



EVENT BRIEFING

Opening of Government Diesel Storage Tanks

Date:	30 June 2026	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0034222

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Christopher Luxon Prime Minister	Note the contents of this briefing for your visit to Marsden Point on 7 July.	6 July 2026
Hon Nicola Willis Minister of Finance	Note the contents of this briefing for your visit to Marsden Point on 7 July.	6 July 2026
Hon Shane Jones Minister for Resources	Note the contents of this briefing for your visit to Marsden Point on 7 July.	6 July 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☐ Withdrawn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



EVENT BRIEFING

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Purpose

To provide you with details for your visit to Marsden Point on 7 July 2026 to attend and speak at the official opening of the Government's diesel storage tanks.

Recommendations

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

- a **Note** the contents of this briefing to support your visit to Marsden Point on 7 July 2026.

Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Sarah Deblock
Manager, Fuel Response
Fuel Response, MBIE

30 / 06 / 2026

Hon Christopher Luxon
Prime Minister

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Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

..... / /

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Resources

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Meeting purpose and logistics

Date:	Tuesday, 7 July 2026	Time:	10am – 12pm
Location:	Marsden Point, Port Marsden Highway, Ruakākā, 0171		
Attendees:	Rob Buchanan, CEO, Channel Infrastructure Julian Hughes, General Manager (Supply), Z Energy Biographies are attached in Annex one .		
Agenda:	10:00am: Arrival at Marsden Point and engagement with Channel Infrastructure's management 10:20am: Tank climb and photo opportunity 10:50am: Travel to diesel tank compound 11:00am: Formal opening proceedings, including remarks from Channel Infrastructure, Z Energy, and the Prime Minister, Minister Willis and Minister Jones at the diesel tank compound 11:20am: Official opening (valve-turning ceremony) 11:30am: Media stand-up 12:00pm: Guests depart		

Background

1. You are visiting Marsden Point, operated by Channel Infrastructure (Channel), to attend the official opening of the Government's diesel storage tanks.
2. This visit is an opportunity for you to:
 - a. acknowledge the delivery of the Government's diesel reserve and the role of Channel and industry partners in enabling it, and
 - b. highlight the government's focus on strengthening fuel security, resilience, and reliability of our energy system in the context of global supply disruptions.
3. This briefing provides background information, as well as talking points, to support your visit.

About Marsden Point

4. Channel's fuel import terminal at Marsden Point is the largest one in New Zealand. About 40 per cent of New Zealand's transport fuels, including 80 per cent of New Zealand's jet fuel, is imported through this terminal. Fuel from Marsden Point is then distributed to Auckland and Northland through pipelines and by truck.
5. Marsden Point is a strategic location for fuel storage, with around 300 million litres (ML) of storage contracted out to fuel companies.
6. Previously, Channel, then called Refining NZ, operated New Zealand's sole oil refinery at Marsden Point until 2022.

Government diesel reserve at Marsden Point

7. The Government has secured approximately 93 ML of diesel storage at Marsden Point as part of its fuel resilience response. This provides around nine days of diesel supply at average national consumption levels.

8. This follows a competitive procurement process through which Z Energy was contracted to procure, own, and manage the diesel, while the Crown retains control over when it is released into the domestic market.
9. Channel has refurbished two former crude oil tanks at pace to bring this capacity into service. This was supported by funding of \$21.6 million from the Regional Infrastructure Fund.
10. The diesel is being supplied by Z Energy and delivered in two shipments. The first shipment arrived on 24 June, with the second one expected to arrive mid July 2026.
11. The diesel reserve is now operational and available to support New Zealand's response in case of fuel supply disruptions. It is a tool to improve our immediate resilience. It sits alongside existing commercial fuel stocks and provides a dedicated buffer that can be used in the event of fuel supply disruptions.
12. The Government contract for the diesel storage is a short term, time bound agreement, limiting the Government's fiscal exposure. It expires in December 2026. Further advice will be provided to you regarding next steps in July / August.
13. The Government agreement for the Channel tanks expires in December 2027. [REDACTED]

