



BRIEFING

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	1 May 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Tracking number:	0032364

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.	1 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☐ Withdrawn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



BRIEFING

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	1 May 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Tracking number:	0032364

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 increase in diesel and jet fuel stocks by more than three days does not indicate a change to business as usual.

Agree / Disagree

Privacy of natural
persons

Andrew Craig
General Manager Fuel Plan Policy
MBIE

01 / 05 / 2026

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

..... / /

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 1 May 2026, we noted that total stocks for diesel and jet fuel increased by more than three days since the last update, triggering the fuel stock levels criterion:

Fuel type	Total NZ stock (days cover)		Change (days)
	26 April	29 April	
Petrol	52.9	52.6	-0.3
Diesel	46.1	52.7	+6.6
Jet fuel	49.2	58.7	+9.5

4. These increases do not indicate a return to business as usual, we therefore recommend not convening a phase assessment meeting.