



Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 13 February 2026

Week ending	13 February 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-029

Recipient	Action sought
Hon David Seymour Minister for Regulation	Note the contents of this report

Contact for discussion if required

Name	Position	Phone number
Aisling Risdon	Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services	S 9(2)(a)

Comments

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Actions

Reference	Action	Due date	Status update
A2026-018	Provide options on next steps for the Product Labelling Review	February	In progress
A2026-032	Discuss fees and levies work with the Minister's office	16/02/2026	In progress

Contact: Aisling Risdon, Head of Ministerial and Strategic Services, S 9(2)(a)

Papers delivered and under development

Delivered to the Minister for Regulation

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-015	Vote Regulation: March Baseline Update	11/02/2026
MFR2026-022	Promoting innovation – regulatory sandbox guidance	11/02/2026
MFR2026-020	Ministerial Policy Satisfaction Survey for the period 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025	12/02/2026
MFR2026-025	RSA Implementation: Initial Exclusion Notice Draft Cabinet Paper	12/02/2026

Delivered to the Minister's office

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2025-027	Sharing individuals' contact details	09/02/2026
MFR2026-026	Regulatory changes to better enable agricultural drone use	10/02/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-005	Regulatory Standards Act: Exempting Government amendment papers from CAS requirements	18/02/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-028	Regulatory Standards Act implementation: Final draft guidance for sign-off by joint Ministers	18/02/2026
MFR2026-030	RTT issues bundle February 2026	26/02/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

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Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
24 February	Auckland	New Zealand Building Industry Federation and GS1 New Zealand BA5 event	Speech: Digital labelling - implications for building and construction
26 February	Wellington	All of Local Government Conference	Support office with speaking points if required
February (TBC)	TBC	Veterinary prescriptions and telemedicine announcement	Announcement of upcoming changes via press release or media stand up Case study on website and LinkedIn
February/March (TBC)	Wellington	Announcement of Telecommunications Sector Regulatory Review outcomes	Joint announcement with Minister Goldsmith Copy on website and publication of report
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
Throughout February	Hospitality sector engagement continues including regional visits
4 March	Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team meeting American Chamber of Commerce in Australia (AmCham) delegation visiting New Zealand
12 March	Ministry launching guide for use of AI for regulators with Martin Jenkins
24 March	Chief Economist presentation at the Environment and Resource Management Law Update 2026 Conference
25 March	Chief Economist guest lecture at the Auckland University of Technology - first year economics course
26 March	Second report on agencies' compliance with Cabinet's impact analysis requirements
Throughout March	Extensive programme of university engagement including career expos

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Communications and Engagement, 027 272 3333

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Updates

New Zealand Economics Forum panel presentation

For information

Dr Isabelle Sin, Lead Advisor, Economics, presented at the 2026 New Zealand Economics Forum held at the University of Waikato on Thursday 12th February. Dr Sin spoke on a panel titled ‘*The Demographic Tipping Point: Unconstrained Immigration – What’s the alternative?*’. The Forum was livestreamed and over 400 people attended in person, including diplomats, business leaders, CEOs, policymakers, economists, analysts, academics, community leaders, students, and members of the media.

Contact: Kevin Counsell, Chief Economist, § 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

We continue to engage with regulators and regulated parties on how best to resolve the issues we have identified in the Review. § 9(2)(f)(iv)

[REDACTED]. Next week, we are undertaking face to face engagement with stakeholders in Auckland and the Far North, including meeting with different businesses owners at their businesses and attending an Auckland DLC hearing to see how alcohol licensing decisions are made on the ground.

§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

§ 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

We understand that the Cabinet Paper has been put to Minister Goldsmith for decisions. Ministerial consultation is due to commence on 16 February with the paper due to be lodged on 26 February, to be considered by the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee on 3 March 2026 or the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee on 4 March. This aligns with the timing of the copper deregulation Cabinet paper.

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

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Product Labelling Review

For information

The Review team met with you on 3 February 2026 to discuss your feedback on the report. We will work with your office on a way forward that addresses your feedback.

We are continuing to engage with the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and other key agencies on the digital labelling trial under the Food Act 2014. Consultation on the trial closed on 19 December 2025, and MPI is preparing a briefing including summary of engagement for Ministers. We have provided feedback on the briefing and will continue to engage with MPI throughout the trial.

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

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 11 February 2026, the Ministry has received a total of 1,526 submissions on potential red tape issues. We currently have 35 low-complexity reviews underway (relating to 191 public submissions). You will receive the next deregulatory bundle on 26 February 2026.

Some of the issues we are currently reviewing include:

- s 9(2)(f)(iv)
 - s 9(2)(f)(iv)
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Contact: Hannah McGlue, Manager Regulatory Reviews, S 9(2)(a)

Regulatory Sandbox

On 9 February 2026, the Ministry discussed with your office the development of draft guidance to spur innovation and deregulatory outcomes in regulatory systems through promoting a tool known as regulatory sandboxes. A memo detailing the Ministry's plan to promote this guidance, including a draft copy of it has been provided to you (MFR2026-022 refers).

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