

Weekly Report

MFR2026-110

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 22 May 2026

Week ending	22 May 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-110

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
A2026-099	Ministry for Regulation to engage with Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors to understand further the issues they raised directly with the Minister and provide a report back to the Office.	22/05/2026	In Progress. Meeting was held on 19 May.

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
MFR2026-088	Report – The State of New Zealand’s Regulatory System: Revealing the structure and scale of regulation (updated)	18/05/2026
MFR2026-090	Low Complexity Reviews May bundle	21/05/2026

Delivered to the office of the Minister for Regulation

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-109	Information Release: Regulatory Standards Act - Key Advice Papers Batch 1	18/05/2026
MFR2026-111	Vote Regulation 2026/27 – Responses to Standard Estimates Questionnaire	22/05/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-080	AI in Regulatory Practice Guidance	25/05/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-100	Letter to Chief Executives on Regulatory Standards Act implementation	21/05/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

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Announcements & Engagement

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
May 13 to 27	Hospitality Review targeted engagement on options
May 25	Chief Executive speaking at Business New Zealand quarterly business update
s 9(2)(f)(iv)	

Contact: Erina O'Donohue Head of Communications and Engagement, s 9(2)(a)

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Updates

Fuel security response

For information

A press release was jointly issued by yourself and Minister Bishop on 20 May 2026 describing the Government's package of regulatory relief in response to the fuel crisis. Among other things, this highlighted the Ministry for Regulation's role, alongside the Ministry of Transport, in preparing that response. It has had good coverage in the media, with the key messages from the press release being picked up in that coverage.

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

Regulatory Standards Act Implementation

For information

The statutory guidance and first tranche of non-statutory guidance went live on our website on Friday 15 May 2026. This material is an important resource to support compliance with obligations under the Regulatory Standards Act and the Cabinet circular.

We have reached out to a range of key audiences, including chief executives of government agencies and Crown entities, drawing their attention to the new guidance. We are working with Local Government NZ and the Taituarā Regulations and Bylaws Reference Group to share the information with local government bodies.

The Ministry's Deputy Chief Executive Policy will join the Reference Group's 28 May 2026 meeting to give an overview of the obligations under the Act and respond to questions. A second tranche of guidance—covering plans for reviews of existing legislation and advanced notice of major regulatory proposals—will soon be shared with your office before being published on our website.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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

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Hospitality Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

This process runs until 28 May 2026. The relevant documents have only been sent to previously engaged stakeholders.

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

The state of New Zealand's Regulatory Systems: Revealing the Structure and Scale of Regulation

For information

On 20 May 2026, you held an event at Parliament to announce the findings of the Ministry's seventh review and its Report. The event went smoothly and the content was well received.

Subsequent media coverage has been positive, highlighting key findings and the value of clarifying the regulatory system.

Following the event, the Ministry for Regulation published *The state of New Zealand's Regulatory Systems: Revealing the Structure and Scale of Regulation* (the Report) on its website and contacted public sector senior leaders, chief executives of Crown entities, and attendees of the event via email. The Ministry has engagements with various stakeholders planned over the coming weeks and will keep you informed of any key discussions.

Planning is underway on next steps to address the Report's priorities and integrate this foundational view into ongoing stewardship and improvement efforts.

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

We provided your office with a briefing on 13 May 2026 outlining emerging findings and opportunities to improve the solar approval and installation process.

The weeks of 18-29 May 2026 are focused on further engagement with the sector. This includes:

- targeted interviews with a range of individual sector participants and representative bodies including installers, distributors, retailers and metering providers
- an online survey (available since 15 May 2026) which provides the opportunity for any consumer, regulated party, or other interested group to provide feedback on the solar installation process.

We intend to provide you with a report and Cabinet paper in early July, with the intention of the Cabinet paper being considered at the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee on 21 July 2026 and Cabinet on 27 July 2026.

Meeting these dates will require Ministerial engagement well ahead of the typical pre-lodgement engagement period of five days. We have discussed this with your office and will provide them with the information required to have early discussions with other ministerial offices.

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We understand that you have a meeting with s 9(2)(a) on Tuesday 26 May 2026. Officials are available to support that meeting if required.

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

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

Artificial Intelligence in Regulatory Practice Guidance

For information

A press release from you announcing the soon to be published Ministry AI guidance for regulators, *Responsible AI in Action*, will be issued during the week of 25 May 2026. We have received high demand for this guidance since the Ministry's AI in regulatory practice event in March, particularly from regulators who expressed interest in innovation through AI but are unsure where to start.

The guidance is part of a suite of products that different audiences can engage with in the way that suits them: the full guidance, a four-page summary, a bite-size modular series on specific topics, and a set of videos.

This week, we have provided a memo outlining the Ministry's approach to promoting the guidance, along with copies of the guidance materials for discussion on 26 May 2026.

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

Industrial Hemp

For information

The secondary legislation to give effect to the deregulation of industrial hemp will come into force on 28 May 2026.

On 21 May 2026, the Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, Adam Jackson, appeared before the Primary Production Select Committee to update that committee on the outcomes of the Ministry's review and the regulatory changes that have been made as a result.

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

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Red Tape Tipline (including the fuel tipline)

For information

As of 20 May 2026, the Ministry has received:

- 1,626 submissions on potential red tape issues (including two in the last week), and
- 119 fuel-related tips since the remit of the tipline expanded on 29 March 2026 (though no new ones in the last week).

We provided you with a bundle of deregulatory options for consideration on 21 May (MFR2026-090).

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



Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Below are the draft Cabinet papers we have recently been consulted on that we wanted to bring to your attention.

Contact: Adam Jackson, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive, 021 303 162

Title	Probable Committee	Comment
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		