



AIDE MEMOIRE

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	22 April 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Restricted	Tracking number:	0031824

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Agree that no assessment meeting is required following the fuel stock level change criteria in the Fuel Response Plan 2026 having been met.	23 April 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Jivan Grewal	Fuel Response Policy Lead	Privacy of natural persons	✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
The Department of the Prime Minister of Cabinet has been informed of this briefing.

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Noted

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ Approved

☐ Needs change

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Declined

☐ Seen

☐ Withdrawn

Comments



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Purpose

To recommend that you do not convene an assessment meeting in response to a slight decrease in diesel and jet fuel stocks which meet the Fuel Response Plan 2026 criteria.

Jivan Grewal
Fuel Response Policy Lead
MBIE

22 April 2026

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 would 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.

Decreases in diesel and jet fuel stocks meet the criteria for considering a phase assessment meeting

3. In our fuel monitoring pack on Tuesday 21 April, we noted that total stocks for diesel and jet fuel decreased by more than three days since the last update:

Fuel type	Total NZ stock (days cover)		Change (days)
	17 April	19 April	
Petrol	54	51.2	-2.8 days
Diesel	44.8	41.6	-3.2 days
Jet fuel	51.4	47.4	-4.0 days

4. The slight decrease in diesel and jet fuel stock is considered to be within normal supply fluctuations. There is no indication of supply chain disruption based on feedback from the industry and fuel stocks remain at a similar level to before the Middle East conflict started. We do not recommend a phase assessment meeting based on the above criteria being met.