



Weekly Report

Week ending:	13 September 2024	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	MFR2024-120

Recipient	Action sought
Hon David Seymour MINISTER FOR REGULATION	Note the contents of this report

Aisling Risdon
Contact: s9(2)(a)
Ministry for Regulation

Minister's comments:

Actions

Action	Due date	Status update
A2024-016	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
A2024-021	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
A2024-032	Ongoing	In progress. Decisions will be sought in MFR2024-110 due 8 October 2024
A2024-038	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
A2024-039	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Briefings & Aides-mémoire

Papers delivered to the Minister for Regulation	Date Delivered
MFR2024-064	13 September
MFR2024-103	13 September
MFR2024-104	13 September
MFR2024-115	13 September
MFR2024-119	13 September

Papers under development		Due date
MFR2024-122	Crown Law advice on current version of the Regulatory Standards Bill	17 September
MFR2024-106	September update on Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review for 24 September Joint Ministers Meeting	20 September
MFR2024-118	Visit to Ministry of Regulation on 23 September 2024	20 September
MFR2024-121	Early Childhood Education Regulatory System Review: Themes from direct engagement	20 September
MFR2024-110	Draft Cabinet paper for Consultation: Improving Regulatory Policy Making	8 October

Upcoming events/announcements

Date	Location	Event	Opportunity
Week of 9 September	Wellington	Strategic Intentions tabled	Opportunity for PR to highlight the Ministry's first Strategic Intentions
13 September	Plant and Food Research, Palmerston North	Visit with Minister Hoggard	Joint PR with Ministers Hoggard and Simmonds – engagement on agricultural and horticultural products regulatory review closed; opportunity to thank people for feedback and outline next steps
23 September	Ministry for Regulation office, Wellington	Informal meet and greet with the team to acknowledge the Ministry is six months old	

Contact: Jade Lock, Acting Communications and Engagement Lead. Ph. s9(2)(a)

Updates

Regulatory Response Team

For information

The team has received one new matter this week.

RRT #	Source	Issue
RRT2024-022	Individual	<p>Commerce Commission delays for non-contentious acquisitions</p> <p>The writer pointed out alleged flaws within the existing framework for clearances granted by the Commerce Commission during commercial acquisition processes.</p> <p>This included a case where a company in the s9(2)(b) waited one year for the Commission to allow them to be acquired by another company.</p> <p>The writer suggests reforms which provide fast-track clearances for acquisitions which are non-contentious.</p> <p>RRT is considering this issue and will update you.</p>

Contact: Andrew Royle, Policy Lead. Ph: s9(2)(a)

Engagements

For information

The Chief Executive's recent engagements include:

- Meeting with Cath O'Brien, the Executive Director of the Board of Airline Representatives of New Zealand (BARNZ), to discuss regulation in the airline industry.
- Meeting with ANZ School of Government (ANZSOG) as part of their research on options for professional development offerings for regulators.
- Attending a presentation by KPMG's Global Digital Government Leader on his insights on modernising government in Australia, and AI in the public sector.

Contact: Gráinne Moss, Secretary for Regulation and Chief Executive. Ph: s9(2)(a)

Recruitment

For information

As at 13 September, the Ministry has 24 permanent staff with another six already appointed and due to start in the coming weeks.

Deputy Chief Executive interviews are underway and are due to conclude on 17 September.

The Chief Economist vacancy will be advertised from 13 September 2024 across a number of jobs sites in New Zealand, Australia, the UK and the USA.

We have provided an updated current workforce and recruitment update in the A3 at the end of this report (**Appendix 1**). This includes the Ministry’s organisational chart showing progress of recruitment to permanent roles.

Contact: Abbey Macalister, Head of People & Operations, Ph: s9(2)(a)

Agricultural and Horticultural Products Regulatory Review

For information

Submissions on the agricultural and horticultural products review closed on Sunday, 8 September. As at Wednesday, 11 September we’ve received 82 submissions, and we are expecting a few more late submissions. Some of the submissions received from representative groups have been submitted collectively on behalf of the members they represent. The Joint Ministers for the review issued a press release on 12 September thanking people for their submissions and contributions to the review.

