Cabinet paper proposes enhancing consumer protection through the Retirement Villages Act 2003, largely building on the Act's existing framework. It introduces mandatory information disclosures, establishes rules for the return of the capital sums residents use to secure occupancy, and creates more independence in dispute resolution. On Monday we provided your office more detail on this issue (MFR2025-300 refers).</p> <p>We think most proposals presented in this paper are proportionate and clear where consumer protection could increase the cost of services. However, we do not support the proposal to prohibit specific contract terms for Occupancy Right Agreements (ORAs) through secondary legislation.</p> <p>We acknowledge some benefits of prohibiting contract terms, like clarifying difficult-to-interpret court declarations for residents and providers. However, overall, we deem the costs to outweigh the benefits. In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outright prohibitions can be blunt tools and risk limiting mutually beneficial agreements • The proposal will cause duplication and regulatory confusion, creating a parallel system to the Fair-Trading Act 1986 • Appropriately prohibiting contract terms is complicated and costly given the difficulties of establishing legitimate business interest and potential legal challenges. • The requirement for potential residents to seek legal advice on their ORAs reduces the risk of misunderstanding agreements and ensures that ORAs are under frequent legal scrutiny. <p>The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development is currently working on potential revisions to the contract term restriction provisions, in response to our feedback. We will follow up and will keep your office abreast of these matters as this work develops.</p>