



## 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.

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Office of the Minister for Media and Communications  
Chair, Cabinet Legislation Committee

**Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026**

**Proposal**

- 1 This paper seeks authorisation for lodgement of the *Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026* to the Executive Council.

**Policy**

- 2 On 15 October 2025, Cabinet agreed to increase existing radio spectrum licensing fees to enable full cost recovery for administering the Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) system [ECO-25-MIN-0162, refers]. The decision included an increase in the departmental appropriation of \$2.458 million per annum from 2026/27 financial year.
- 3 I seek authorisation for the lodgement of the amendments to the *Radiocommunications Regulations 2001* to the Executive Council to ensure Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) is resourced to administer the radio spectrum licencing regime from the 2026/27 financial year.

The changes are straightforward and limited to updating the fees figures in Schedule 6 of the regulations. The fees agreed to by Cabinet are set out in Table 1 below:

*Table 1 – Proposed and current fees (GST inclusive)*

Licence Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Amateur radio and spectrum licences	\$50.00	\$66.00
Land mobile up to 5 pager/repeaters	\$600.00	\$800.00
Land mobile over 5 pager/repeaters	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Standard licence fee	\$150.00	\$190.00

- 4 As of 2025, the standard licence fee applies to 98.6 per cent of all licences. The standard fee will increase by 27 per cent which is less than the Consumer Price Index (CPI) which has increased by 32.1 since the fees were last set in 2017.

**Timing and 28-day rule**

- 5 The amendment regulations will come into force on 1 July 2026, following notification in the New Zealand Gazette. This complies with the 28-day rule and will enable the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to begin charging the new fees for licenses in the radiocommunications regime from 1 July 2026.

## **Compliance**

- 6 The amendment regulations comply with each of the following:
  - 6.1 the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
  - 6.2 the rights and freedoms contained in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 or the Human Rights Act 1993;
  - 6.3 the principles and guidelines set out in the Privacy Act 2020 (if the regulations raise privacy issues, indicate whether the Privacy Commissioner agrees that they comply with all relevant principles);
  - 6.4 relevant international standards and obligations; and
  - 6.5 the Legislation Guidelines (2021 edition), which are maintained by the Legislation Design and Advisory Committee.

## **Regulations Review Committee**

- 7 I do not consider there to be grounds for the Regulations Review Committee to draw these regulations to the attention of the House of Representatives under Standing Order 327.

## **Certification by Parliamentary Counsel**

- 8 The regulations were certified by the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) as being in order for submission to Cabinet.

## **Impact Analysis**

- 9 MBIE's Regulatory Impact Analysis Review Panel (the Panel) reviewed the Cost Recovery Impact Statement (CRIS) titled 'Increasing Radio Spectrum Management Licensing Fees' when Cabinet approval was sought for the policy settings for the amended regulations [CAB-25-MIN-0162, refers].
- 10 The Panel considers the information and impact analysis summarised in the CRIS meets the quality assurance criteria.

## **Publicity**

- 11 Subject to Cabinet decisions, announcements will be made as appropriate to communicate the changes to licence holders.

## **Proactive release**

- 12 I intend to proactively release this paper within 30 business days of Cabinet confirming decisions.

## **Consultation**

- 13 In February 2025 MBIE commenced an 8-week public consultation. MBIE received 41 submissions from a range of industry groups, including amateurs, mobile network

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operators, broadcasters, and government agencies. Officials consider this a representative sample of the wider licensee population.

- 14 Officials engaged with The Treasury prior to lodging the policy to Cabinet. Government agencies holding a large volume of licences (New Zealand Defence Force, New Zealand Police, Department of Conservation, Maritime New Zealand) were given the opportunity to submit on the proposed changes through public consultation and were subsequently informed of the proposals in this paper.
- 15 Treasury has been consulted on this paper.

**Recommendations**

I recommend that the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **note** Cabinet agreed to increase existing fees to achieve full cost recovery for administering the Radio Spectrum Management (RSM) system [ECO-25-MIN-0162];

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- 2 **note** the *Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026* will give effect to the decision referred to in the recommendation above;
- 3 **note** the *Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026* are proposed to come into force on 1 July 2026 and meet the 28-day rule requirements; and
- 4 **authorise** the submission to the Executive Council of the *Radiocommunications (Fees) Amendment Regulations 2026*.

[Authorised for lodgement]

Hon Paul Goldsmith

Minister for Media and Communications