

Government Response to
Report of the Petitions Committee Komiti Whiriwhiri Take Petihana
on
Petition of Animates NZ Holdings Ltd, Pawprint Petition: Ban Public
Fireworks Sales to help protect the Animals of NZ
Petition of Suzanne Cook: Ban private sales of fireworks; allow
only licensed public fireworks events
Petition of Raewyn Harrison: Ban the public sale of fireworks

Presented to the House of Representatives

In accordance with Standing Order 252

Government response to Report of the Petitions Committee on Requests to ban the public sale of fireworks

Introduction

- 1 The Government has carefully considered the Petitions Committee's (the Committee) report on the petitions of Animates NZ Holdings Ltd, Suzanne Cook, and Raewyn Harrison to ban the public sale of fireworks and allow only licensed public fireworks events.
- 2 The Government does not intend to progress the Committee's recommendation at this time, preferring instead to manage fireworks within the current regulatory settings.
- 3 The Government responds to the report in accordance with Standing Order 252.

Recommendations and Government response

- 4 **Recommendation:** The Committee recommends to the Government that the public sale and private use of fireworks be banned.
- 5 **Response:** The Government acknowledges the Committee's recommendation and the harms associated with fireworks use, including impacts on people, animals, and property. It also notes that these harms often occur in private and unpredictable settings, which makes them difficult to prevent through regulation alone. However, the Government has decided to retain the current regulatory framework at this time. While a ban would more directly address these risks, it would also remove access to a long-standing and widely used lawful activity. The Government considers that retaining the status quo remains a proportionate response, balancing the need to manage harm with the importance of maintaining individual choice. The current framework continues to provide controls at the point of sale and mechanisms to address misuse, while allowing the Government to monitor whether further change is warranted.

Conclusion

- 6 The Government has decided to retain the current regulatory framework, recognising the significance of removing access to a widely used lawful activity. It will continue to manage risks through existing controls while monitoring whether further changes are warranted.

Timing of the Government response

- 7 The Government response must be presented to the House by 28 July 2026.