



Middle East Fuel Crisis: Meeting with Major Diesel Users, Friday, 10 April 2026

To:	Hon Nicola Willis – Minister for Economic Growth Hon Shane Jones – Associate Minister for Energy		
Attendees:	See Annex A for a list of invitees. A list of confirmed attendees will be provided prior to your meeting.		
Date:	Friday, 10 April 2026	Time:	12:30pm – 1:15pm
Location:	Teams meeting (a presenter link will be provided to your offices)	Tracking:	BRIEFING-REQ-0030647
Key contact, meeting logistics:	Sean Torbit, Principal Policy Advisor, Privacy of natural		
MBIE attendees:	Nic Blakeley, Chief Executive Jivan Grewal, GM Communications, Infrastructure and Trade – and MC for the event Justine Cannon, GM, Energy Markets		

Run Sheet

Time	Activity
12.30pm	Welcome and opening remarks by MBIE (Jivan Grewal)
12.35pm	Hon Nicola Willis and Hon Shane Jones speak to attendees (15 mins total)
12.50pm	Questions from attendees – These will be moderated, with the MC putting questions to Ministers for response (20 minutes)
1.10pm	Meeting wrap up by MBIE (Jivan Grewal) (5 mins)
1.15pm	Close meeting

Meeting Background

1. At your request, Hon Shane Jones and you are meeting with New Zealand's major diesel users on Friday, 10 April 2026 at 12.00pm for 45 minutes. These stakeholders are a sub-group of the Major Fuel Users Group convened by MBIE. The meeting will be held online. Twenty minutes has been allocated for questions from participants. Questions will be moderated, with the MC (Jivan Grewal, MBIE) presenting them to Ministers for response.
2. The meeting provides a valuable opportunity to hear directly from businesses spanning a broad cross-section of New Zealand's economy, particularly sectors that are diesel fuel-intensive, supply-chain critical, or deliver essential services. The sectors represented include:
 - Retail
 - Dairy
 - Meat
 - Seafood

- Horticulture
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture & Primary Processing (industry bodies)
 - Transport & Freight (road, rail, logistics, couriers)
 - Maritime, Ports & Shipping
 - Construction & Civil Infrastructure
 - Energy
 - Aviation
 - Automotive
3. See **Annex A** for a list of invitees. A list of confirmed attendees will be provided prior to your meeting.
 4. For an overview of diesel supply, demand and economic significance for New Zealand see the accompanying briefing, BRIEFING-REQ-0030539.

Issues to be aware of

5. MBIE engages with these stakeholders three times a week through the Major Fuel Users meeting. In our last meeting on 07 April, we provided an update on the Fuel Response Plan, including ongoing consultation on priority fuel bands, and invited fuel users to provide feedback on band placement, time-critical activities, and any adjustments needed to better reflect operational realities.
6. The major diesel users may discuss the following:
 - **Priority Bands**
Major diesel users, such as freight operators, primary producers, food processors, ports, and critical infrastructure providers, are expecting to fall within higher priority bands, reflecting their role in keeping essential goods moving and maintaining economic stability.
 - **Diesel prices are rising at unprecedented speed**
Major diesel users, especially trucking and freight operators, say diesel prices have surged at a pace never seen before, with some firms reporting fuel bills up more than 100% in a matter of weeks due to the Middle East conflict disrupting global oil supply routes via the Strait of Hormuz.
 - **Costs cannot always be absorbed or fully passed on**
Diesel users report that the diesel price increases are significant, but many face limited ability to pass these costs on to customers due to competitive pressures or price-sensitive markets (eg. in export industries where New Zealand is a price taker).
 - **No immediate shortages—but strong concern about supply risk**
Industry groups acknowledge there is currently no physical diesel shortage, with around 50 days of stock available, but warn this depends on uninterrupted shipping and refinery output, leaving New Zealand vulnerable if the conflict escalates further.
 - **Calls for government oversight, not panic buying**
Major diesel users are urging calm coordination rather than panic buying, calling for close government–industry monitoring, transparent pricing, and stronger scrutiny of diesel price

movements to ensure increases are justified.

- **Expectation that impacts will spread through the economy**

Diesel users broadly agree that sustained high diesel prices will flow through the economy, increasing the cost of groceries, construction, exports, and essential services, with effects amplified by New Zealand's reliance on imported refined fuel and a weaker NZ dollar.

Annexes

Annex One: List of major diesel users invited to the meeting

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Name	Organisation	Role / title	Industry / sector
Liesl Franklin	Air NZ	Senior Procurement Manager	Aviation
Niall Brown	Alliance Group	Chief Executive Officer	Meat
Dallas Vince	Booth's Logistics	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
Alan Pollard	Civil Contractors New Zealand	Chief Executive Officer	Construction
Allan Barclay	Downer	Executive General Manager, Commercial & Risk	Construction
Mike Siermans	Federated Farmers of New Zealand	Chief Executive Officer	Agriculture & Primary Processing
Ben Cunliffe	Fonterra	Manager, Government Affairs	Dairy
Bridget Service	Foodstuffs	Head of Government Relations	Retail
Ben Fitzpatrick	Freightways Group	General Manager, Network	Transport & Freight
Damon Bryant	Hall's Cold Chain Logistics	Chief Operating Officer	Transport & Freight
Greig Epps	Imported Motor Vehicle Industry Association (VIA)	Chief Executive	Automotive
Ryan Cavanagh	Kaingaroa Timberlands	Chief Executive Officer	Forestry
Garry Whale	KiwiRail	GM Strategic Performance	Transport & Freight
William Smith	Mainfreight	Commercial Manager	Maritime, Ports & Shipping
Grant Lemin	Mainstream	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
John Gresson	Matson South Pacific	Director, South Pacific	Transport & Freight
Ashlin Chand	Meat Industry Association (MIA)	Manager, Policy and Trade	Agriculture & Primary Processing
Lloyd Robinson,	Motor Industry Association (MTA)	technical director	Automotive
Paul Millward	Move Logistics	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
James Smith	National Road Carriers	General Manager, Policy & Advocacy	Transport & Freight
David Boyce	New Zealand Trucking Association	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
Terry Collins,	NZ Automobile Association (AA)	Principal Policy Advisor	Automotive
Tim Sandall	NZ Forest Owners Association	General Manager, Forests	Forestry
Megan Watson	NZ Post	GM Network Management	Maritime, Ports & Shipping

Mark Delautour	Open Country Dairy	Chief Executive Officer	Dairy
Justin Scholes	Qube Ports NZ	General Manager, NZ Operations and Service Delivery	Maritime, Ports & Shipping
Michael Roberts	Refrigafreighters	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
Doug Paulin	Sealord / Sanford	Chief Executive Officer	Seafood
Michael Franks	Seeka / Eastpack / T&G Global	Chief Executive Officer	Horticulture (kiwifruit)
Brad Smith	Silver Fern Farms	Programme Director, Enterprise Resource Planning	Meat
Bryan Lau Young	Strait NZ	Chief Financial Officer	Maritime, Ports & Shipping
Richard Wyeth	Synlait Milk	Chief Executive Officer	Dairy
Tony Hazlett	Talleys	Chief Executive Officer	Seafood, vegetables
Stewart Smith	Team Global Express	Chief Executive Officer	Transport & Freight
Mark Stockdale	Transporting New Zealand	Policy & Advocacy Advisor	Transport & Freight
Aimee Gulliver	Vector	General Manager, Public Policy and Government Relations	Energy
Andrew Kirton	Woolworths Group	Head of Government & Industry Affairs	Retail