



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Chris Penk	Portfolio	Space
Title of Cabinet paper	Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences Permits and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026	Date to be published	11 June 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
8 April 2026	Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences Permits and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026	Office for the Minister for Space
30 April 2026	Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences Permits and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026 LEG-26-MIN-0068 Minute	Cabinet Office
8 April 2026	Briefing: Cabinet Paper – Introduction of ground-based space infrastructure regulations	MBIE

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 to protect the privacy of natural persons.



Cabinet Legislation 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.

Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences, Permits and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026

Portfolio **Space**

On 30 April 2026, the Cabinet Legislation Committee:

- 1 **noted** that on 18 February 2026, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee agreed to set application information requirements in regulations for the ground-based space infrastructure (GBSI) regulatory regime [ECO-26-MIN-0013];
- 2 **noted** that the Amendment to Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences, Permits, and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026 will give effect to the decision referred to in paragraph 1 above by prescribing the information required for an application for a GBSI activity authorisation;
- 3 **noted** that the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences, Permits, and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026 will come into force on 29 July 2026;
- 4 **authorised** the submission to the Executive Council of the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences, Permits and Authorisations) Amendment Regulations 2026 [PCO28813/7.0].

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Hon Cameron Brewer
Hon Mike Butterick
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Stuart Smith MP
Todd Stephenson MP
Jamie Arbuckle MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for LEG



BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: Introduction of ground-based space infrastructure regulations

Date:	8 April 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	REQ-0030142

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Penk Minister for Space	Agree to progress the attached Cabinet Paper in Annex One to Ministerial consultation. Agree to take the draft Cabinet paper at Annex One to the Cabinet Legislation Committee on 30 April 2026.	10 April 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Dr Jess Dallas	Manager, Space Policy and Sector Development	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Chloe Christopher	Senior Advisor, Space Policy and Sector Development	Privacy of natural persons	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted on the Cabinet paper in Annex One
LINZ, DPMC, NZSIS, GCSB, DPMC, MOD, NZDF, MFAT

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



BRIEFING

Cabinet paper: Introduction of ground-based space infrastructure regulations

Date:	8 April 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	REQ-0030142

Purpose

To seek your agreement to progress a Cabinet paper setting out amendments to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 to implement new regulations for the ground-based space infrastructure authorisation regime.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Agree** that the draft Cabinet paper at **Annex One** progress to ministerial consultation.

Agree / Disagree

- b **Agree** to take the draft Cabinet paper at Annex One to the Cabinet Legislation Committee on 30 April 2026.

Agree / Disagree

Jess Dallas
Manager, Space Policy and Sector Development
Labour, Science and Enterprise MBIE

8/04/2026

Hon Chris Penk
Minister for Space

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Background

An amendment to regulations is needed to implement the ground-based space infrastructure regime

1. The Outer Space and High-altitude Activities Act 2017 establishes New Zealand's regulatory framework for space and high-altitude activities. In 2025, an amendment to the Act introduced a new regulatory regime for ground-based space infrastructure (GBSI), including a requirement for operators to hold a GBSI activity authorisation. The regime was established to manage risks to New Zealand's national security and national interests posed by the use of New Zealand-cited GBSI by foreign entities that do not share our values or interests.
2. Existing GBSI operators are currently treated as authorised under transitional provisions, which expire on 29 July 2026. At the end of this transitional period, operators are required to have applied for and received a GBSI authorisation to continue operating. To enable this, an amendment to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017 is required to prescribe the information that must be provided in an application for a GBSI activity authorisation.
3. In February 2026, Cabinet agreed to policy for regulations to implement the GBSI authorisation regime and instructed PCO to draft the regulations. The amended regulations will give effect to those decisions and ensure the GBSI regulatory framework is fully operational before transitional authorisations expire.
4. While an amendment to secondary legislation would typically require a Regulatory Impact Statement, the Ministry for Regulation has granted an exemption to this requirement for the proposed amendment, recognising that the proposed regulations are minor and technical in nature. A detailed Regulatory Impact Statement was produced to support the amendment of the primary legislation which established the GBSI authorisation regime.

Details of regulations

The proposed regulations prescribe application information for the new regime

5. The amended regulations will extend the existing application requirements in the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017, so that they apply to GBSI activity authorisations. In addition, a new Schedule prescribing further application information requirements for GBSI authorisations will be inserted.
6. All applicants for a GBSI activity authorisation will be required to provide baseline information, including:
 - the location of the ground-based space infrastructure
 - the general nature of the technology used
 - the equipment used to carry out regulated activities.

7. Further information is required depending on how the GBSI is used:
 - where the infrastructure supports the operator's own activities, applicants must provide a description of the regulated activities, the relevant space objects, and their intended use.
 - where the infrastructure is operated on behalf of a partner, applicants must provide information about the regulated activities and partner identity information, with tailored requirements for research collaborators and other partners.
8. Partner identity information requirements are proportionate, supporting an effective risk-based approach while avoiding unnecessary compliance burden.
9. The regulations are proposed to come into force on 29 July 2026, aligning with the expiry of transitional authorisations and ensuring continuity of oversight for GBSI activities, however they will be published in advance of this date to allow applicants time to prepare.

Next steps

10. Subject to your agreement, the Cabinet paper will be circulated for Ministerial consultation, ahead of consideration by the Cabinet Legislation Committee's consideration of the proposed regulations on 30 April.
11. You will be provided with talking points ahead of the Cabinet committee meeting.
12. Subject to Cabinet approval, the regulations will be submitted to the Executive Council to be made and notified ahead of commencement.
13. GBSI authorisation applications will open once regulations have been agreed to by Cabinet. There is some uncertainty as to the volume of applications expected as this is a new regulatory regime, but we expect this will provide adequate time for GBSI operators to apply and be granted authorisations by the end of the transition period on 29 July.
14. You will be provided with further advice to support your consideration of GBSI authorisation applications.

Annexes

Annex One: Cabinet Paper – *Amendment to Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017*.

Annex Two: *Draft of Amendment to the Outer Space and High-altitude Activities (Licences and Permits) Regulations 2017*

Annex One: Cabinet Paper

Annex Two: Draft proposed amendment to the Regulations
