



## COVERSHEET

|                               |                                                                                                          |                             |                                    |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Minister</b>               | Hon Dr Shane Reti                                                                                        | <b>Portfolio</b>            | Science, Innovation and Technology |
| <b>Title of Cabinet paper</b> | Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction | <b>Date to be published</b> | 21 November 2025                   |

### List of documents that have been proactively released

| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Title</b>                                                                                                                           | <b>Author</b>                                                |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 2025 | Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction                               | Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology |
| October 2025 | Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction<br><br>LEG-25-MIN-0204 Minute | Cabinet Office                                               |

### Information redacted

**YES**

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 reason of free and frank opinions.



# Cabinet Legislation Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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### Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill: Approval for Introduction

**Portfolio**                      **Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 16 October 2025, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1        **noted** that in April 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to make changes to New Zealand's Weather Forecasting System, following a comprehensive review performed by Sapere [ECO-25-MIN-0025.01];
- 2        **noted** that the Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill (the Bill) holds a category 5 priority on the 2025 Legislation Programme (to proceed to select committee by the end of 2025);
- 3        **noted** that the Bill amends the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986 (the SOEs Act) and a number of other Acts, in terms of transitional and consequential amendments and includes a provision for greater transparency over weather data access policies;
- 4        **noted** that the Bill implements the changes to the weather forecasting system agreed by Cabinet, and related decisions on this legislation, including:
  - 4.1       removing Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited (MetService) from the SOEs Act to allow National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Limited (NIWA), now New Zealand Institute for Earth Science Limited (NZIES), to acquire MetService as a wholly-owned subsidiary through an acquisition transaction;
  - 4.2       repealing provisions relating to MetService from the State-Owned Enterprises (Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited and Vehicle Testing New Zealand Limited) Amendment Act 1999, which have never been brought into force, and which will become redundant with the commencement of this Bill;
  - 4.3       exempting the acquisition transaction from Part 3 of the Commerce Act 1986;
  - 4.4       amending the Crown Research Institutes Act 1992 to require NZIES to publish its observational weather data access policies;
  - 4.5       including a number of transitional, savings, enabling, and consequential provisions to implement and reflect these changes, such as ensuring the Government Superannuation Fund (GSF) entitlements of relevant employees at MetService are not affected by MetService ceasing to be a State enterprise and ensuring that they remain should MetService employees come to be employed at NZIES, as a result of

any future merger between MetService and NZIES, or following and as a result of a restructure and/or transfer of MetService's functions into NZIES;

- 5 **noted** that Cabinet authorised the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology (the Minister) 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 [ECO-25-MIN-0025.01];
- 6 **noted** that under the authorisation referred to in paragraph 5, the Minister made the following decisions:
- 6.1 the inclusion of the following transitional and savings provisions to ensure that MetService ceasing to be a State enterprise, and/or the proposed acquisition of MetService by NIWA (now NZIES) does not, in itself:
- 6.1.1 alter any contractual agreement, deed, arrangement, obligation, or right;
  - 6.1.2 trigger redundancies and severance payments;
  - 6.1.3 release any surety wholly or in part from any obligation;
  - 6.1.4 invalidate or discharge any contract or security;
  - 6.1.5 give rise to a claim for breach of contract;
  - 6.1.6 break any person's employment for the purposes of any provision of an employment contract relating to continuity of service, unless the MetService Board specifically seeks to achieve such a result;
  - 6.1.7 break any person's Government service for the purposes of the Government Superannuation Fund Act 1956 (if that person is a contributor to the Government Superannuation Fund), including a 'future-proofing' scenario should relevant MetService employees come to be employed at NZIES following a future merger or restructuring of MetService into NZIES;
- 6.2 the following technical and consequential amendments, to preserve existing legal positions and avoid unintended consequences, and to reflect MetService ceasing to be a State enterprise:
- 6.2.1 removing MetService from Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Ombudsmen Act 1975, Schedule 1 of the Official Information Act 1982, and Part A of Schedule 36 of the Income Tax Act 2007;
  - 6.2.2 revoking the State-Owned Enterprises Order 1992;
  - 6.2.3 continuing to apply section 22 of the SOEs Act to MetService, despite it ceasing to be a State enterprise, while Ministers of the Crown are shareholders in MetService on behalf of the Crown;
  - 6.2.4 continuing to apply sections 23 to 30 of the SOEs Act, and any Orders in Council made and Gazette notices given under those sections, to MetService indefinitely, and irrespective of whether Ministers of the Crown hold shares in MetService on behalf of the Crown, as if MetService were a State enterprise, despite it ceasing to be one;

6.2.5 providing, for the avoidance of doubt, that each Minister of the Crown who holds shares in MetService on behalf of the Crown may exercise all, or any of the Crown's rights and powers as the holder of those shares, despite MetService ceasing to be a State enterprise;

7 **authorised:**

7.1 the Minister to approve minor and technical changes to the Bill, prior to introduction;

7.2 the Parliamentary Counsel Office to make minor proofreading and editorial changes to the Bill, prior to introduction;

8 **approved** the Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill [PCO 27112/8.0] for introduction;

9 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be introduced at the next available opportunity;

10 **agreed** that the Government propose that the Bill be referred to the Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee for a period of four months.

Tom Kelly  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Hon Chris Bishop (Chair)  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Tama Potaka  
Hon Nicole McKee  
Hon Casey Costello  
Hon James Meager  
Stuart Smith, MP  
Todd Stephenson, MP  
Jamie Arbuckle, MP

**Officials present from:**

Officials Committee for LEG  
Office of the Leader of the House