

Weekly Report

MFR2026-142

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 24 July 2026

Week ending	24 July 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	In confidence	Tracking number	MFR2026-142

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
A2026-133	Ministry for Regulation to test the Solar Review recommendations with some Electricity Distribution Businesses. Ministry for Regulation to review the recommendations, including from the perspective of any cost burden they may impart on businesses and being clear on mechanisms to give effect to them (relates to Solar Review).		Complete.
A2026-134	Ministry for Regulation to complete final 'stress-tests' with stakeholders (relates to Solar Review).	24/07/2026	Complete.
	Ministry for Regulation to prepare Report for public release (relates to Solar Review).		Complete.

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

Papers delivered and under development

Delivered to the Minister for Regulation over the past two weeks

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-131	Ministerial Satisfaction Survey for the period 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026	23/07/2026

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Delivered to the office of the Minister for Regulation over the past two weeks

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-139	Vote Regulation 2026/27 – Responses to post-hearing questions	15/07/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-141	Information release: Removing Offensive Trades from the Health Act 1956	13/08/2026
MFR2026-143	Product Labelling Regulatory Review - draft Cabinet paper for ministerial consultation	28/08/2026

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Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial Activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
July (Date TBC)	TBC	Offensive Trades	Media release/opportunity
July/August (Date TBC)	TBC	Publication of Solar Review report	Media release/opportunity

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
July (Date TBC)	Offensive Trades
July (Date TBC)	Publication of Solar Review report
29 July	Samoa Ministry for Public Enterprises meeting – Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive Organisational Enablement
12 August	Australian Regulatory Reform Inter-Departmental Committee – Chief Executive speaking about regulatory landscape work

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

August (Date TBC)	Thought piece “Distortionary Costs of Regulation” - Chief Economist
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s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

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Updates

Product Labelling Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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

Hospitality Review

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



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

Offensive Trades Review

For information

We have been advised that Minister Brown has agreed to lodge a Cabinet paper for the Cabinet Legislation Committee (LEG) meeting on 6 August 2026. The papers were circulated for Ministerial consultation on 22 July 2026. This pushes our commencement timeframe out to 8 September at the earliest.

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

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Solar Panel Review

For information

Over the past week we have been re-engaging with a limited number of sector participants to test our recommendations. This has included three electricity distribution businesses, and two retailers.

As a result of these discussions, we have made some minor changes to the report, recommendations, and associated documents.

An updated set of papers was provided to you on 23 July 2026. This includes:

- a summary of changes,
- the Review's final report,
- a draft Cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation,
- an A3 summary,
- a short-form report,
- a cost benefit analysis, and
- a summary of engagement.

Depending on which EXP date is chosen, the paper will be considered by Cabinet on either 10 August or 24 August. If the intent is to go to EXP on 4 August, the Cabinet paper would need to be lodged on 30 July. Alternatively, if the intent is to go to EXP on 18 August, it would need to be lodged on 13 August.

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

Red Tape Tipline (including the fuel tipline)

For information

As of 22 July 2026, the Ministry had received:

- 1,833 submissions on potential red tape issues and fuel-related tips (six in the last two weeks)

We continue to work towards the next bundle of deregulatory options to be delivered to you by 6 August 2026.

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

Regulatory System Capability

For information

Education Review Office – Early Childhood Education regulatory function implementation

The Ministry supported the Education Review Office (ERO) in the selection process for their new Director of Regulation. To support the implementation of the new early childhood education regulatory functions and establishment of the Director of Regulation role, we are holding fortnightly catch ups with ERO's Change Manager. This engagement is helping ERO work through practical implementation, regulatory strategy, and good-practice considerations as the functions are established.

The Ministry is connecting with ERO's new Director of Regulation and will continue providing peer and system capability support as these new arrangements move into operation.

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Head of Regulatory System Capability – Media in-depth feature

On 16 July 2026, *The Modern Regulator* (a website covering global regulatory news and interviews) published an in-depth feature, “*Alex McMinn: what 15 years inside New Zealand’s regulatory system teaches you.*” Alex is the Ministry's Head of Regulatory System Capability.

The article discusses New Zealand’s approach to regulatory system capability, including the importance of leadership and governance, the limits of relying primarily on training, and the Ministry’s focus on improving the wider conditions in which regulatory practice occurs.

Responsible AI in Action – Sector Engagement

On 8 July 2026, the Ministry - drawing on its *Responsible AI in Action* guidance - presented to the Department of Internal Affairs’ Regulatory Services Leadership Team on the use of AI in the regulatory environment and discussed how regulatory leaders can use AI responsibly.

The Ministry also presented online to the Government Legal Network (GLN) Seminar on 14 July. The presentation was on practical steps for regulators leading AI innovation with confidence and was tailored to government legal professionals advising regulatory leaders. More than 150 people attended, making it one of GLN’s most popular events.

Responsible AI in Action – Uptake

Since its publication on 28 May 2026, the Ministry’s *Responsible AI in Action* guidance has received 2,445 total downloads across the guidance suite.

Engagement continues to be supported through presentations to regulatory leaders and professional networks. The Ministry is monitoring uptake and feedback to assess whether interest is sustained beyond the initial launch, as well as to inform future guidance and capability support.

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