

Weekly Report

MFR2026-153

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 7 August 2026

Week ending	7 August 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	~~In confidence~~	Tracking number	MFR2026-153

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
A2026-135	Hospitality: MfR to send through overview of updated next steps for Hospitality Review for sharing with Minister Upston's office.	28/07/2026	Completed.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
A2026-137	Innovation Trials: Questions Arising from the Canterbury Club Speech.	07/08/2026	Completed.
A2026-138	Solar Cabinet paper bullet points.	07/08/2026	Completed. See MFR2026-158.
A2026-140	Product Labelling 1-pager of bullet points for the paper being considered at committee.	14/08/2026	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 over the past two weeks

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-143	Product Labelling Regulatory Review – revised Cabinet paper for ministerial consultation	28/07/2026
MFR2026-145	Cover briefing for the Hospitality Review Cabinet paper	04/08/2026
MFR2026-152	Pre-election Baseline Update (PREBU) and Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets – 30 June 2026	05/08/2026
MFR2026-151	Hospitality Review: Food safety regulatory system recommendations	06/08/2026
MFR2026-154	Hospitality Review: Progressing the alcohol regulatory system recommendations	06/08/2026
MFR2026-158	Talking Points for Solar Regulatory Review Cabinet Paper	06/07/2026
MFR2026-159	Licensing trusts and community-led poll thresholds	06/07/2026
MFR2026-155	Hospitality Review: Progressing building regulatory system Recommendations [for Hon Chris Penk]	07/07/2026
MFR2026-156	Hospitality Review: Progressing information flows Recommendations [for Hon Cameron Brewer]	07/07/2026
MFR2026-157	Hospitality Review: Progressing information flows Recommendations [for Hon Simon Watts]	07/07/2026
MFR2026-160	Hospitality Review: Planning and transport recommendations	07/07/2026

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

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-144	[BUDGET SENSITIVE] Regulation performance plan	29/07/2026
MFR2026-146	Memo – Next steps for the Hospitality Review [for Minister McKee]	30/07/2026
MFR2026-147	Memo – Next steps for the Hospitality Review [for Minister Hoggard]	30/07/2026
MFR2026-148	Memo – Next steps for the Hospitality Review [for Minister Bishop]	30/07/2026
MFR2026-149	Memo – Next steps for the Hospitality Review [for Minister Penk]	30/07/2026
MFR2026-150	Memo – Next steps for the Hospitality Review [for Ministers Watts and Brewer]	30/07/2026

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-141	Information release: Removing Offensive Trades from the Health Act 1956	13/08/2026
MFR2026-128	Low Complexity Reviews Deregulatory Options Bundle - August 2026	20/08/2026
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
August (Date TBC)	TBC	Offensive Trades	Media release/ opportunity
August (Date TBC)	TBC	Publication of Product Labelling Review Report	Media release/ opportunity
August (Date TBC)	TBC	Publication of Hospitality Review Report	Media release/ opportunity

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
August (Date TBC)	Offensive Trades
12 August	University of Auckland careers event panel – Deputy Chief Executive Policy
12 August	Australian Regulatory Reform Inter-Departmental Committee – Chief Executive speaking about regulatory landscape work
20 August	MartinJenkins Public Sector Artificial Intelligence breakfast Series – Chief Executive
26 August	Auckland University of Technology postgraduate programme guest lecture – Deputy Chief Executive Policy and Chief Economist
26 August	Internet Service Providers Association of New Zealand Annual Conference presentation – Deputy Chief Executive Reviews and System Capability
August (Date TBC)	Publication of Product Labelling Review report
August (Date TBC)	Publication of Hospitality Review Report
August (Date TBC)	Thought piece “Distortionary Costs of Regulation” - Chief Economist

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

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Updates

Regulatory Impact Analysis requirements for recent fuel response proposal

For information

On 3 August, you asked how the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) requirements applied to a Cabinet paper focused on maintaining temporary tax credit relief in response to high fuel prices.

