



BRIEFING

Approach to proactive release of fuel response briefings

Date:	19 May 2026	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	0032262

Action sought

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Agree to the approach of proactively releasing Ministerial advice on the All of Government response on fuel security, through a regular cadence.	26 May 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Melissa Gill	Chief of Staff, Fuel Response	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Sally Whineray Groom	Principal Policy Advisor		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted:

All-of-Government Fuel Response team; Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Treasury, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Primary Industries.

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Declined

☐ Noted

☐ Needs change

☐ Seen

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments:



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Purpose

To seek agreement on the proposed approach to proactively release briefings and other key documents related to the fuel security response through a regular release cadence.

Recommended action

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

- a **Note** that MBIE is publishing the titles of briefings (subject to normal withholding grounds) provided to Ministers as part of the All of Government response on fuel security, on a regular cadence.

Noted

- b **Agree** that MBIE will proactively release briefings provided to Ministers as part of the All of Government response on fuel security, on a regular release cadence (option b – preferred).

Agree / Disagree

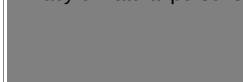
- c **Note** that, should you agree to recommendation b, the first release of briefings (with relevant withholding grounds applied), covering the period between 1 March -21 April 2026, be released on MBIE's website on or around 19 June 2026, subject to consultation with your office.

Noted

- d **Agree to forward** a copy of this briefing to the members of the Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group.

Agree/ Disagree

Privacy of natural persons



MEISSA GILL
Chief of Staff, Fuel Response

19/05/2026

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

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Background

1. There is a high degree of public interest in the Government response to fuel security, including in the official advice Ministers are receiving to inform their decisions.
2. MBIE proactively releases Cabinet papers within 30 business days of the Cabinet decision, in line with Cabinet Office Circular (23) 4 *Proactive Release of Cabinet Material: Updated Requirements*. This includes fuel response-related Cabinet papers, which will be proactively released in due course.
3. MBIE has started publishing fuel security response briefing titles (with relevant withholding grounds applied) on our website. This was at your Office's request, and in line with MBIE's standard practice.
4. MBIE has already received **Confidential advice to Government** Official Information Act (OIA) requests relating to official advice on the fuel security response. We expect this number to grow significantly, particularly as more briefing titles are released. MBIE has standard operating procedures to regularly publish official information to enhance public access to it and to reduce the need for it to be requested under the OIA.
5. Given the pace of change and volume of briefings potentially in scope of current and future OIA requests, we seek your agreement on the approach we have developed to respond. MBIE believes that this approach will enable better strategic management of official information on the fuel security response.

Approach to release of fuel response briefings

6. Currently, OIA requests relating to the fuel security response are being progressed through standard OIA procedures. This includes consultation with relevant agencies and Ministers. Standard application of release and withholding lines are being applied and signed off by relevant subject matter experts.
7. Over time, we envisage an increasing volume of individual OIA requests. There are several options for how MBIE can continue to process OIA requests:
 - a. continue to progress response to individual OIA requests in line with standard process (status quo)
 - b. proactively release briefings and other key documents (appropriate withholding grounds applied as required) on a regular cadence (**recommended**)
 - c. a hybrid option that would see option (a) being used and then publishing key OIA responses that cover the same or similar content on the MBIE website to prevent large volumes of repeat requests. This hybrid option may be an appropriate first step to support the management of the current and anticipated volume.
 - d. Progress with option (a) and move to a proactive release approach at a later date.
8. All of the options would be supported by appropriate application of withholding grounds under the act and appropriate consultation and visibility.

We recommend proactively releasing fuel response briefings on a regular cadence (option b)

9.

Free and frank opinions

10. It also ensures fair and consistent access to information. As noted above, MBIE has received a substantial volume of OIAs for advice provided to Ministers on the fuel response. Therefore, we anticipate that much of the information we propose to proactively release would enter the public domain regardless through responding to individual OIAs.

11.

Free and frank opinions

12. At the same time, it delivers material efficiency gains for MBIE, other agencies and Ministerial offices: we have received multiple OIAs for the same information, so publishing them once reduces duplication and frees up resources for delivery of core work.

Where there is a valid reason for withholding information, we will do so

13. MBIE will conduct appropriate due diligence on Ministerial advice proposed for proactive release. The proactively released information would contain appropriate redactions, including where information would be withheld under the OIA. These include reasons relating to national security or defence, international relations, national economy, confidential information entrusted to the government, commercial information, confidential advice to government, free and frank opinions, constitutional conventions, legal professional privilege and negotiations.
14. For briefings collated by the All-of-Government team to the Ministerial Oversight Group, we will engage with the responsible agency that has prepared the advice on the appropriate information to be released and withheld.
15. We will consult with you and your office on the proactive release of material. Ministers retain decision-making over the proactive release of Cabinet papers, minutes and signed briefings.

Timing and process for proactive release

16. Should you agree, the proactive release would go through appropriate due diligence and include appropriate redactions in line with the reasons listed in the OIA.
17. We suggest a proactive release cadence that has a monthly release of briefing titles, with the briefings themselves to follow four weeks after. The first release of briefings proactively released would be larger, covering advice sent between 1 March – 21 April (in line with the briefing titles released on MBIE's website). We propose this tranche be released on 19 June.

Confidential advice to Government

Alternatively, we could continue to respond to OIA requests under the standard process

18. Should you not wish to proactively release briefings at this time, we will proceed with responding to OIA requests for the information (option a). This could be supported with the proactive release of a couple of large OIA requests, to improve transparency and reduce administrative burden (option c). This approach would be more reactive, so we would support your Office with key messages to respond to any follow-up questions.

OIAs expected to continue for other official information

19. The outlined proactive release approach would only apply to Ministerial and departmental advice. It would not relate to all communications between officials, stakeholders and Ministers' offices. We expect to continue to receive, and process OIAs for such material using standard processes. We will work through such requests with your offices on a case-by-case basis per standard procedures.

Consultation

20. The all-of-Government Fuel Response team, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Primary Industries and Treasury support the approach outlined in this briefing.
21. We understand the Treasury will brief you shortly seeking approval for proactive release of their briefings on the fuel response. Should you agree, we will work with the Treasury to align the respective proactive releases to the extent possible.

Risks and mitigations

22. **Free and frank opinions**

Next steps

23. Should you approve MBIE's recommended approach, we anticipate the following next steps for the first tranche of briefings to be proactively released:
- Inform relevant agencies of the agreed approach and establish appropriate processes to support it.
 - MBIE undertakes due diligence on fuel response briefings sent to Ministers, and agreed Cabinet papers, between 1 March and 21 April: 25 May-12 June.
 - MBIE engages with your office on information proposed to be proactively released: 13-18 June (5 working days).
 - The first tranche of advice proactively released on MBIE's website: 19 June 2026.