



COVERSHEET

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| Minister | Hon Judith Collins, KC | Portfolio | Space |
| Title of Cabinet paper | Approval to amend Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 | Date to be published | 24 February 2026 |

| List of documents that have been proactively released | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| Date | Title | Author |
| February 2026 | Approval to amend Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 | Office of the Minister for Space |
| 18 February 2026 | Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017: Proposed Amendments ECO-26-MIN-0013 Minute | Cabinet Office |

Information redacted

YES

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Some information has been withheld for the reason of legal professional privilege.



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

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Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017: Proposed Amendments

Portfolio Space

On 18 February 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 29 July 2025, the Outer Space High-altitude Activities Amendment Act 2025 came into force, inserting a new regulatory regime for ground-based space infrastructure (GBSI) in the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017;
- 2 **noted** that operators currently hold transitional authorisations until 29 July 2026 or an earlier date when new regulations come into force;
- 3 **agreed** to amend the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 to apply the general requirements for applications that are set out in regulations 5, 6 and 14 to GBSI authorisations;
- 4 **agreed** that the applicant identity information requirements in schedule 2 of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 be extended to GBSI authorisations;
- 5 **agreed** to include a new GBSI specific schedule in the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 that will require applicants to provide the following information:
 - 5.1 a description of the GBSI that includes the location of the GBSI and the nature of the technology (e.g. radio, optical) and the equipment being used and;
 - 5.2 a description of the activities to be performed by the GBSI, including:
 - 5.2.1 where the GBSI supports the operator's own regulated activities, a description of the regulated activities including a description of the space object or objects with which the GBSI is communicating with, identifying or surveilling, and the activity or activities the space object or objects are carrying out (e.g. commercial remote sensing); and
 - 5.2.2 where the GBSI is operated on behalf of, or for the benefit of, another person in the case of research collaborations: a description of the regulated activities that are being carried out on behalf of that person, or persons and the purposes for which the services are being provided;

5.2.3 where the GBSI is being operated on behalf of another person or persons (for example the provision of commercial ground station services to partners), information required to be provided will include partner identity information, a description of the regulated activities that are being carried out on behalf of that person, or persons;

6 **agreed** that the partner identity information that will be required will be:

6.1 in the case of an individual, the name and nationality of the partner, and the country in which the partner is based;

6.2 in the case of a body corporate, name, contact details, legal form, registered office address, unique identification number, and place of incorporation;

6.3 in the case of an entity that is neither an individual nor a body corporate, information required to be provided will include their name, contact details, legal form, and the address of its registered office or principal place of business;

7 **agreed** that requirements to update partner identity information will be imposed through authorisation conditions with the frequency of update reports being determined by the responsible Minister having regard to the nature of the GBSI operations;

8 **agreed** that operators will only have to provide a nil report if there have been no changes during the reporting period;

9 **agreed** that confidential information, such as partner information, can only be used and disclosed to a public service agency for the purpose of, or in connection with, the management of national interest including national security, and, if the receiving agency is the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service or the Government Communications Security Bureau, for the performance of their functions under the Intelligence and Security Act 2017;

10 **noted** that officials will develop protocols to protect commercially sensitive information (including partner information);

11 **agreed** that the regulations will come into force by 29 July 2026 and operators will be provided appropriate time to comply with the prescribed requirements after the regulations are made in April 2026;

12 **invited** the Minister for Space to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to amend the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 to give effect to the decisions above;

13 **noted** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will issue guidance to support operators in complying with the new regime;

14 **noted** that MBIE will manage any costs associated with implementing the above regime.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of Hon Judith Collins KC
Officials Committee for ECO