



BRIEFING

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	6 May 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Tracking number:	0032651

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Agree to not convene a phase assessment meeting under the Fuel Response Plan 2026.	6 May 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andrew Craig	General Manager, Fuel Response Plan Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
N/A

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☐ Withdrawn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 your agreement to not convene a phase assessment meeting under the Fuel Response Plan 2026.

Recommended action

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

- a **Agree** to not convene a phase assessment meeting under the Fuel Response Plan 2026, as the decreases in petrol, diesel and jet fuel stocks by more than three days do not raise any concerns.

Agree / Disagree

Privacy of natural
persons

Andrew Craig
General Manager Fuel Plan Policy
MBIE

06 / 05 / 2026

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

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Background

1. New Zealand is currently at Phase 1 of the Fuel Response Plan 2026. The Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group (Oversight Group) agreed to six criteria that could lead to convening an Oversight Group meeting to assess a shift in phases:
 1. **Export restrictions:** if any of our source refineries introduce or relax export restrictions
 2. **Fuel stock levels:** (+/- three days since the last published update)
 3. **Future orders:** a fuel company informs the government that they are unlikely to fill future orders
 4. **Minimum storage obligations:** a breach, or a notification of an imminent breach, of the minimum storage obligations
 5. **Overseas policy changes:** any significant policy changes in Australia or the International Energy Agency
 6. **Regional distribution:** a significant disruption to regional distribution.
2. You have delegated authority as chair of the Oversight Group to determine whether, when and how to hold assessment meetings, based on advice from officials.

The fuel stock levels criterion has been met

3. In our fuel monitoring pack provided to you on 5 May 2026, we noted that total stocks for petrol, diesel and jet fuel decreased by more than three days since the last update, triggering the fuel stock levels criterion:

Fuel type	Total NZ stock (days cover)		Change (days)
	29 April	3 May	
Petrol	52.5	49.3	-3.2
Diesel	52.7	47.7	-5.0
Jet fuel	58.7	55.1	-3.6

4. Stock movements continue as expected and the changes do not raise any concerns. We therefore do not recommend convening a phase assessment meeting.

Overseas policy changes

5. The Australian Prime Minister has announced today that the upcoming Budget will contain a AU\$10 billion Fuel Security and Resilience Package, to secure near-term fuel and fertiliser security and supply. This will establish a Fuel and Fertiliser Facility to increase supply and storage. The Australian Government will also establish a Government-owned Australian fuel security reserve of 1 billion litres. Additional funding will also be invested into feasibility studies, co-funded with states and territories, for fuel refining proposals.
6. This announcement does not change the current supply situation for New Zealand. We therefore do not recommend convening a phase assessment meeting.