



New Zealand House of Representatives
Te Whare Māngai o Aotearoa

Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee
Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Whanaketanga Ōhanga, Take Pūtaiao,
Take Atamaitanga

54th Parliament
March 2026

Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill

211—1

Presented to the House of Representatives
by Dr Parmjeet Parmar, Chairperson

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Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill

Recommendation

The Economic Development, Science and Innovation Committee has examined the Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill and recommends that this bill be passed.

About this bill

Meteorological Service of New Zealand Limited (MetService), currently a state-owned enterprise, is the designated provider of severe weather forecasts and warnings for New Zealand. This bill would give effect to the Government's intention to reform New Zealand's weather-forecasting system and to bring meteorology, climate science, hydrology, and oceanography together in a single entity. It would amend the State-Owned Enterprises Act 1986 and a number of other Acts to enable the newly created Earth Sciences New Zealand (ESNZ) to acquire MetService as a wholly owned subsidiary.

The bill would exempt the acquisition from Part 3 of the Commerce Act 1986, although subsequent activities of MetService and ESNZ would remain open to investigation by the Commerce Commission. To improve transparency, the bill would amend the Crown Research Institutes Act 1992 to require ESNZ to publish its access policy for observational weather data.

Submissions received on the bill

We received 12 submissions and heard oral evidence from one submitter. Generally, the submissions discussed the following themes:

- the acquisition's exemption from the Commerce Act
- access to weather data and the transparency provision for access to observational weather data
- the application of the Official Information Act 1982 and the Ombudsmen Act 1975
- changes to the Meteorological Services Act 1990.

In their joint submission, ESNZ and MetService said that the bill would enable the two agencies to maximise their combined capabilities for the benefit of New Zealand and the South Pacific. They told us that the resulting weather and climate services would increase New Zealand's resilience and readiness to respond to severe weather and climate events, and enable industry to realise greater value, improving national economic performance.

A full summary of submissions, along with comments from our advisers, is available in the departmental report on the bill. The report is published on the Parliament website

We thank submitters for sharing their views on the bill.

Appendix

Committee procedure

The Meteorological Services (Acquisition and Policies) Legislation Amendment Bill was referred to this committee on 18 November 2025. The closing date for submissions was 14 January 2026. We received and considered submissions from 12 interested groups and individuals. We heard oral evidence from one submitter.

We received advice on the bill from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. As part of our consideration of the bill, we have examined its consistency with principles of legislative quality. We have no issues regarding the legislation's design to bring to the attention of the House. The Parliamentary Counsel Office was available to assist with legal drafting.

Committee members

Dr Parmjeet Parmar (Chairperson)
Dr Hamish Campbell
Reuben Davidson
Cushla Tangaere-Manuel
Dr Vanessa Weenink
Arena Williams
Stuart Willis
Dr David Wilson

Related resources

The documents that we received as advice and evidence are available [on the Parliament website](#).