



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Chris Penk	Portfolio	Building and Construction
Title of Cabinet paper	Expanding self-certification for plumbers and other matters	Date to be published	18 May 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
April 2026	Expanding self-certification for plumbers and other matters	Office of the Minister for Building and Construction
1 April 2026	Expanding self-certification for plumbers and other matters ECO-26-MIN-0041 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 reason of Confidential advice to Government.



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.

Expanding Self-certification for Plumbers and Other Matters

Portfolio **Building and Construction**

On 1 April 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

Self-certification by plumbers and drainlayers

- 1 **noted** that in December 2025, Cabinet agreed that the regulations under the Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill contain, for the purpose of defining self-certifiable plumbing and self-certifiable drainlaying, the criteria set out in the appendix to the paper under EXP-25-MIN-0124;
- 2 **agreed:**
 - 2.1 to rescind the decision referred to in paragraph 1 above; and instead
 - 2.2 that the regulations contain, for the purpose of defining self-certifiable plumbing and self-certifiable drainlaying, the criteria set out in Appendix One to the paper under ECO-26-SUB-0041;
- 3 **agreed** to release an Amendment Paper to make the following changes to the Building and Construction Sector (Self-Certification by Plumbers and Drainlayers) Amendment Bill (self-certification Bill):
 - 3.1 removing the requirement that the Minister must be satisfied that self-certifiable plumbing and drainlaying work is routine for an experienced plumber or drainlayer, not complex plumbing or drainlaying, and low risk to public health and safety;
 - 3.2 including that establishing, implementing and operating the self-certification scheme are part of the Plumbers, Gasfitters, and Drainlayers Board's function allow them to spend its existing funds on establishing, implementing and operating the self-certification scheme, and to recover the associated costs from practitioners participating in the scheme; and
 - 3.3 removing the requirement that when building work is going to include self-certified plumbing or drainlaying, the application for consent must be accompanied with a declaration that the plumbing or drainlaying work is self-certifiable;

Improvements to the granny flats exemption

- 4 **agreed** to amend the building consent exemption for non-consented small stand-alone dwellings through the Building Amendment Bill so that off-site construction can take place prior to a project information memorandum being received;

- 5 **agreed** to amend Schedule 1A of the Building Act 2004 (Schedule 1A) so that the use of structural insulated panel systems with a CodeMark certificate are permitted in non-consented small stand-alone dwellings;
- 6 **authorised** the Minister for Building and Construction (the Minister) to make minor and technical changes to improve the clarity and workability of Schedule 1A;

Codes of ethics and consequential amendments to building forms regulations

- 7 **agreed** that the codes of ethics for the regimes will be based on the structure outlined in Appendix One to the paper under ECO-26-SUB-0041;
- 8 **agreed** to amend the Building (Code of Ethics for Licensed Building Practitioners) Order 2021 to align the licensed building practitioners code of ethics with the proposed codes for licensed plumbers, gasfitters and drainlayers and licensed electrical workers;
- 9 **agreed** to amend the Building (Forms) Regulations 2004 to include reference to ‘automatically licensed persons’ where applicable;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft legislation giving effect to the above decisions;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister to release the Amendment Paper referred to in paragraph 3 above ahead of the Committee of the whole House stage of the self-certification Bill, without further Cabinet consideration;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister to make decisions consistent with the above decisions on any matters that arise during drafting.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Mark Patterson
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of Hon Chris Penk
Office of Hon James Meager
Officials Committee for ECO