



AIDE MEMOIRE

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	3 April 2026	Priority:	High
Security classification:	Restricted	Tracking number:	To be provided

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Agree that no assessment meeting is required following the fuel stock levels increase criteria in the Fuel Response Plan 2026 having been met.	3 April 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Iain Cossar	Fuel Response Policy Lead		✓

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☐ Withdrawn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 criterion in the Fuel Response Plan 2026 having been met.

Privacy of natural persons

Iain Cossar
Fuel Response Policy Lead
MBIE

3 April 2026

Background

1. New Zealand is currently at Phase 1 of the at 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.

Increases in both petrol and jet fuel meet the threshold criteria but we do not recommend an assessment meeting

3. In our daily fuel monitoring pack on Friday 3 April, we noted that total stocks for petrol and jet fuel increased since the last update:

Fuel type	Total NZ stock (days cover)		Change (days)
	29 March	1 April	
Petrol	58.7	61.9	+3.2
Jet fuel	46.2	50.1	+3.9

4. The increases in both petrol and jet fuel meet the threshold criteria (three or more days' cover) to consider phase assessment.
 5. As this is an increase in the total stocks for these fuels, and we are currently in Phase 1, we do not consider an assessment meeting is necessary at this time.
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