



EVENT BRIEFING

Visit to Marsden Point on 4 June 2026

Date:	2 June 2026	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0033733

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simeon Brown Minister for Energy	Note the contents of this briefing, to support your visit to Marsden Point on 4 June 2026.	4 June 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Sarah Deblock	Manager, Fuel Response	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Hisham Haq	Policy Advisor, Fuel Response		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Declined

☐ Noted

☐ Needs change

☐ Seen

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments



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Purpose

To provide you with information for your visit to Marsden Point on 4 June 2026 at 1:30pm.

Recommendations

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) recommends that you:

- a **Note** the contents of this briefing, for your visit to Marsden Point on 4 June 2026.

Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Sarah Deblock
Manager, Fuel Response
Building, Resources and Markets, MBIE

02 / 06 / 2026

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Energy

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Meeting purpose and logistics

Date:	4 June 2026	Time:	1:30 – 2:30pm
Location:	Marsden Point, Port Marsden Highway, Ruakaka, 0171		
Attendees:	Rob Buchanan, CEO, Channel Infrastructure and Jack Stewart, GM Operations, Channel Infrastructure will meet you on arrival. You will be attending alongside Dr. Shane Reti. Biographies are included in Annex One .		

1. You and Dr. Reti are visiting Marsden Point, operated by Channel Infrastructure (**Channel**), to view in person how the fuel import and storage system operates, in the context of current fuel supply considerations.
2. This visit is an opportunity for you to:
 - a. visit New Zealand's largest fuel import terminal
 - b. observe progress on the refurbishment of diesel storage tanks to bring an additional 90 million litres of capacity into service
 - c. discuss current fuel supply conditions and resilience with Channel.
3. The briefing provides background information for your visit.

About Marsden Point

4. Channel operates the fuel import terminal at Marsden Point. Prior to its closure in 2022, Channel, then called Refining NZ, operated New Zealand's sole oil refinery at this site.
5. Marsden Point is New Zealand's largest fuel import terminal, through which 40 per cent of New Zealand's petrol and diesel and 80 per cent of New Zealand's jet fuel is imported. Fuel from Marsden Point is then distributed primarily to the Auckland and Northland markets through Channel's 170-kilometre pipeline to Auckland and by the fuel companies (bp, Mobil and Z Energy) via truck.
6. Marsden Point is also a strategic location for fuel storage, with around 300 million litres (ML) of storage contracted out to fuel companies, and up to around 400 ML of unused tank capacity as of February 2026. On 28 April 2026, the Government has contracted 90ML of the unused tank capacity to be refurbished to store diesel reserves.

Government diesel reserve at Marsden Point

7. The Government has entered into an agreement with Z Energy for the provision of approximately 90 ML of diesel at Marsden Point as part of the current fuel response. It is expected to provide approximately nine days of supply at current demand levels.
8. Channel is recommissioning two former crude oil tanks at Marsden Point to create capacity for the diesel. The work is on track.
9. Z Energy has confirmed the diesel will be delivered in two shipments: the first will be approximately Commercial Information and the second approximately Commercial Information.

10. The shipments are expected to arrive between 16 to 18 June and in early July 2026. Commercial Information

Energy precinct at Marsden Point

11. Channel has a long-term vision for the Marsden Point site to become an Energy Precinct to boost our energy resilience and support decarbonisation efforts. Channel intends to be the landlord and facilitator of existing and potential projects — providing the infrastructure and ancillary services but not directly investing in or developing industries or technologies.
12. It is too early to say whether this approach has spurred investment at the site, but there are projects under consideration. The most advanced proposal is for a biorefinery. Seadra Energy (a consortium of Qantas, Renova Inc, Kent Plc and Air New Zealand) is proposing to lease land at Marsden Point and use existing refinery kit to produce sustainable aviation fuel and renewable diesel. In December 2025, Channel announced that the project was on track for a final investment decision in 2026. This may provide an opportunity for you to discuss the status of the proposal and Channel's broader plans for future investment at Marsden Point.
13. Minister Jones has expressed an interest in creating a Special Economic Zone (**SEZ**) at Marsden Point. A SEZ is an area where businesses can benefit from tailored policies on regulation (e.g. consenting), financial support and access to infrastructure that differ from the general business environment. The Government has not made any decisions regarding SEZs.

Diesel-fired peaking generation

14. Channel has suggested diesel-fired generation as a faster and lower capital cost alternative to liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports for firming inter-seasonal capacity.
15. In November 2025, Channel completed front end engineering design for a 72MW diesel peaking plant using fuel stored at the terminal. Commercial Information
16. Channel paused this work on 27 February (1 day before the Middle East conflict began) following the announcement by Government on its proposal to build an LNG terminal in Taranaki citing uncertainty about how this will affect the electricity market and long-term capacity contracts.

Jet fuel tank conversion project

17. Channel and Z Energy are converting a 30ML tank from crude oil to jet fuel storage, which would hold fuel for approximately 10,000 flights between Auckland and Wellington or roughly seven days of jet fuel use.
18. The tank was scheduled to be operational in Q1 2027, however it is now due to be commissioned earlier, by August 2026.

Annex One: Attendee Biographies



Rob Buchanan, Chief Executive Officer, Channel Infrastructure

Rob was appointed CEO of Channel Infrastructure in 2023.

Rob was previously General Manager Growth & Trading at Manawa Energy, where he had responsibility for the company's renewables development, energy trading and commercial and industrial sales functions.

Prior to Manawa Energy, he had an almost 20-year career in investment banking, advising companies in New Zealand, Australia and Europe, most recently as Head of Mergers & Acquisitions at Forsyth Barr in New Zealand.



Jack Stewart, General Manager Operations, Channel Infrastructure

Jack Stewart is the General Manager, Operations at Channel Infrastructure, with experience in refinery operations and asset management at Marsden Point. He previously served as Chief Operating Officer and Refining Manager at Refining NZ, with responsibility for operational performance, asset reliability, and safety.

Jack holds a Bachelor of Engineering from the University of Auckland.