



Weekly Report

Proactively Released

Week ending: 8 August 2025

Priority: Medium

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Recipient

Action sought

Hon David Seymour
MINISTER FOR REGULATION

Note the contents of this report

Aisling Risdon
Contact: s 9(2)(a)
Ministry for Regulation

Minister's comments:

Actions

Action	Due date	Status update
A2025-260	Finalise Ministry work programme for 2025/26 year	August
Complete. See MFR2025-216.		
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation		Date delivered
MFR2025-216	Ministry for Regulation 2025/26 work programme	5 August
MFR2025-218	RRT Weekly Report 4 August 2025	5 August
MFR2025-204	Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets Declaration – 30 June 2025	6 August
MFR2025-209	Update on plans to officially launch Reg Room	6 August
MFR2025-219	Industrial Hemp Regulations Review – 6 August 2025	6 August
MFR2025-220	Regulatory Standards Bill – Recommended amendments following further Ministerial consultation	6 August
MFR2025-221	Draft slide deck for MfR/Advisors Telecommunications meeting on 7 August 2025	7 August
MFR2025-148	Telecommunications Review Initial Options	7 August
MFR2025-224	2025 Legislation Programme: Reassessment of Priorities	8 August

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2025-194	Report on portfolios' compliance with Cabinet's impact analysis requirements	11 August
s 9(2)(f)(iv)		

Announcements & Engagements

Ministerial activity

Date	Location	Details	Opportunity
TBC August	Wellington	Update on Telecommunications review – scene setting for online public consultation	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn MfR key stakeholders' email
21 August	Wellington	Online public consultation starts on draft options for Telecommunications review	Ministerial PR MfR website and LinkedIn MfR key stakeholders' email
26 August	Christchurch	Ministerial address to the Canterbury Club	Speech
27-28 August	Australia	National Regulators Community of Practice conference: <i>Regulation 2025 to 2050: Disruption, Change, and Continuity</i>	Speech
TBC September	Wellington	Launch of 'Reg Room' event hosted by the Ministry	Minister to address small group of regulators
September	Auckland	Minister's speech to Financial Services Council conference	Speech

Ministry for Regulation activity

Date	Details
13 August	Chief Executive panellist with other central agency Chief Executive's – Crown Board Chairs Forum
19 August	Chief Executive webinar – IPANZ/Hapai voices from the centre
21 August (TBC)	Public consultation Telecommunications review
27-28 August	Chief Executive presenting online/ Minister attending the National Regulators Community of Practice conference: <i>Regulation 2025 to 2050: Disruption, Change, and Continuity</i>
TBC late August	Publication of the first RIA compliance reporting on the Ministry website
TBC September	Reg Room Launch event and public sector communications campaign
10 September	Chief Executive panellist Financial Services Council Annual Conference - <i>small, strategic changes to financial regulation that can shape a better future for New Zealanders</i>

Contact: Joe Stockman, Head of Engagement | s 9(2)(a)

Monthly highlights for July 2025

Delivery Highlights

Establishing the framework for good regulation

- Analysis of Regulatory Standards Bill submissions completed s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Progressively improving our regulation

- Hairdressing & Barbering Review: Revocation of Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 took effect on 31 July and Ministry of Health Guidance was published, completing the implementation of the review recommendations
- Early Childhood Education: The Education and Training (Early Childhood Education Reform) Amendment Bill was introduced, which will implement a number of ECE review recommendations as part of broader education reforms
- Cabinet approved new sector reviews for product labelling s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- Telco Review: Results of targeted stakeholder engagement reported to the Ministers for Regulation and Media & Communications

Engaging New Zealanders

- Chief Adviser meeting with Westpac
- Engagement with private sector stakeholders for the Telco Review and the Product Labelling Review
- Webinar presentation by the Manager, Regulatory Policy Design at an NZIER event

Broadcasting progress


- Ministerial press release welcoming confirmation of two large medical conferences coming to New Zealand
- Red tape tipline quarterly report published

Updates

Regulatory Standards Bill

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)




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

Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review

For discussion

s 9(2)(f)(iv)



Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Telecommunications Review

For information

We have provided you and Minister Goldsmith with a briefing that sets out the Review team's initial findings and the options that we intend to publicly consult on. We will discuss this advice with you on 12 August at our Agency meeting and then at the joint Ministers' meeting on 13 August.

