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Fuel Response data external quality assurance

Date:	24 April 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Sensitive	Tracking number:	REQ-0031965

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

Hon Shane Jones
Associate Minister for Energy

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Eric Chapman	Acting Fuel Response Data and Intelligence Cell Lead	N/A	✓
Tim Shepherd	Principal Advisor to General Manager	Privacy of natural persons	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Approved | ☐ Declined |
| ☐ Noted | ☐ Needs change |
| ☐ Seen | ☐ Overtaken by Events |
| ☐ See Minister's Notes | ☐ Withdrawn |

Comments



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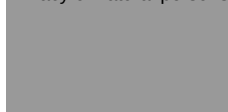
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Purpose

This paper provides information on steps MBIE has undertaken with external parties to ensure the quality of its Fuel Response data and reporting ahead of public release.

Privacy of natural persons



Eric Chapman
Acting Fuel Response Data and Intelligence Cell Lead
MBIE

24 / 04 / 2026

MBIE has engaged external parties to ensure the quality of its Fuel Response data and reporting

1. MBIE has undertaken additional quality assurance activities, including engaging external parties, across the two data products – views of bulk storage facility demand data and shipping information – we are planning to release publicly next week, subject to Ministerial approval.
2. The external parties have all confirmed that our methods are sound and generally aligned with best practice.

Infometrics has found our demand data process to be reasonable and robust

3. MBIE officials met with Brad Olsen, Chief Executive and Principal Economist of Wellington-based economic consultancy Infometrics, on 20 April 2026, to discuss what Infometrics could provide as an external peer review and quality assurance check for our proposed bulk storage facility demand data outputs ahead of public release.
4. A further meeting was held on 23 April 2026, at which we took Brad through the process for producing the demand data outputs, including our methodology and how the raw data is processed. Brad had supervised access to the MBIE system during this working meeting and was able to talk at length with analysts in the Data and Intelligence Cell.
5. Brad's initial view, relayed to us today, is that MBIE's bulk storage facility demand data process is reasonable and robust, with no concerns raised with the approach to compile or publish the data at a headline level.

6. Brad has made some minor recommendations, aimed mostly at best practice, and making the publication of information most readily usable for the public and other stakeholders, which we will be considering as we work towards public release of the data.
7. Per the terms of reference and agreement being developed, a memo will be delivered to MBIE in due course, detailing Infometrics' findings in full.

Z agrees our demand data outputs and analysis represent an accurate view of demand in the system

8. In addition to engaging Infometrics, MBIE officials met with Z Energy (Z) on 23 April 2026, discussing the Government's need for cooperation from the fuel companies, and seeking feedback on how we present bulk storage facility demand data.
9. Z has agreed that our proposed demand data outputs and analysis represent an accurate view of demand in the system. The company has offered to help us refine how we describe bulk storage facility demand, and we are working with them to progress this.
10. With Z, we also explored the limitations of the bulk storage facility data, including that it does not portray seasonality as well as we may need it to, along with the challenges of presenting high fidelity measurement of sales, given the increasing diversification of the fuel market, with different models and supply chain integration.
11. We are continuing to work with Z to develop a view of demand 'closer to the pump', noting the complexities of procuring and presenting this data in a useful format.

Ministry of Transport has confirmed our validation of incoming fuel shipments is aligned to best practice

12. As discussed in recent papers [BRIEFING-REQ-0030855 refers], MBIE uses the Starboard Maritime Intelligence (Starboard) platform to track incoming fuel shipments by monitoring vessel movements against commercially sensitive, fuel company-provided plans, confirming departures, routes and expected delivery to New Zealand ports.
13. This combination of data sets and monitoring tools provides early warning of potential disruptions and a more complete picture of fuel shipments bound for New Zealand than what is offered by public sources alone.
14. Earlier this week, MBIE shared details of our process for validating incoming fuel shipments via Starboard with the Ministry of Transport (MoT), as well as the names of the ships, and the forward shipping schedule received from the fuel companies, as an independent verification of the advice we provided in the bi-weekly fuel monitoring pack from 21 April 2026.
15. MoT has advised that it is confident in the methodology used by MBIE to validate incoming fuel shipments and that the methodology is aligned to best practice. Additionally, MoT has confirmed that the advice provided in the fuel monitoring pack is consistent with what it could see at the time.

Next steps

16. Subject to Ministerial approval, we are preparing to commence publishing of demand data and shipping information on the MBIE website from Wednesday 29 April 2026, following delivery of the fuel monitoring pack scheduled for Tuesday 28 April 2026.