



AIDE MEMOIRE

Emerging Risks in Plastics & Petrochemical Supply Chains

Date:	13 March 2026	Priority:	Urgent
Security classification:	Restricted	Tracking number:	0029308

Information for Minister

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister for Economic Growth

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Sebastian Doelle	Manager, Trade & Supply Chains	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Emma Doherty	Senior Advisor, Trade & Supply Chains		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments

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Background

New Zealand's plastics and petrochemical supply chains are under growing strain due to global feedstock shortages and tightening supply. These pressures are driving rapid polymer price increases, supplier surcharges, and reduced availability. Confidential information entrusted to the Government

Drivers of Disruption

Global feedstock shortages—International relations—are reducing petrochemical production and delaying shipments. Confidential information entrusted to the Government

Current Supply Conditions

Confidential information entrusted to the Government

Recycling cannot substitute for key polymers or most food-grade uses.

Market and Firm-Level Impacts

Confidential information entrusted to the Government

Logistics and Shipping Conditions

Freight routes remain open, but higher costs and longer transit times are adding pressure. Class 9 classifications may constrain the ability to quickly increase shipment volumes.

Outlook

If production recovers, supply may stabilise at higher cost. Confidential information entrusted to the Government

MBIE officials are meeting with Plastics New Zealand and members early next week to discuss how to work through impacts to their supply chains.

Sebastian Doelle
Manager, Trade and Supply Chains
MBIE
13 / 03 / 2026