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Industrial Hemp

For information

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Contact: Peter Clark, Manager, Regulatory Reviews | s 9(2)(a)

Product Labelling Review

For information

The Product Labelling Review was announced publicly on 7 August. The Review team are in Stage One of the Review's two-stage engagement approach. During this stage we are engaging widely with affected businesses, industry groups, and other stakeholders to understand regulatory 'pain points' associated with product labelling requirements.

The Engagement Hub opened for submissions on 30 July and as of 5 August. The Engagement Hub will remain open until 20 August.

Targeted direct engagement with regulated parties and representative groups are in progress.

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

Hairdressing and Barbering

For information

The Health (Hairdressers) Regulations 1980 were revoked on 31 July 2025. The Ministry has no further role until the post-implementation review scheduled for August 2027. As such, we will not be providing further updates until that review is underway.

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

Regulatory Response Team / Red Tape Portal

For information

As of 5 August, the Ministry has received a total of 857 submissions on red tape issues. We currently have 33 investigations underway, (relating to 133 public submissions). We have closed 649 submissions and have 75 awaiting closure or investigation. The latest RRT report was provided to your office on 5 August (**MFR2025-218**). As a result of media coverage of the Red Tape Portal this week, the number of new submissions has spiked. We will provide a further update at the Agency meeting on 12 August.

We are awaiting direction from your office on the issues outlined on the following page.

Table 1: Issues awaiting further direction from your office

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Overweight Agricultural Vehicles (RRT2025-0740) (MFR2025-153)	Part of transport bundle	25 June 2025	Issues incorporated into a transport bundle which we will provide you with advice on in due course.

We are actively investigating the issues in **Table 2**. This is not a full view of all investigative work that is occurring, rather only those issues that we will be providing advice to you, or your office, on shortly.

Table 2: Issues under investigation

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

Swimming pools (frequency of inspections/compliance requirements) (MFR2025-186)	Investigation into public submissions	Investigating

s 9(2)(f)(iv)

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As per the briefing discussed at the Agency meeting on 4 August on the regulatory reviews framework and approach, we will be moving to briefing you periodically with advice about deregulatory actions you can pursue.

Contact: Lucy Pritchard, Principal Advisor, Reviews and System Capability s 9(2)(a)

Regulatory System Capability updates

For information

Regulatory Practice Essentials - Quick Guides

Last week, four more Quick Guides from the Regulatory Practice Essentials project were released on the Ministry for Regulation website¹. They are:

- Regulatory approaches, models and tools
- Evidence-informed regulatory practice
- The law and judiciary
- Investigations and evidence

The Quick Guides set the Ministry's expectations around regulatory practice in a format that is easily understood. They are aimed at people at all levels of organisations who are new to regulatory practice. The first six guides were released in October 2024 and have been very well received. There have been 2368 downloads to date.

Each guide is supported by a free interactive module that agencies can deploy to their staff as well, using the Ministry's RegRoom learning management platform. The next four modules are nearing completion and due for release shortly.

We are working with your office on your speaking points for the Brisbane National Regulators Community of Practice (NRCoP) conference dinner in August, referring to the suite of Quick Guides and modules.

Regulatory sandbox guidance for agencies

The Ministry is developing guidance for using regulatory sandboxes in the New Zealand context. A regulatory sandbox is a time-limited environment where selected, volunteer firms can test innovations with certain rules temporarily paused, giving both the regulator and the firms a safe space to learn and evaluate the results.

The guidance's purpose is to demystify sandboxes and reduce barriers to their use. This should increase the adaptability of regulatory systems for innovation and changing circumstances.

The guidance is aimed at leadership teams and Ministers. It will cover topics such as the value, communicating with the public about risk, making a good start, and evaluating at the end.

We will be engaging with the Financial Markets Authority (the only New Zealand agency to have managed a sandbox), and some overseas agencies with relevant experience. We will update you on the timeframe for release of this material over the coming weeks.

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

¹ [Ministry for Regulation](#) | [Ministry for Regulation](#)

Recruitment and Workforce Update

For information

Graduate Programme

The Ministry has launched its inaugural graduate programme, advertising four graduate roles in the following teams:

- Economics
- Digital and Insights
- Reviews and System Capability
- Ministerial Services

Applications are being accepted from 14 July – 10 August. As at 8 August, 290 applications have been received.

Alongside online advertising, we have attended careers expos at Victoria University of Wellington, University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology. We also promoted the graduate programme at a guest lecture by our Chief Economist at the Canterbury University Economics and Finance Department on 6 August.

Candidates will be shortlisted over the coming weeks, with interviews taking place in September and offers being made soon thereafter.

The successful four graduates will commence their roles in late February 2026 and undertake a structured development programme over two years.

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