MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	29 April 2026	**Priority:**	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	**Tracking number:**	0032112

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.	30 April 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

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn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 increase in diesel and jet fuel stocks by more than three days is within normal fluctuations and does not indicate a change to business as usual.

Agree / Disagree

Privacy of natural persons

Andrew Craig
General Manager Fuel Plan Policy
MBIE

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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 on Tuesday 28 April, 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)
	22 April	26 April	
Petrol	51.8	52.8	+1.0
Diesel	**41.3**	**46.1**	**+4.8**
Jet fuel	**45.7**	**49.1**	**+3.4**

4. These increases are within normal fluctuation levels and do not indicate a return to business as usual, we therefore recommend not convening a phase assessment meeting.