

COVER SHEET

1. Establish the Employer Support Programme for Northland Project PGF Application

**For:
Approval**

Background & context:

Applicant Organisation:

- Northland Inc

Location:

- Whangarei

Proposal:

- Fund an initial three month establishment project to enable Commercial Information [redacted] initial establishment work to be completed to develop the business case for a 3 year Employer support package project and a PGF application;
- The “Employer Support Package” is designed to
 - support employers (in Forestry, Horticulture and Civil Construction) to address current and future labour shortages by investing in employing young people at risk of long term unemployment in Northland; and
 - provide support that wraps around youth through a structured, appropriate pastoral care programme (to be established).
- This initiative has come out of the Report on “Options for an Employer Support Package for Te Tai Tokerau Northland which was produced by the Ministry of Primary Industries (MPI) with the Northland Skills & Employment Steering Group (NSESOG)
- Initial funding will be used to :
 - Commercial Information [redacted]

Recommendation:

We recommend that the SROs:

- Note** that through the Northland Skills & Employment Steering Group, the Ministry of Primary Industries has investigated what an “Employer Support Package” might look like to support employers employing young people at risk of long-term unemployment.
- Note** the MPI report estimates Commercial Information [redacted]
- Note** the initial three month establishment project has been assessed by the PDU and PGF funding criteria categories including Economic Benefit, Additionality, Regional Stakeholder Support and Management and Governance, in a surge region, are evidenced
- Note** the establishment project includes costs for Commercial Information [redacted] initial establishment work for the business case and PGF funding application. These costs include developing the pastoral care model and material to support engagement into the industry groups.
- Approve** \$106,750 from the PGF to be allocated towards the “Establish the Employer Support Package for Northland” project subject to:
 - the Head of the PDU Investments team being satisfied with the results

Commercial Information

- o establish a Governance Oversight Group ;
- o develop upfront a pastoral care model (aligned with NSESG priority)
- o initial graphic design work and material to support progressing engagement with the 3 industries on the Multi-Industry Skills hub

Funding Sought:

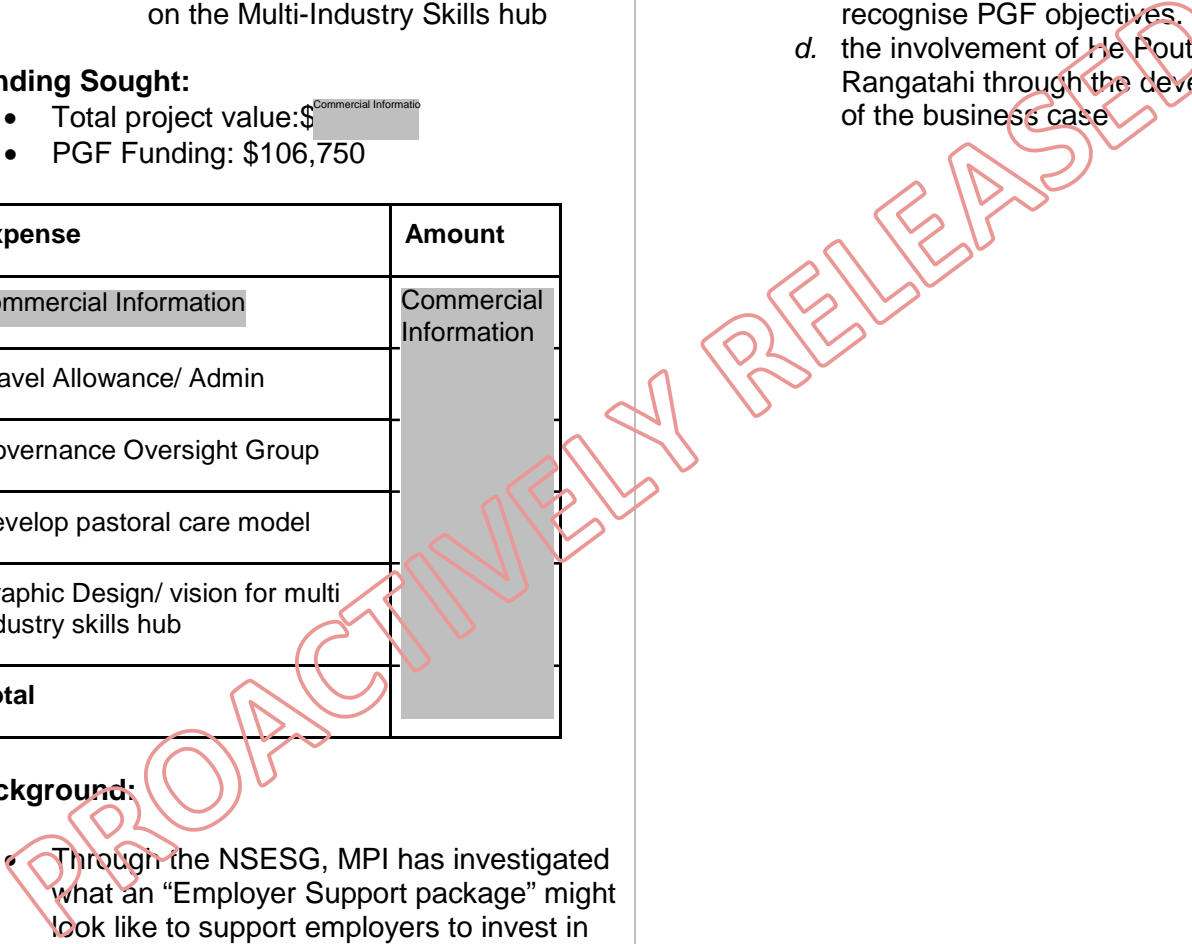
- Total project value: \$^{Commercial Information}
- PGF Funding: \$106,750