Written submissions summary	Submissions
Agricultural and horticultural primary industry – groups, farmers/producers/processors	20
Major exporters	2
Product manufacturers, importers, pest controllers, retailers	20
Researchers, academics and public health	6
Environment	5
Māori agribusiness	1
Domestic consumers, local government and other	24
International experts	4
Total	82

The quality of submissions received has been high, with many well-developed and thoughtful submissions. Submissions have identified a range of issues with the current approval process, and the impacts this can have on their business. Submitters also noted the protection that the regulatory system provides, and the need for effective risk management. Analysis of the submissions is ongoing.

A Request for Quote was sent to several economic consultancy firms on 9 September, inviting them to provide a targeted piece of quantitative economic advice for the review. We expect to appoint the successful supplier in early October, with a draft report to be delivered in early November.

The first meeting of the Sector Reference Group was held on 10 September. Discussion included an update on the progress of the review, and the ways of working for the group. The review team will come back to them with a forward meeting schedule.

The review team is focusing on developing advice to support the Joint Ministers meeting on 24 September. The briefing for this meeting will include an outline of the initial issues raised, preliminary economic analysis, and proposed criteria to be used for assessing options, in addition to seeking decisions on the approach to Cabinet decisions. The draft briefing is being consulted with agencies this week and discussed by the Senior Officials Advisory Group next week.

Contact: Peter Clark, Agricultural and Horticultural Products Review Lead. Ph. s9(2)(a)

Early Childhood Education Regulatory Review

For information

The Ministry has been replanning the remaining phases of the Review. Due to the significant volume and detailed nature of submissions that we received through our public engagement process, we will be seeking an extension of timelines and have sought your approval through a separate briefing.

We are also planning what interim products could be useful for keeping Ministers and stakeholders updated, and will develop a communications plan for engaging with the different stakeholders through the analysis and report-writing phase.

Contact: David Wansbrough, Sector Reviews Lead. Ph. s9(2)(a) and Justine Fitzmaurice, Project Manager – Reviews, Ph. s9(2)(a)

Long-term insights briefing

For information

Under the Public Service Act 2020, every public service department must produce (or contribute to) a long-term insights briefing every three years. These briefings are prepared independently of Ministers and support agencies to meet their stewardship obligations.

The purpose of the briefings is to make publicly available information about medium and long-term trends, risks and opportunities that affect or may affect New Zealand. Agencies are required to consult the public on the topics to be covered in the briefing and a draft of the briefing once it is prepared.

For our first long-term insights briefing, the Ministry has decided to collaborate with the Public Service Commission rather than authoring an independent briefing. The Commission is about to release a short consultation document seeking public views on the best topic. We expect this to go live in the next fortnight. The topics suggested for consideration are:

- Future of the public service workforce
- Future of public service integrity
- Future of public service organisations

We can see a clear regulatory lens on each of these topics, so have worked with the Commission to ensure that the consultation document reflects this. Once we receive feedback and the topic has been finalised, we will commence work on the briefing itself, which will be published in mid-2025.

Contact: Andrew Royle, Policy Lead, Ph. s9(2)(a)

Proactively Released

Draft Cabinet paper consultations

Draft Cabinet papers that we have been consulted on will appear here. Our intent is to leave papers on this table for your reference until we are confident they have been discussed at Cabinet, after which they will be removed. **Items previously reported on are shaded grey.**

Contact: Andrew Royle, Policy Lead. Ph. s9(2)(a)

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Proactively Released

Recruitment Update

13 September 2024

Current staffing breakdown	
Total staff	66
Permanent	24
Fixed-term	25
Secondments	7
Contractors	10

Permanent recruitment progress	
Total permanent roles in Ministry structure	91
Filled	24 (26%)
Appointed but not started	6 (7%)
Recruitment in progress	11 (12%)
Vacant positions	50 (55%)

- 963 people have registered their interest with the Ministry's Careers Hub
- The MfR Careers Hub job conversion rate – the percentage of people who view the ad and go on to apply for the job - is 6%; this is a strong rate
- We have had 18.7k visitors to the Careers Hub since its launch on 2 July

