



BRIEFING

Fuel response plan: assessment meeting advice

Date:	1 April 2026	Priority:	Urgent
Security classification:	Restricted	Tracking number:	0030424

	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Recommends that no assessment meeting is required following one of the Fuel Plan Response criteria being met (-4.3 days of jet fuel stocks).	3 April 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Paul O'Connell	Fuel Response Plan 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:

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| ☐ See Minister's Notes | ☐ Withdrawn |

Comments



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Purpose

This paper advises you not to hold an assessment meeting following one criteria in the Fuel Plan Response 2026 having recently been met.

Recommended actions

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** that one criterion under the Fuel Response Plan 2026 has been met, and that MBIE advised an assessment meeting is not required

Note

- b **Agree** to not convene the Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group for an assessment meeting

Agree

- c **Agree** that this advice is published on MBIE's website, subject to Official Information Act requirements

Agree

Privacy of natural persons

Paul O'Connell
Fuel Response Plan Lead
MBIE

1 April 2026

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

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Background

1. New Zealand is currently at Phase 1 of the at Fuel Response Plan 2026. Ministers agreed to the following six criteria that would lead to Ministers convening 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 Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group to determine whether, when and how to hold assessment meetings, based on advice from officials.

Criterion Two has been met for jet fuel, and the movement is within normal bounds

2. Jet fuel stock has decreased by 4.3 days since the previous update on 30 March, meaning that Criterion Two has been met.
3. However, MBIE advises a meeting is not warranted because this change represents a normal fluctuation. Stocks of jet fuel tend to fluctuate more than diesel and petrol, and this movement is within normal bounds:

Chart 1: days of jet fuel supply, by location (in-country vs. on-water)

Source: MBIE Fuel Stocks Update. Data as at Sunday 29 March 2026. EEZ = ships within New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone.

