

Weekly Report

MFR2026-169

Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report – 18 September 2026

Week ending	18 September 2026	Priority	Medium
Security classification	~~In confidence~~	Tracking number	MFR2026-169

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
A2026-144	Solar Review: Bullet points on what specific recommendations expected to address issues, to support Office drafting response letters.	04/09/2026	Complete.
s 9(2)(f)(iv)			
A2026-146	Provide information on the intended working arrangements with MoJ on implementing the alcohol recommendations from the Hospitality Review.	-	In progress. To be included in the briefing to Minister McKee scheduled before the end of September.
A2026-152	Update on all previous advice/regulatory actions where the Minister has agreed to change but has not been progressed/made public	25/09/2026	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
MFR2026-171	Ministry for Regulation Annual Report 2025-26	11/09/2026

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

Reference	Title	Date delivered
MFR2026-170	Second Opinion on the Cabinet Paper: Targeted amendments to the Privacy Act 2020	08/09/2026
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Under development

Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-172	Information release: Hospitality Review: Release of the Final Report and Approach to Policy Decisions	21/09/2026

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Reference	Title	Due date
MFR2026-175	Regulatory mapping driving our work programme - insights, focus and next steps	24/09/2026
MFR2026-177	Ministry for Regulation Weekly Report - 2 October 2026	02/10/2026
MFR2026-173	Update on fees and levies work programme	07/10/2026
s 9(2)(a)		
MFR2026-165	Future review pipeline progress	31/10/2026

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Announcements & Engagement

Ministerial Activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
October	TBC	Formal announcement of phase one of the Building Review	Media release/event

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
September 21 (Week commencing)	Thought piece “Distortionary Cost of Regulation” – Chief Economist (on Ministry for Regulation site, socials and newsletter)
15 October	Economic Growth Summit 2026 - Canberra Business Chamber – Chief Executive speaking about NZ experience – regulation and productivity.
October (TBC)	Publication of Ministry for Regulation Annual Report
End October (TBC)	National Regulators Community of Practice - <i>The state of New Zealand’s regulatory systems</i> and what comes next. Co-hosted online event.

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

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Updates

Hospitality Review

For information

We are working with agencies on an implementation plan covering all 24 of the Review recommendations and are awaiting decisions on:

- the two information flows recommendations, from the Minister for Small Business and Manufacturing (Minister Brewer) and the Minister for Local Government (Minister Watts).
- the regulatory stewardship recommendation (to repeal the Hotel Association of New Zealand Act 1969). We will prepare a briefing that your office can provide to the Minister of Justice by early next week, seeking approval for this.

Once we have these decisions, we can finalise the implementation plan, including the provision of a briefing specifically on the alcohol recommendations for you and Minister McKee.

One of the recommendations in the review is intended to allow licensed hospitality businesses to provide transport services to patrons without the need for a small passenger service licence and to take payments to cover the costs of those services. When preparing for your transport announcement with Minister Bishop this week, we realised the wording in our recommendation needed to be adjusted. This is because it proposed allowing hospitality businesses to “take donations”. Technically they can already receive “voluntary donations”; the problem we are addressing is that they cannot ask for or require a donation or other payment without engaging the small passenger license requirements

The inaccuracy stems from our use of the word “donation”, so we have adjusted the recommendation in our Final Report to recommend allowing hospitality businesses to “take payments” rather than “take donations”, which clarifies the point.

That change is now reflected in our published Final Report and we have worked with your Office to ensure accuracy in last week’s announcement. As Cabinet did not approve the Review’s recommendations, there is no need to notify Cabinet or seek Cabinet approval of this adjustment.

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

Solar Panel Review

For information

We met with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA), WorkSafe, and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to kick off the cross-agency working group. In January 2027, this group will report to Ministers on the feasibility of trialling an accreditation-based inspection model, allowing remote inspections and spot checks.

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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

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Future Reviews Pipeline

For information

With 24 stakeholder engagements completed to date, development of the future regulatory review pipeline is progressing well. Current work is focused on validating emerging themes, assessing the case for reviews in priority areas, and strengthening and testing the evidence base for potential review topics through engagement with key stakeholders, agencies, and regulators.

We will engage with your office next week to discuss this work and expect to provide advice on potential future review topics by 31 October 2026.

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

Product Labelling Review

For information

We are working with the Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to co-commission the digital standard through Standards New Zealand and are progressing next steps for developing a Cabinet Office Circular requiring agencies to enable the use of digital labelling. The anticipated timing of implementation will be provided to you in our next weekly report.

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

Building Review

For information

Engagement with key stakeholders from the building sector has begun. To date, we have met with Building Advisory Panel, Master Builders, Building Officials Institute of New Zealand, Engineering New Zealand, Farsight Ltd., Homeowners and Buyers Association, Offsite New Zealand, and Wellington City Council. Following more stakeholder meetings over the next two weeks, we will provide you with an update on what we are initially hearing.

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

Red Tape Tipline

For information

As of 16 September 2026, the Ministry had received:

- 1,771 submissions on potential red tape issues and fuel-related tips (12 in the last two weeks)

You will receive the last bundle of deregulatory options for this parliamentary term in October. As well as providing further advice on the two issues you wanted us to progress from the last bundle, candidates for the bundle we are currently considering include (but are not limited to) a:

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

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Regulatory System Capability

For information

AI breakfast series for senior regulatory leaders

We are hosting three breakfast sessions for senior regulatory leaders on the opportunities, risks, and practical application of AI in regulation. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback on the first breakfast session held on 20 August, which focused on the importance of retaining public trust and managing risk.

On 17 September, we held a second session covering how to navigate different AI tools in the market, examples of tools with clear regulatory applications, and how leaders can make informed choices about deployment.

AI Community of Practice presentation

On 18 September, we presented our *Responsible AI in Action* guidance to the Government Chief Digital Officer's AI Community of Practice. The session outlined why AI use in regulation requires particular care, the opportunities it presents for regulatory work, and practical approaches for maintaining sound foundations, human oversight, ethical use, and clear accountability.

The online community includes over 200 representatives from a broad range of central and local government organisations, providing a significant opportunity to increase awareness and uptake of the possibilities of AI in regulatory work and the use of the Ministry's guidance across the public sector.

Supporting the New Zealand Qualifications Authority's (NZQA) integrated quality assurance approach

We presented to NZQA's Quality Assurance Division on 17 September on what it means to operate as a regulator. The session focussed on how NZQA should embed its new integrated quality assurance framework by connecting it with regulatory purpose, strategy, decision making and good regulatory practice.

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

Consistency Accountability Statement Quality

For information

Following your discussion with Andrew Royle, Deputy Chief Executive Policy, after the OEXP meeting on 15 September 2026, we approached the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and our economics team reviewed the Consistency Accountability Statement (CAS) for the Treaty review legislation.

There was no opportunity for alterations to be made prior to introduction as the legislation was introduced late that afternoon. However, we will raise the approach that was taken to the Cost Benefit Analysis with MoJ with a view of improving future Regulatory Analysis Statements and Consistency Accountability Statements, as we consider that it in this case it could have been improved.

We are continuing with our wider programme of lifting capability in undertaking Cost Benefit Analysis and supporting the Regulatory Standards Board in its review role for Consistency Accountability Statements for new legislative proposals.

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