

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 3 July 2026

Week ending	3 July 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-135

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



Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

Actions

There are no outstanding ministerial actions.

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	Due date
MFR2026-136	Talking points for CBC meeting of 6 July 2026	03/07/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-132	Hospitality Review: Final Report	08/07/2026
MFR2026-100	Letter to Chief Executives on Regulatory Standards Act implementation	09/07/2026
MFR2026-130	Residential and Small and Medium-Scale Solar Review – Findings and Recommendations	09/07/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		
MFR2026-131	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	17/07/2026
MFR2026-128	Low Complexity Reviews Deregulatory Options Bundle - July 2026	30/07/2026

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial Activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
July (TBC)	TBC	Publication of solar review recommendations	Media release/opportunity
July (TBC)	TBC	Offensive Trades	Media release/opportunity

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
July (Date TBC)	Thought piece “Distortionary Costs of Regulation” - Chief Economist
July (Date TBC)	Thought piece “Seeing the system, not just the rules” - Chief Executive
6 July	Department of Finance Australia – meeting to discuss regulatory mapping – Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive Policy
14 July	Presentation to Government Legal Network – Head of Regulatory System Capability on Ministry for Regulation’s Artificial Intelligence guidance for regulators
22 July	New Zealand Institute of Economic Research Webinar – regulatory mapping – Chief Executive
24 July	Business NZ Chief Executive Officer Forum presentation – Chief Executive – <i>note Minister also attending</i>
July (TBC)	Offensive Trades
July (TBC)	Publication of solar review recommendations

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

~~In confidence~~

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

Updates

Regulatory Standards Act 2025 principles of responsible regulation pleaded in High Court

For information

Last Friday, 26 June 2026, a judicial review application was filed against the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General in the High Court. This proceeding is framed as a judicial review of steps advancing the tort reform legislation in response to the Supreme Court's judgment in *Smith v Fonterra*.¹ The applicant seeks declarations that the Minister of Justice's announcement of the legislation, and policy and Cabinet decisions advancing the proposed legislation, were unlawful. This is the first time that the principles of responsible regulation under section 9 of the Regulatory Standards Act 2025 have been pleaded as a mandatory consideration relevant to public decision making.

Contact: Anshuman Chakraborty, Head of Legal, s 9(2)(a)

Regulatory Standards Act Implementation

For information

The Ministry has undertaken further outreach and capability building for stakeholders who are now subject to the new requirements as of 1 July 2026. Over the past month, the Ministry delivered a series of three webinars on the new Regulatory Analysis Statement requirements, each covering different key content. Participation in the webinars was strong, with each session attended by around 150 participants.

To ensure crown entities and local government have a good understanding of the new Regulatory Standards Act requirements, the Ministry:

- delivered two very well attended webinars tailored to crown entities and statutory or incorporated bodies that make secondary legislation; and
- made a presentation at a Taituarā Regulations and Bylaws Reference Group meeting and delivered a webinar for the Building, Surveyors, and Inspectors Group local government network that attracted over 100 participants.

Regulatory Standards Board

As of 1 July, the Regulatory Standards Board is established. The Board has their first substantive meeting scheduled for 27 July following a series of induction meetings. There was some media coverage of the Board and a minor line of questioning in the Ministry's FEC Estimates hearing on 1 July.

The Ministry continues to support the Board with its secretariat function.

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

¹ <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2026/330/en/latest/>

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

FEC Estimates hearing 2026/27

For information

On 1 July 2026 the Ministry appeared before the Finance and Expenditure Committee for its 2026/27 Vote Regulation Estimates hearing. Questions focused on the implementation of the Regulatory Standards Act, the Regulatory Standards Board, regulatory reviews, and AI use at the Ministry.

The Ministry has now received 13 post hearing questions which are due back to committee on 20 July 2026.

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

Graduate Programme

For information

On 6 July 2026, the Ministry will begin advertising for five graduates to start in February 2027. This builds on the success of our first graduate intake, with four graduates joining in February 2026. The advertisement is open until 9 August 2026.

The five new graduates will be placed in the following teams:

- Legal
- Economics
- Digital and Insights
- Policy
- Reviews and System Capability

We received 372 applications last year and we anticipate a higher response rate this time around following an increase in brand awareness over the past 12 months.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People and Operations, s 9(2)(a)

Hospitality Review

For information

The Review team is in the process of completing the final report. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted text block]

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

Agency feedback on the report and draft Cabinet paper closed on 26 June 2026, and we received feedback from nine agencies (the Ministry for the Environment, Electricity Efficiency and Conservation Authority, Electricity Authority, Commerce Commission, Treasury, Parliamentary

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

Counsel Office, Ministry of Justice, WorkSafe, and the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)'s building and energy markets teams).

s 9(2)(g)(i)



Next week, we will provide you with a package of material that will include the final report and Cabinet paper, a cover briefing, A3 summary, short-form report, and summary of engagement. We are considering exempting the Cabinet paper from the requirement to complete a Regulatory Analysis Statement (RAS) on the basis that the equivalent information is included in the report documents which can be made available to Cabinet. We are scheduled to discuss this material with you at the agency meeting on 14 July 2026.

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

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Offensive Trades Review

For information

Following no substantive feedback from agency and Ministerial consultation, the Cabinet paper has been lodged for the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) meeting of 6 July 2026. We have provided your office with some brief talking points to support this meeting.

Once the paper has been considered by CBC and Cabinet, a paper will be lodged for the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) meeting of 23 July 2026. The Ministry of Health is leading this process.

We are providing your office with information to support a public announcement of the outcome of the review.

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

Red Tape Tipline (including the fuel tipline)

For information

As of 1 July 2026, the Ministry has received:

- 1,685 submissions on potential red tape issues (an increase of seven in the last week), and

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135

- 129 fuel-related tips since the remit of the tipline expanded on 29 March 2026 (an increase of one from last week, and the tip relates to a question on fuel pricing in New Zealand relative to Australia)

We continue to work towards delivering the next bundle of deregulatory options to you in late July.

We recently completed analysis on submissions data and low complexity reviews. The following insights are as at 16 June 2026.

Submission themes

Across approximately 1,700 submissions, over a third relate to:

- Resource management, including resource consents (16% of submissions)
- Building, including building consents and construction (15% of submissions)
- Transport, including air, land, sea, drones and space (11% of submissions)

We've undertaken over 200 low complexity reviews. Approximately 350 submissions have informed these.

Low complexity reviews

Of the 38 recommendations the Ministry has made from low complexity reviews:

- 16 include recommended changes to primary legislation
- 15 include recommended changes to secondary legislation
- 7 include recommended changes to regulatory practice

Across only a small subset of implemented recommendations from low complexity reviews, we estimate that between \$6.3m to \$20.4m in benefits may have been realised to date. Further analysis is needed to confirm the true scale of economic benefits for all our regulatory reviews. We plan to publish an update on our website later this year.

Contact: Alex McMinn, Acting Manager Regulatory Reviews, s 9(2)(a)

Weekly Report

MFR2026-135



Ministry for Regulation
Te Manatū Waeture

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

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

In confidence