



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Shane Jones	Portfolio	Resources
Title of Cabinet paper	Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025	Date to be published	23 January 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
November 2025	Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025	Office of Minister for Resources
13 November 2025	Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 LEG-25-MIN-0230 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

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.

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Resources

Cabinet Legislation Committee

Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025

Proposal

- 1 This paper recommends that Cabinet authorises the submission of the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 ('the amendment regulations') to the Executive Council.

Policy

- 2 The purpose of the amendment regulations is to accelerate the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment's (MBIE's) release of annual gas reserve and forecast data, by requiring permit and licence holders to submit their annual reports one month earlier (by 1 March, instead of 31 March), beginning in 2026.
- 3 These reports include production data, reserve levels, contingent resources, and forecasts as at 1 January of each year. The data is verified and reviewed by MBIE and is currently published in the middle of the year (typically in July). That is, many months after measurements were originally taken.
- 4 The existing 31 March publication date is no longer fit-for-purpose in light of the steady decline in New Zealand's gas reserves (as of 1 January 2025 natural gas reserves have reduced 27 per cent, compared to 2024) and the need by households and businesses for more timely information on gas availability.
- 5 Timeliness can be improved by requiring permit and licence holders to submit their reports one month earlier. Combined with efficiency gains from MBIE's internal processes, this would considerably accelerate the overall publication timeline and provide the market with more up-to-date information on gas reserves and forecasts (e.g. to allow for the data to be released by end of April and several months earlier than current practice).
- 6 In September 2025, MBIE conducted targeted consultation on this change with stakeholders (permit and licence holders) and iwi and hapū. Seven submissions were received. Their feedback is described in the Consultation section, below.
- 7 I am satisfied, following consultation, that the amended publication date can be met by industry.

- 8 On 22 September 2025, the Cabinet Business Committee gave delegated authority to the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Resources to amend Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007 (the Regulations) [CBC-25-MIN-0054].
- 9 On 21 October 2025, Ministers with delegated authority agreed to the implementation of the date change and invited me to instruct the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) to draft the necessary amendments to the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007 regulations 38(1), 39(1), 40(1) and 41(1) to implement these changes.
- 10 I propose that the amendment regulations are submitted to the Executive Council.
- 11 There are no financial implications for the government, and no cost-of-living implications arising from this paper.

Timing and 28-day rule

- 12 The Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment (No 2) Regulations 2025 are proposed to come into force on 18 December. No waiver of the 28-day rule is sought.

Compliance

- 13 The draft amendment regulations comply with:
 - 13.1 principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
 - 13.2 rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993
 - 13.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020
 - 13.4 relevant international standards and obligation, and
 - 13.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.

Regulations Review Committee

- 14 There are no grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw the amendment regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 327.

Certification by Parliamentary Counsel

- 15 The PCO has certified the amendment regulations as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

Impact Analysis

- 16 The Ministry for Regulation has determined that this proposal is exempt from the requirement to provide a Regulatory Impact Statement on the grounds that it has no or only minor economic, social, or environmental impacts.

Publicity

- 17 When final policy decisions on the date change were made by Ministers with delegated authority on 13 November 2025, iwi and hapū, permit and licence holders and permit applicants were directly informed of this decision by MBIE.
- 18 The amendment regulations are proposed to come into force on 18 December 2025. Prior to the amended regulations coming into force, the industry will be informed through electronic media. There will also be a further direct mail out to iwi and hapū, permit and licence holders and permit applicants.

Proactive Release

- 19 MBIE will proactively release this Cabinet paper and the accompanying Cabinet minute within 30 business days of Cabinet decisions. No redactions are proposed.

Consultation

- 20 MBIE conducted targeted consultation with stakeholders (permit and licence holders) and iwi and hapū in September and October 2025. In total, seven submissions were received. No submissions were received from iwi and hapū.
- 21 Two submitters proposed an alternative date of 1 March and said that this date change will be possible starting 1 March 2026. Although other submitters did not offer an alternative date, they did outline reasons why an earlier date of 1 February (as originally proposed in the consultation) was not a workable option. The reasons included that final or audited data might not be available; unforeseen events could delay submissions and risk regulatory non-compliance; there may be insufficient time for iwi to provide feedback on the iwi engagement report; and there may be resource pressure due to staff and consultants being unavailable during January.
- 22 The regulator, New Zealand Petroleum and Minerals, has been consulted on this paper. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has been informed.

Recommendations

The Minister for Resources recommends that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **Note** that on 22 September 2025, Cabinet agreed to give the Minister for Energy, and the Minister for Resources delegated authority to amend the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Regulations 2007 [CBC-25-MIN-0054];

IN CONFIDENCE

- 2 **Note** that on 21 October 2025 the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Resources agreed to amend the Regulations, to require petroleum permit and licence holders to submit their annual reports 30 days earlier (by 1 March, instead of 31 March, from 2026);
- 3 **Note** that updated regulations are considered appropriate given that New Zealand's gas reserves are in steady decline, and there is a need to provide the market with more up-to-date information on gas reserves and forecasts;
- 4 **Note** that the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 will give effect to the decisions above;
- 5 **Authorise** the submission to the Executive Council of the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025;
- 6 **Note** that the Crown Minerals (Petroleum) Amendment Regulations (No 2) 2025 come into force on 18 December 2025.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Resources