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**Re: Local government update on the new National Fuel Plan 2026**

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**From** Daran Ponter <Daran.Ponter@gw.govt.nz>

**Date** Mon 3/30/26 10:49 AM

**To** Daran Ponter <Daran.Ponter@gw.govt.nz>

**From:** LGFuel <LGFuel@dia.govt.nz>

**Sent:** Friday, March 27, 2026 4:09 PM

**Subject:** Local government update on the new National Fuel Plan 2026

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Kia ora koutou

Thank you for attending yesterday's meeting with the Minister of Finance, Hon Nicola Willis, Minister of Local Government, Hon Simon Watts, and Minister of Emergency Management, Hon Mark Mitchell, regarding the new National Fuel Plan 2026 (the Plan). We acknowledge that this is a challenging and uncertain period, particularly for regions that are or have had to deal with severe weather impacts at the same time.

Today, the Government outlined the Plan's four-phase fuel response framework. The early phases remain flexible, focusing on monitoring, providing information and voluntary fuel-use reduction, while the later phases allow for prioritisation for emergency services and essential supply chains.

Key highlights from the announcement include:

- **Phase 1 and 2 measures:** Focused on monitoring global developments, easing restrictions to increase flexibility, and encouraging voluntary fuel conservation by households and businesses.
- **Phases 3 and 4:** These involve stronger interventions, such as prioritising fuel for emergency services, freight, food supply chains, and key industries, should the situation escalate.
- **Assessment criteria:** Six key criteria will guide decisions on moving between phases, including changes in fuel stock levels, export restrictions, and significant disruptions to regional distribution.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** The Government will engage with industry, fuel users, and local government to finalise the implementation details of Phases 3 and 4.

The Fuel Security Ministerial Oversight Group will oversee the implementation of the plan and will work closely with industry to ensure a coordinated response.

I encourage you to review the attached public materials for further details, and also on the MBIE website [Middle East conflict and New Zealand's fuel stocks | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment](#), and on the Beehive <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/fuel-plan-protect-economy-amid-disruption>

The Department of Internal Affairs has established a Local Government Fuel Response Unit that will be working closely with Local Government New Zealand, Taituarā, the National

Emergency Management Agency and the Water Services Authority – Taumata Arowai. We will be providing regular communications to the local government sector on the Plan.

The Government's current focus is on Phases 1 and 2, with emphasis on conserving fuel and maintaining supply to avoid escalating into Phases 3 or 4.

We would appreciate receiving information from you concerning any measures you are considering to reduce demand or conserve supply while we are in Phase 1, or if we move to Phase 2.

In parallel, considerable work is underway by Government in partnership with industry and key sectors to develop the details of Phases 3 and 4. This was indicated by Ministers at yesterday's briefing and repeated in today's announcement.

We need to ensure we accurately represent the priorities for local government as the Phase 3 and 4 detailed design continues. To do this we need the following information from your region or district on:

- key areas and essential services where continued fuel services will be required to function and how that would change between Phases 3 and 4;
- what services might you stop or what other measures or options are you considering to reduce fuel usage in the long-term; and
- any other information that is critical for central government to know at this time or to feed into the ongoing design.

We anticipate that most of this information will be able to be sourced from regional or local fuel plans.

This will not be the last time we seek information. We are committed to keeping you informed of the work being done and progress being made. We will follow up any Government announcements so that you always have access to the information you need.

It is possible we will establish regular check-ins as needed – particularly if we escalate through the various phases.

For now, we remain in Phase 1, focused on monitoring, providing information and voluntary fuel reduction, while working through the critical information we need to feed into the core agencies designing Phases 3 and 4.

We will coordinate with other agencies to respond to questions raised in yesterday's meeting and provide guidance to the local government sector on the National Fuel Plan including the implications for regional and local CDEM fuel plans.

NEMA will also send an email to CDEM Groups shortly.

You can send responses and queries to this email address: [LGFuel@diagovt.nz](mailto:LGFuel@diagovt.nz)

Ngā mihi nui

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**Internal Affairs**  
**Te Tari Taiwhenua**