Expense	Amount
Commercial Information	Commercial Information
Travel Allowance/ Admin	
Governance Oversight Group	
Develop pastoral care model	
Graphic Design/ vision for multi industry skills hub	
Total	

Background:

- Through the NSESG, MPI has investigated what an “Employer Support package” might look like to support employers to invest in employing young people at risk of long term unemployment in Northland.
- This application seeks funding to further develop the business case and PGF funding application.
- The MPI report includes a possible budget
Commercial Information

- of due diligence;
- b. a tender process being used to secure the ^{Commercial Information} required; and
- c. the three month project delivering a business case which, given the benefits to the industry participants includes co-funding options to recognise PGF objectives.
- d. the involvement of He Poutama Rangatahi through the development of the business case



The purpose of this briefing is to consider recommending PGF funds to the Employer Support package for Northland project.

Alignment to PGF criteria:

Increased Economic Benefit

The full programme relates to building skills and capability in the region which will support increasing capacity. The aim is to lift productivity potential of Northland through increased employment in forestry, horticulture and civil construction.

Additionality

Additionality will be achieved by helping create more jobs (apprentices for small businesses) and community benefit of at risk youth getting employment plus encouraging key industries to invest in Northland as labour resource issues will be addressed.

Alignment with regional plans/ Stakeholder support

Proposal has arisen from work undertaken by the Northland Skills & Employment Steering Group (a collection of representatives from a number of agencies (MSD, TPK, MPI, TEC, MBIE, MOE and Northland Inc.) which has been mandated to review and champion He Poutama Rangatahi projects. The group delivered a report on options for an Employer Support Package for Te Tai Tokerau Northland. As part of this report extensive consultation with employers occurred.

Iwi organisations have formed part of the Employer Support project throughout the report interview and consultation process and will have key roles as the business case and future proposal are developed.

Application notes that not all consultation for the feasibility project is complete.

Management and Governance

The three industries will take the project forward with ongoing support at governance level from MSD, TPK and MPI.

Risks Issues:

Nominated project manager and governance across the project will be the key to quality of risk management for this initial three month phase. A condition of approval will be that a tender is conducted to secure the project manager.

Eligibility points of note:

- *Due diligence:* Due diligence is underway. It is a condition of approval that due diligence is to be to the satisfaction of the Head of PDU Investment team.
- *Conflict(s) of interest:* Based on the information provided no conflict of interest is evident noting that full due diligence will inform this item further.
- *Illegal Activity:* Based on the application information provided and feedback from other agencies there is no indication that the applicant or project has been involved in, or associated with illegal activity.
- *Alignment with Regional development plans:* Developed as part of the He Poutama Rangatahi initiatives.
- *Commercial funding availability:* Industry groups have committed time to the project and the next phase will be to consider design, progress and investment/ ownership models which will include how next phase is funded post business case. Feedback to applicant will include requirement to address co-funding requirements of the PGF.

Consultation undertaken or implications:									
Legal	N/A	HR	N/A	Finance	N/A	MBIE policy	N/A	Other	
Supporting proposal:									
Yes									
Appendices:									
Yes - Application Commercial Information									
Sponsor(s):									
N/A									
Manager/Author of paper:									
Privacy of natural persons Investment Team									

PROACTIVELY RELEASED