



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Nicola Willis	Portfolio	Commerce and Consumer Affairs
Title of Cabinet paper	Next steps for improving grocery retail competition	Date to be published	15 April 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
July 2025	Next steps on improving grocery retail competition	Office of the Acting Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Grocery sector)
21 July 2025	Next steps on improving grocery retail competition ECO-25-MIN-0104 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES

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.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of commercial information, confidential information to government, free and frank opinions and legal professional privilege.



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.

Improving Retail Grocery Competition: Next Steps

Portfolio **Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Acting)**

On 16 July 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Request for Information (RFI) process agreed by Cabinet in March 2025 [CAB-25-MIN-0075] has provided information on issues the Government could address to stimulate grocery competition;
- 2 **noted** that in response to the RFI, the Acting Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (the Acting Minister) is progressing work across three workstreams:
 - 2.1 Enforcement: investigating changes to fair trading and competition legislation to deter anti-competitive behaviour and promote the interests of consumers;
 - 2.2 Regulatory: reducing regulatory barriers to make entry and growth of retailers easier and more attractive;
 - 2.3 Structural: investigating the costs, benefits and risks of restructuring the incumbent retailers in order to promote competition;
- 3 **agreed** that the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) officials work across agencies on options to reduce time, costs, and uncertainties associated with supermarkets meeting regulatory requirements in the areas of land use, planning and building consents processes, and alcohol licensing;
- 4 **noted** that the Acting Minister is progressing a cost benefit analysis into options for restructuring the sector to improve competition;
- 5 **noted** that MBIE officials will undertake targeted consultation on the work being progressed;
- 6 **noted** that the Acting Minister intends to report back to Cabinet in September 2025 to:
 - 6.1 seek agreement to any legislative changes needed to ease regulatory barriers;
 - 6.2 provide an update of work taken by the Acting Minister and/or the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to improve enforcement under competition and fair-trading legislation;

- 6.3 share the outcome of the cost benefit analysis of short-listed structural options for improving competition in the grocery sector.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Hon David Seymour
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ECO