The RIA requirements do apply to such a proposal and no exemption was granted. The circumstances were not typical because there was a compressed policy development timeframe, but the process followed was still technically non-compliant.

Had an application been made, the proposals in the paper could potentially have been exempted under the 'limited impacts' ground, provided that Inland Revenue and the Treasury conducted enough analysis to be confident of the limited impacts and secondary effects.

Going forward, our training and communications will reinforce with agencies that, even when there are medium or large fiscal impacts for a proposal, a limited impacts exemption is potentially available if the impacts are easy to assess. This should encourage greater compliance with the RIA requirements and the assurance that comes with that.

We will monitor this issue to avoid an outcome where agencies are non-compliant but could comply - with some limited extra analysis - in urgent situations. Noting this proposal could have potentially been exempted, we'll confirm whether this type of fiscal decision is being appropriately treated when we report back following our first review of implementation of the RSA (i.e. in October). We will also, at that point, propose refinements to the system, if our experience to that point suggests they are desirable.

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

Hospitality Review

For information

To progress the Hospitality Review's recommendations, there are two things we wish to achieve over the next few weeks:

- **Public release of the report and announcement** to follow consideration of the Review's Final Report at Cabinet. We are aiming for the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee meeting on 26 August, and Cabinet on 31 August.
- **Direction from portfolio Ministers** to be sought through individual briefings to relevant portfolio Ministers seeking their decisions on whether they wish to progress the relevant recommendations, and if so, how.

We provided memos to portfolio Ministers' offices outlining the above process on 30 July

We have received your agreement to start Ministerial consultation on our draft Cabinet paper and understand we will hear from Minister Upston early in the week of 10 August. We will run agency consultation concurrently with Ministerial consultation.

We have also issued more detailed briefings to the following portfolio Ministers:

- Minister McKee (cc Minister Goldsmith) regarding the alcohol recommendations
- Minister Hoggard regarding the food safety recommendations
- Minister Bishop regarding the transport and planning recommendations

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- Minister Penk regarding the building recommendations
- Ministers Watts and Brewer regarding the information flows recommendations.

We have asked portfolio Ministers to provide you with their decisions on the recommendations in these briefings once they have been made.

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

We have lodged the Cabinet paper for the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) meeting of 10 August, following no feedback requiring changes from Ministerial consultation. We provided you with talking points for this meeting on 5 August. Following CBC, the paper should then be considered by Cabinet on 17 August.

The Review has received substantial and largely favourable media coverage. Coverage has generally endorsed efforts to reduce unnecessary barriers to solar uptake, with particular interest in proposals to streamline approvals and legalise plug-in solar. Reporting has focused on the practical benefits for households, businesses, and farmers, with little evidence of significant opposition to the review's recommendations.

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

Offensive Trades Review

For information

On 6 August, the Cabinet Legislation Committee agreed to the Health (Offensive Trades Removal) Order 2026, which will remove the offensive trades listed in Schedule 3 of the Health Act 1956 from that schedule. This decision should be confirmed at the Cabinet meeting of 10 August and take effect on 10 September.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

An updated Cabinet paper has been distributed for Ministerial consultation, with feedback expected by 12 August. Following Ministerial consultation, we will discuss the timeline for Cabinet consideration with your office.

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

Telecommunications Review

For information

In March, Cabinet agreed to progress 18 of the 22 Review recommendations. Responsibility for implementation sits across multiple agencies. As part of its stewardship role, the Ministry is monitoring progress against the agreed implementation plan.

Implementation of the Review recommendations is progressing. The Minister for Media and Communications issued a Letter of Expectations to the Commerce Commission (Commission) on 29 May to support implementation of recommendations that can be progressed without legislative

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change. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

The Ministry will continue to monitor implementation and provide periodic updates.

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

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 5 August 2026, the Ministry has received:

- 1,850 submissions on potential red tape issues and fuel-related tips (17 in the last two weeks)

Trends remain similar, with most submissions raising issues with how much it costs (in time and/or money) to comply with various regulatory requirements. s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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