



COVERSHEET



Ministers	Hon Nicola Willis	Portfolio	Finance
	Hon Simeon Brown		State Owned Enterprises
	Hon Dr Shane Reti		Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Weather Forecasting System Implementation Recommendations	Date to be published	27 June 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
March 2025	Weather Forecasting System Implementation Recommendations	Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology
April 2025	Cabinet minute: ECO-25-MIN-0025.1	Cabinet Office
March 2025	Weather Forecasting System Implementation Recommendations Regulatory Impact Statement	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
11 December 2025	Briefing REQ-0005324/T2024/3355: Weather Forecasting System – Final Decisions and Implementation Matters	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Treasury
30 January 2025	Briefing REQ-0008086: Weather Forecasting Cabinet Paper	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
9 April 2025	Letter to MetService	Hon Simon Brown
9 April 2025	Letter to NIWA	Hon Dr Shane Reti

Information redacted

YES / NO *(please select)*

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of confidential advice to government, protecting privacy of an individual, commercial information, free and frank opinions and legal professional privilege.

The term "officials" used throughout the material refers to MBIE and Treasury. Other agencies are specifically named.



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Weather Forecasting System Implementation Recommendations

Portfolios **Finance / State Owned Enterprises / Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 2 April 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee (ECO):

- 1 **noted** that, in September 2024, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee agreed in-principle to the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA) acquiring the Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited (MetService), with MetService being initially retained as New Zealand's authorised meteorologist, subject to further work being completed [EXP-25-MIN-0051];
- 2 **noted** the additional advice provided in the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0025 in respect of the acquisition transaction, competition issues, data access arrangements, Treaty of Waitangi considerations, funding and monitoring arrangements, and other implementation matters;
- 3 **agreed** that NIWA will acquire MetService as a wholly-owned subsidiary, with MetService being initially retained as New Zealand's authorised meteorologist;
- 4 **agreed** to the acquisition of MetService by NIWA being exempt from the Part 3 (business acquisitions) of the Commerce Act 1986;
- 5 **noted** that, to allow the acquisition of MetService by NIWA, MetService must cease to be a State-owned enterprise;
- 6 **agreed** that MetService will cease to be a State-owned enterprise and removed from the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986, and become a Crown-company subsidiary;
- 7 **agreed** to repeal provisions relating to MetService from the State-Owned Enterprises (Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited and Vehicle Testing New Zealand Limited) Amendment Act 1999;
- 8 **noted** that shareholding Ministers (Minister of Finance and Minister for State Owned Enterprises) will set increased expectations for NIWA and MetService to improve weather data access arrangements and seek a report-back to shareholding Ministers and the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, up to three years post-acquisition;
- 9 **agreed** that NIWA and MetService will be required by legislation to publish their policies on observational weather data access, terms, pricing principles, and processes on their websites;

- 10 **agreed** to NIWA acquiring MetService as a wholly-owned subsidiary at the value of the Crown’s initial equity investment in MetService as reflected in Vote Finance, being \$5.0 million;
- 11 **noted** that NIWA will return capital to the Crown through the payment of the purchase price for MetService’s shares;
- 12 **noted** that the cost of the equity investment described in paragraph 10 above is fully offset by the return of capital in paragraph 11 above, with the result that the transaction is fiscally neutral overall for the Crown across the forecast period;
- 13 **agreed** to establishing the following new multi-year appropriation, to run from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2027:

Vote	Appropriation Minister	Appropriation Administrator	Title	Type	Scope
Vote Business, Science and Innovation	Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Science, Innovation and Technology: NIWA Acquisition of MetService	Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure	The appropriation is limited to the purchase of MetService Limited shares by the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited.

- 14 **approved** the following change to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 10 above, with no impact on net core Crown debt:

Vote Business, Science and Innovation Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology	\$m – increase/(decrease)			
	2024/25	2025/26 to 2026/27	2027/28	2028/29 & outyears
Non-Departmental Capital Expenditure:	-	5.000	-	-
Science, Innovation and Technology: NIWA Acquisition of MetService				
Total Capital	-	5.000	-	-

15 **noted** that the indicative spending profile for the new multi-year appropriation in paragraph 14 above is as follows:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				2028/29 & outyears
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Vote Business, Science and Innovation					
Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology					
Non-departmental Capital Expenditure:	-	5.000	-	-	-
Science, Innovation and Technology: NIWA Acquisition of MetService					

16 **noted** the following changes as a result of the decision in paragraph 11 above, with no impact on net core Crown debt:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				2028/29 & Outyears
	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	
Vote Finance					
Minister of Finance					
Crown Capital Receipts	-	5.000	-	-	-
Total Capital	-	(5.000)	-	-	-

17 **agreed** that shareholding Ministers should consider options to mitigate transition risks over the three-year period post-acquisition, including on the development of a methodology with NIWA and MetService to ensure efficiencies from the integration are fairly reinvested into the Weather Forecasting System, and deliver improvements to the system;

18 **noted** that MetService will continue to engage with relevant Iwi on the changes to the weather forecasting system, including with those in relation to MetService’s land and those with existing contractual agreements during the transition period;

19 **invited** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office for the preparation of a bill to give effect to the above decisions;

20 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to further clarify, develop and make decisions on additional policy and/or technical matters to be included in the bill which are consistent with the intent of the paper under ECO-25-SUB-0025.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present (see over)

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Todd McClay
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ECO