



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Paul Goldsmith	<b>Portfolio</b>	Media and Communications
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Renewal of AM-FM Sound Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licences	<b>Date to be published</b>	20 March 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
December 2025	Renewal of AM-FM Sound Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licences	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
16 December 2025	Renewal of AM-FM Sound Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licences EXP-25-MIN-0126 Minute	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

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Some information has been withheld for the reasons of confidentiality, commercial information, and improper pressure or harrassment.



# Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Renewal of AM-FM Sound Broadcasting Radio Spectrum Licences

**Portfolio**                      **Media and Communications**

On 9 December 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

#### Establishment of Management Rights

- 1        **agreed** that the AM and FM sound broadcasting management rights, which expire on 2 April 2031, are renewed for 20 years, from 3 April 2031 to 2 April 2051, with two management rights to be created for the purposes of sound broadcasting from 0.521-1.612 MHz and 88.4-106.63 MHz, respectively;
- 2        **agreed** that the radio spectrum previously allocated for the National Youth Block reservation be repurposed primarily for commercial broadcasting except for the Auckland frequency which the Minister for Media and Communications proposes be provided to the National Pacific Media Trust until April 2, 2031;
- 3        **agreed** that radio spectrum previously allocated for the National Māori Block reservation will continue to be reserved for Māori and iwi use, but may not necessarily be reserved for a single nationwide network;
- 4        **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications and the Minister for Māori Development to make further decisions on the spectrum which makes up the current National Māori Block reservation, subject to reporting back to Cabinet on any decisions made under this authority;

#### Commercial broadcasting

- 5        **agreed** that current commercial broadcasters be offered a single renewal offer based on a total industry value of \$29 million for current licenses, with any licences not taken up through the renewal process offered to the market competitively;
- 6        **agreed** that the commercial arrangement offered for licences in the post-April 2031 management right will provide flexibility for broadcasters to either pay for each five-year period as it approaches, or else relinquish their spectrum assets, which recognises the uncertainty currently being experienced by the sector, but comes at the cost of certainty of revenue for the Crown;
- 7        **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to make decisions around the final terms of renewal offers for commercial broadcasters;

**Local Commercial FM**

- 8 **agreed** that the Local Commercial FM licence type be wound up in 2031, with operators offered the option of transitioning to either a commercial or community licence;

**Community broadcasting**

- 9 **authorised** the Minister for Media and Communications to make final decisions around the renewal process for community radio;

**Iwi radio**

- 10 **agreed** that the current spectrum reserved for iwi radio broadcasting be retained;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister for Māori Development to make final decisions around the renewal process for iwi radio;

**Financial recommendations**

- 12 **noted** that as a result of the decision in paragraphs 5 and 6 above, the estimated increase in Crown Non-Tax Revenue: Radio Spectrum is forecasted to be \$1.625 million per annum over the 20 years period from 2031/32;
- 13 **noted** that changes in the forecast Crown Non-Tax Revenue: Radio Spectrum will be updated as part of baseline updates for the forecast period.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour (Chair)  
Hon Nicola Willis  
Hon Brooke van Velden  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Paul Goldsmith  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Judith Collins KC  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson

**Officials present from:**

Office of Hon Judith Collins KC  
Office of Hon Simon Watts  
Officials Committee for EXP