



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 14 November 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

Tracking number: MFR2025-312

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 | |
|---------------|--|---------------|-------------|
| A2025-348 | MfR to reconsider MFR2025-247 Regulatory Standards Bill - Fees and skills for the Regulatory Standards Board | 13 November | Complete |
| A2025-371 | RSB implementation: MfR to work with Sam on timing of Cabinet papers and duration of consultation. | 18 November | In progress |
| s 9(2)(f)(iv) | | | |

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

| Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation | | Date delivered |
|---|---|----------------|
| 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 |
| MFR2025-308 | Telecommunications Regulatory Review Draft Final Report | 13 November |
| MFR2025-315 | Delivering medicine using click-and-collect lockers | 14 November |

| Papers under development | | Due date |
|--------------------------|--|-------------|
| MFR2025-309 | Proactive release of the Cabinet paper Addressing unnecessary regulatory burden on the hemp sector | 20 November |
| MFR2025-314 | Meeting with the Minister of State (Minister for Trade) on 24 November 2025 | 20 November |
| MFR2025-302 | 2026 Legislation Programme: Requirements for Submitting | 27 November |
| MFR2025-306 | Regulatory Standards Bill: Draft statutory guidance | 27 November |
| MFR2025-310 | Hospitality Review: Priority issues to be included in scope | 4 December |
| MFR2025-313 | Product Labelling Review Final Report | 11 December |

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

| Date | Location | Details | Opportunity |
|----------------|------------|--|--|
| 25-27 November | Various | 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 |

Ministry for Regulation activity

| Date | Details |
|------------------|--|
| 10 – 14 November | Hospitality Review sector engagement – online engagement closes 12 November |
| 12 November | Chief Executive part of panel with Secretary of Treasury and Police Commissioner for ANZSOG Executive Masters of Public Management – around 100 senior public service leaders across Australia and NZ. |
| 17 November | Launch of New Zealand Sign Language Strategy 2026–2036 – Chief Executive attending |
| 12-20 November | Series of international meetings by Deputy Chief Executive Policy with OECD colleagues, covering a range of regulatory issues and practices |
| TBC November | Latest Quarterly report of Red Tape Tipline data |
| 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 |

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

Updates

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

On 13 November the Regulatory Standards Bill (RSB) passed its third reading.

RSB implementation planning is well underway. We have provided further advice on the fees and skills for the Regulatory Standards Board this week.

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

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

On 10 November 2025, Cabinet agreed to all recommendations from the review of industrial hemp regulation. We are working with your Office and industry to plan for an announcement of Cabinet decisions.

We are consulting with relevant agencies on a media package for announcement of Cabinet decisions and the proactive release of the Cabinet paper. Some agencies have requested extending the consultation to 19 or 20 November 2025 because of sensitivities about some of the information.

We met with the Ministry of Health and are also meeting with New Zealand Police and the Ministry for Primary Industries to discuss relevant implementation matters. We provided a high-level implementation plan to your Office on 14 November 2025.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team continues to consider agency feedback on the options analysis received from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), the Commerce Commission, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), the Department of Internal Affairs, MedSafe and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT).

We met your Office on 10 November 2025 to share the Review's emerging findings and options, s 9(2)(g)(i)

[Commercially Sensitive] We are also continuing to work with MPI, MBIE, and MFAT on an exemption to the Food Act 2014 that will allow a digital labelling trial and support the entry of a new supermarket into the New Zealand market.

A Cabinet paper seeking agreement to consult on the design of an exemption and delegate further policy decisions to a sub-group of Ministers (including yourself) was considered by ECO on 12 November and scheduled for Cabinet consideration on 17 November.

Minister Hoggard will attend a Food Ministers Meeting with Australian officials on 14 November. He plans to present a paper to the Food Ministers of New Zealand's proposed trial, and to seek agreement for Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to undertake a principles-based review of the joint food system's approach to digital labelling.

We are working with relevant agencies throughout the progression of these decisions to support the design of the trial and ensure proposals meet Ministers' expectations. We will continue to provide your office with advice as this work develops.

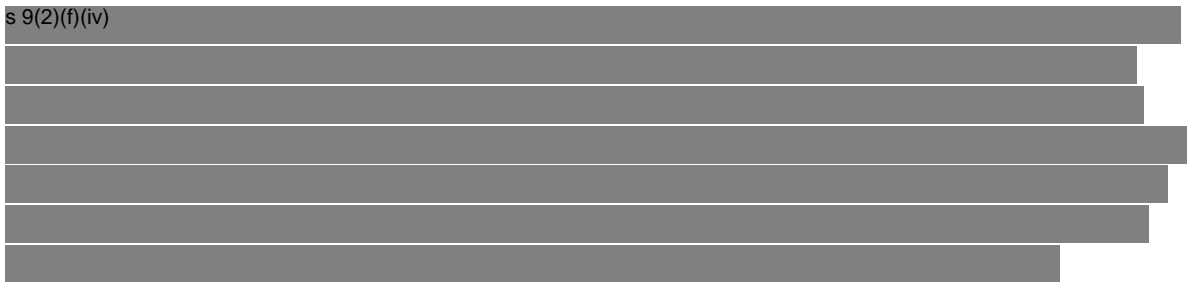
Contact: Justine Fitzmaurice, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

Sector consultation concluded on 12 November 2025, with a total of 178 submissions received. The Review team is now analysing the information and using our analytical framework to prioritise key issues before we make recommendations to joint ministers in the briefing planned for 4 December 2025. A full breakdown on our engagement will also be included.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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To help us prioritise the issues to be included in the scope of the next phase of the Review, we are working with the responsible agencies.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

We provided you and Minister Goldsmith with the draft full report this week and the Cabinet paper has gone out for agency consultation. Once we receive feedback on the Cabinet paper from Minister Goldsmith (expected by 19 November 2025), we will provide a final draft paper so that your Office can commence Ministerial consultation. We aim to lodge the Cabinet paper on 27 November for the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee's (EXP) consideration on 2 December. If this is not possible, then the paper could be considered by the Economic Policy Committee at its meeting on 10 December.

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

Hairdressing and Barbering Review Implementation

For information

The exemption to allow hairdressers and barbers to serve one standard drink to clients will be included in the amendment to the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 (the Act), which the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) is currently drafting.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

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We have been advised that a full draft of the Bill is likely to be ready by the end of the month.

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

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 12 November 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1429 submissions on potential red tape issues. We currently have 26 low-complexity reviews underway (relating to 186 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.

Some of the issues we are currently reviewing include:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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