Commercial Information

Logistics

14. On arrival, you will be met by Rob Buchanan, CEO of Channel, and escorted to a short private meeting with Channel's management. You will be issued personal protective equipment (PPE) for use on site.
15. You will participate in a site visit, including a tank climb photo opportunity, alongside selected representatives. Due to the limited space at the top of the tank, numbers for the photo opportunity are restricted and only a small group will participate with media on the adjacent tank and other attendees remaining on ground.
16. A total of seven people will participate in the tank climb photo opportunity, including the Prime Minister, Minister Willis, Minister Jones, and representatives from Channel and Z Energy.
17. Following the site visit, you will travel by vehicle to the diesel tank compound for the formal opening proceedings. Media and officials will be transported separately between locations.
18. Formal opening proceedings will take place at the diesel tank compound. This will include remarks from Rob Buchanan and Julian Hughes, followed by an address from the Prime Minister, Minister Willis, and Minister Jones of two to three minutes. The official opening will involve a valve-turning ceremony, which will serve as a photo opportunity.
19. Following a media stand-up, attendees will then return by vehicle to the main offices to remove PPE before departing the site.

Risks and mitigations

20. There are no risks associated with this visit.

Communications / Media

21. Media will be present throughout the event, including during the site visit, tank climb photo opportunity, and formal opening proceedings.

Annexes

Annex One: Attendee Biographies

Annex Two: Talking Points

Annex One: Attendee Biographies

 A color portrait of Rob Buchanan, a middle-aged man with glasses, wearing a dark blue blazer over a light blue striped shirt. He is standing outdoors with green foliage in the background.	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, 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.
 A black and white portrait of Julian Hughes, a man with a full beard and mustache, wearing a dark jacket over a dark shirt. He is looking directly at the camera against a plain white background.	Julian Hughes, General Manager (Supply), Z Energy Julian leads Z's Supply team, overseeing the operations. Julian has held a variety of Executive roles at Z over the past 10 years, most recently as the GM of Transition, his role focused on Z's exit from the crude oil supply chain when the refinery at Marsden Point was closed in 2022. Julian has a Master of Health Science from the University of Auckland.

Annex Two: Talking Points

Prime Minister

- Thank you for welcoming us to Marsden Point today. It is great to be here with colleagues, industry partners, and the teams who have made this project possible.
- This facility represents an important step in strengthening New Zealand's fuel resilience. Diesel is critical to how our economy functions, from moving goods across the country to supporting agriculture, construction, and essential services.
- What we are marking today is not just new infrastructure, but also the delivery of a key government initiative for dealing with uncertainties in international oil markets. New Zealand relies entirely on imported fuels. While fuel companies are adept at realigning their international supply chains, and although we haven't had to deal with major fuel disruptions to date, having reserves onshore can buy us time to respond if supply disruptions were to occur, and make sure that our supplies remain resilient.
- I want to acknowledge Channel Infrastructure and the industry partners who have worked to deliver this project at pace. This is a good example of Government and industry working together in the national interest.

Minister Nicola Willis

- Thank you, and it is great to be here today to mark the completion of this important project.
- The Government has taken a practical and forward-looking step to strengthen New Zealand's fuel resilience by securing additional diesel supply and storage here at Marsden Point.
- This reserve represents around nine days of national diesel demand, giving us a dedicated buffer in the event of a supply disruption.
- As I have said previously, reliable fuel supply is essential for households and businesses, and particularly for the parts of our economy that rely heavily on diesel.
- This is about being prepared. While we hope we never need to draw on this reserve, it provides an important safeguard to help maintain economic activity if we are confronted by supply shocks.
- The work undertaken here has been significant, with Channel infrastructure moving quickly to bring this capacity into service.

Minister Shane Jones

- It is a pleasure to be here in Northland to mark this milestone.
- What we are seeing here is delivery at pace. Refurbishing these tanks and bringing them back into service has required a significant effort from Channel Infrastructure and those on the ground.
- This investment, supported by funding from the Regional Infrastructure Fund, demonstrates the role that regional infrastructure plays in strengthening national resilience.
- We are operating in a global environment where fuel markets remain uncertain, particularly given ongoing tensions affecting supply routes and production.
- In that context, strengthening our domestic storage and supply capability is a practical and necessary step.
- This is about ensuring New Zealand is better prepared and that we are making the most of the infrastructure and expertise we have here in regions like Northland.