



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Paul Goldsmith	<b>Portfolio</b>	Media and Communications
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Approval to Amend Radio Spectrum Licencing Fees and Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026	<b>Date to be published</b>	15 April 2026

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
October 2025	Approval to Amend Radio Spectrum Licencing Fees	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
15 October 2025	Radio Spectrum Licensing Fees: Proposed Amendments ECO-25-MIN-0162 Minute	Cabinet Office
March 2026	Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026	Office of the Minister for Media and Communications
5 March 2026	Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026 LEG-26-MIN-0037 Minute	Cabinet Office
19 September 2025	Stage 2 Cost Recovery Impact Statement: Increasing Radio Spectrum Management Licensing Fees	MBIE

### Information redacted

**YES / NO** (please select)

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.



# Cabinet Economic Policy 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.*

### Radio Spectrum Licensing Fees: Proposed Amendments

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

On 15 October 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1        **noted** that the administration of radio spectrum licences, authorised by the Radiocommunications Act 1989 and the Radiocommunications Regulations 2001, is funded by fees which are currently set below cost to reduce a surplus in the Media and Communications: Management and Enforcement of the Radiocommunications Act 1989 departmental appropriation (the departmental appropriation);
- 2        **noted** that the departmental appropriation memorandum account is forecast to enter a deficit by 30 June 2026;
- 3        **noted** that the current cost recovery settings cannot fully recover the current appropriation and increased costs of radio spectrum management, making it unsustainable and inefficient for the future;
- 4        **agreed** to amend the Radiocommunications Regulations 2001 to reflect the following fee increase to enable full cost recovery of the regime:

Fee category		New fee (GST inclusive)
A	Amateur radio and spectrum licence	\$66.00
B	Land mobile radio licence fee (up to 5 repeaters or pagers)	\$800.00
C	Land mobile radio licence fee (unlimited repeaters or pagers)	\$1,800.00
D	Standard licence fee	\$190.00

- 5        **agreed** to increase the funding for Radio Spectrum Management by \$2.458 million to recover costs associated with administering the radio spectrum management system over the next five years;

6 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decisions in paragraphs 4 and 5 above, with no corresponding impact on the operating balance and net debt:

Vote Business, Science and Innovation Minister for Media and Communications	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Departmental Output Expenses: Media and Communications: Management and Enforcement of the <i>Radiocommunications Act 1989</i> (funded by revenue other)	-	2.458	2.458	2.458	2.458

**Authorisation for drafting instructions and minor or technical changes**

7 **invited** the Minister for Media and Communications (the Minister) to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to paragraph 4 above;

8 **authorised** the Minister to make policy decisions, consistent with the policy decisions above, on any minor or technical matters that may arise during the drafting process;

**Final approval**

9 **noted** that the Minister intends to seek Cabinet approval of regulations in the first quarter of 2026 to enable the fees to come into effect from 1 July 2026.

Rachel Clarke  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon David Seymour  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Paul Goldsmith (Chair)  
Hon Louise Upston  
Hon Simon Watts  
Hon Andrew Hoggard  
Hon Mark Patterson  
Hon James Meager  
Hon Scott Simpson  
Simon Court MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of Hon Scott Simpson  
Officials Committee for ECO