



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Judith Collins, KC	Portfolio	Space
Title of briefing	Introduction of the High-Altitude Activities Amendment Bill	Date to be published	10 October 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2025	Introduction of the High-Altitude Activities Amendment Bill	Office of the Minister for Space
17 July 2025	Introduction of the High-Altitude Activities Amendment Bill LEG-25-MIN-0135 Minute	Cabinet Office
9 July 2025	Regulatory Impact Statement: Ground Based Space Infrastructure Regulatory Regime	MBIE

Information redacted

YES / NO

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 protecting national security and confidential advice made to Government.



Cabinet Legislation 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.

Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

Portfolio **Space**

On 17 July 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 2 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (must be passed by the end of 2025);
- 2 **noted** that in April 2025, Cabinet agreed to implement a registration regime under the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 (the Act) to manage national interest risks posed by ground-based space infrastructure (GBSI), and made associated policy decisions [CAB-25-MIN-0132];

Further policy decisions

- 3 **agreed** that the Bill should not require the Responsible Minister to consult with other security Ministers on GBSI applications, but that the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment will consult relevant agencies where necessary;
- 4 **agreed** to a power for the Responsible Minister to issue an order requiring a GBSI operator to dispose of their interest or right in the GBSI, and an associated power to issue directions to electricity retailers and internet service providers to stop supply to the GBSI to prevent continued operation of the GBSI pending disposal, if necessary to protect the national interest;
- 5 **agreed** to a power which allows an enforcement officer or constable, if someone fails to comply with a disposal order, to apply to the District Court for a forfeiture order vesting the interest or right to operate that which was the subject of the disposal in the Crown, and authorising the officer or constable to dispose of that interest or right;
- 6 **agreed** that enforcement officers have the power to take reasonable steps to disable the infrastructure, and conduct inspections and assessments where it is appropriate;
- 7 **agreed** that the existing offences of providing false information in connection with a licence or permit should be broadened to apply to the provision of false and misleading information for any purpose under the Act and should be extended to the GBSI regime;
- 8 **agreed** that the offences of \$5000 for an individual and \$50,000 for a body corporate for failing without reasonable excuse to comply, with a direction be included in the Act;

- 9 **agreed** to rescind the offence for supplying false information in the course of an audit or inspection, previously agreed to by Cabinet in April 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0132], as this will be covered by an existing offence for providing false and misleading information to an enforcement officer;
- 10 **agreed** to amend the existing offence in the Act relating to the provision of false and misleading information so that it extends to all information provided to the Responsible Minister under the Act;
- 11 **agreed** that GBSI authorisation holders be required to seek approval for change of control or transfer of interest in the authorisation holder;
- 12 **agreed** to rescind paragraph 12 under CAB-25-MIN-0132, which agreed that a power for the regulator to share information with the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) and New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) be included in the Bill, as the Act already provides for information sharing;
- 13 **agreed** to a new regulation-making power that would allow the making of regulations which would further define the term ‘operate’ to clarify its meaning in the context of novel technologies and business operating models;
- 14 **agreed** that the Bill set out the GBSI activities that are out of scope of the regime, subject to regulations which will allow amendments to be made;
- 15 **agreed** to rescind paragraph 20 under CAB-25-MIN-0132, which agreed to a 1 March 2026 date for operator authorisation;
- 16 **agreed** that GBSI authorisation be required by the earlier of either the date the regulations related to GBSI made under the Act come into force or 29 July 2026;
- 17 **agreed** that, in addition to the persons that Cabinet agreed that the GBSI regime would not apply to [CAB-25-MIN-0132], the regime will also not apply to:
- 17.1 persons who operate GBSI in a defence area with the consent of the New Zealand Defence Force;
- 17.2 persons who operate GBSI in premises owned or occupied by the NZSIS and the GCSB;

Approval and introduction of the Bill

- 18 **approved** the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Amendment Bill [PCO 24485/12.0] for introduction;
- 19 **agreed** that the Bill be introduced by 22 July 2025;
- 20 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be progressed under urgency and enacted by 29 July 2025 to manage national security risks;
- 21 **authorised** the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make changes to the Bill, consistent with the decisions under LEG-25-MIN-0135, up until the Bill is printed for introduction.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Attendance: (See over)

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon James Meager
Stuart Smith, MP
Todd Stephenson, MP
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG
Office of the Minister for Space