



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 21 November 2025

Priority: Medium

Security classification: In confidence

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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	MFR2025-247 Regulatory Standards Bill - Fees and skills for the Regulatory Standards Board	29 October	Complete
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-314	Meeting with UK Minister of State (Minister for Trade) on 24 November 2025	20 November

Papers delivered to the Ministers Office		Date delivered
MFR2025-321	Annual Review 2024/25 scrutiny – Responses to written questions	20 November
MFR2025-317	Revised draft Cabinet paper for the Telecommunications Regulatory Review	21 November

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-302	2026 Legislation Programme: Requirements for Submitting	27 November
MFR2025-306	Regulatory Standards Bill: Draft statutory guidance	27 November
MFR2025-309	Proactive release of the Cabinet paper Addressing unnecessary regulatory burden on the hemp sector	27 November
MFR2025-320	Draft Cabinet paper - 'Implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act: Strengthening and streamlining processes for making and reviewing regulation'	27 November
MFR2025-310	Hospitality Review: Priority issues to be included in scope	4 December
MFR2025-318	Low Complexity Reviews Deregulatory Options November 2025	4 December
MFR2025-313	Product Labelling Review Final Report	11 December

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
25 November	Brew Union - Palmerston North	Ministerial engagement with hospitality sector	Chance to engage with local hospitality business owners Local media, and social media opportunity
26 November	TBC Pukekohe	Ministerial engagement with hospitality sector	Chance to engage with local hospitality business owners Local media, and social media opportunity
27 November	The Homestead - Kerikeri	Ministerial engagement with hospitality sector	Chance to engage with local hospitality business owners Local media, and social media opportunity
11 December	Christchurch	Industrial hemp announcement	Media and industry event
Early 2026	TBC	Telco review report goes to Cabinet	Joint ministerial release full report – opportunity for event

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
TBC November	Quarterly report of Red Tape Tipline data (Quarter 1 FY2025)
12-20 November	Series of international meetings by Deputy Chief Executive Policy with Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) colleagues, covering a range of regulatory issues and practices.
2 December	Ministry officials appear at the Finance and Expenditure Select Committee (FEC)
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 s 9(2)(a)

Updates

Regulatory Standards Act 2025

For information

Establishment of the Regulatory Standards Board

Following Royal Assent of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 on 18 November, we will proceed with appointments for the Regulatory Standards Board. There are several steps in the process, and we will meet with your office next week to confirm next steps and timeframes. We will request your approval of the position description before advertising for expressions of interest from potential members.

Implementation of the CAS requirements

Work is well underway to support efficient and effective implementation of the CAS requirements. We are planning to provide you with a draft Cabinet paper for the new Cabinet circular, and the draft statutory guidance, within the next couple of weeks.

In addition, we are currently working through submissions from agencies for specific legislation to be exempted from the Act via an initial Notice. We anticipate providing you with advice on this in December.

UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

New Zealand's examination by the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) will take place in Geneva on 26 and 27 November 2025 (NZT). We have previously provided material relating to the Regulatory Standards Act to support the preparations being made by New Zealand's delegation. During the examination, Ministry staff will be part of the New Zealand-based "home" team, which will require staff to be available to respond to any of the delegation's queries during the preparations, or to provide additional information should specific questions relating to the Act be raised during the examination. As with the material we have provided for previous UN processes, we anticipate any additional material needed will be based on information already in the public arena.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

We have received agency feedback on the draft Cabinet Paper. We are updating the Cabinet Paper and will provide you with an updated draft next week. We understand your Office has agreed a new Cabinet timeline with Hon Goldsmith's Office. Ministerial Consultation is now due to begin on 3 December to give Minister Goldsmith time to provide feedback on the Cabinet Paper. The paper will then go to Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee's (EXP) on 16 December 2025 for consideration with Cabinet's confirming decisions at its first meeting in 2026.

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

Industrial Hemp Review

For information

This week, we met with the Ministry for Primary Industries and will soon also meet with New Zealand Police, to discuss relevant implementation matters.

An announcement of Cabinet decisions is currently planned for 11 December 2025. We will engage with sector representatives to brief them ahead of this.

Contact: Adam Jackson, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

We received a small number of late submissions, bringing the total number of submissions to 183. The Review team is now going through a prioritisation process to finalise a list of issues which we will recommend joint ministers agree to progress for further analysis. This will be included in our advice on 4 December 2025, as well as a full summary of the submissions.

We require decisions on the priority issues before Christmas to maintain momentum of the Review. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

s 9(2)(f)(iv) Our advice will also include options on how these issues are best dealt with. This will ensure we can present recommendations that encompass sufficient policy work for Cabinet to make policy decisions, and if needed, begin the legislative process.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team have considered feedback on the options analysis received from agencies and met with the Senior Officials Advisory Group for the Review on 19 November 2025, to discuss our initial findings and options. We plan to send out the first draft of the full report to agencies on 21 November 2025 for feedback.

[Commercially Sensitive] We continue to work closely with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade 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.

MPI has been working on a digital labelling paper which was agreed to by the Australian and New Zealand food Ministers on 14 November 2025. Food Ministers acknowledged the growing relevance of digital labelling in the food regulation system and agreed to initiate a principles-based review of the system's approach to labelling.

Minister Hoggard and Minister Willis announced on 20 November 2025, consultation on a digital labelling trial which proposes to explore using digital labelling to provide the required information for lower risk imported foods, where feasible and safe.

Alongside this work, the Ministry has been promoting regulatory sandboxes as an innovation method for New Zealand, which we are developing guidance on. MPI is interested in adopting this model for the detailed design of the trial and have been using our draft guidance to prepare for this. This is reflected in the high-level consultation that has just been released. We will update you when the detailed design has been agreed.

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

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 19 November 2025, the Ministry has received a total of 1444 submissions on potential red tape issues. We currently have 28 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, in the first week of December.

Some of the issues we are currently reviewing include:

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

AI in regulation roundtable

For information

On 6 November 2025, the Ministry invited 32 agency leaders to a roundtable discussion about opportunities and obstacles for AI in regulatory practice. This was in the context of our current work to develop a guidance paper for regulatory leadership teams on AI adoption. The idea of the roundtable came from discussions with the regulatory group at the Department of Internal Affairs.

The participants were overwhelmingly positive about the roundtable as it helped to facilitate stronger collaboration between agency leaders as they progress responsible AI opportunities in regulation. Dr Kate Conroy (Queensland University of Technology, Royal Australian Air Force) joined us virtually to lead off the roundtable with an overview of where other jurisdictions are at, including examples of how they are creating value, ethical frameworks, and learnings from mistakes already made. We are reviewing the roundtable material and will work with other agencies, including the Government's Chief Digital Officer, on regulatory-specific opportunities and risks.

The roundtable is part of work we have started on gathering international, academic, and local considerations and examples of AI in regulation in order to create clarity and enthusiasm in the sector. We will determine the optimal way to showcase this to the sector in the new year. As this work progresses, we will update you on proposed product(s) for release around the use of AI in regulation.

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