

TOURISM RECOVERY MINISTERS GROUP

Thursday, 2 July 2020, 4.15pm-5pm
Weekly Meeting, 7.2 Executive Wing

AGENDA

Attendees	Hon Kelvin Davis (Minister of Tourism) Chair Hon Grant Robertson (Minister of Finance) Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Minister of Maori Development) Hon Eugenie Sage (Minister of Conservation) Fletcher Tabuteau (Under Secretary Regional Economic Development)
Apologies	-
Officials	Paul Stocks (MBIE LSE DCE), Iain Cossar (MBIE Tourism GM), Danielle McKenzie (MBIE), Stephen England-Hall (TNZ, CE), Billie Moore (TNZ GM), Bryan Dunne (DPMC)

Item	Description	Actions	Papers
1	Strategic Tourism Assets Protection Programme Eligibility	<p>Note MBIE has undertaken eligibility assessments for 265 applications to the STAPP.</p> <p>Agree eligible STAPP applications will progress and receive a full assessment</p> <p>Agree not eligible STAPP applications will not progress any further and will not receive a full assessment</p> <p>Note that not eligible applicants will be notified at the same time funding announcements are made</p> <p>Note it is intended to have eligible applications assessed and in front of TRM on Thursday 9 July</p>	3829 19-20 STAPP Milestone Update – 30 June 2020
2	Inbound Tour Operators	<p>Agree that up to \$20 million will be made available from the Tourism Recovery Package for ITO-specific support</p> <p>Agree to the eligibility and indicative assessment criteria for the ITO-specific fund.</p> <p>Note that all ITO applications will be removed from the STAPP application process and dealt with through the ITO-specific fund.</p> <p>Note the indicative process and timeline provided for implementation of the fund.</p>	3895 19-20 Inbound Tour Operator Support – 2 July Update
3	Any other business		

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND TENTATIVE AGENDA ITEMS

9 July TRM Meeting 3pm-4.30pm Decisions full assessment of STAPP applications	16 July TRM Meeting 12-12.45pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taskforce Chairs update Taskforce Policy priorities (NB: tentative STAPP announcements this week) 	23 July TRM Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc
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Record of decisions and actions

Hon Grant Robertson (Minister of Finance) was an apology.

Ministers agreed to all recommendations in the STAPP eligibility and ITO papers with the following clarifications and actions:

STAPP eligibility paper

Ministers were asked to declare if they had any conflicts or perceived conflicts with any STAPP applications. Minister Davis has accepted hospitality from the following entities as Minister of Tourism and left the room while Ministers discussed their eligibility – Dive! Tutukaka, Salt Air, The Duke of Marlborough Hotel and Te Hana Te Ao Marama. Remaining Ministers agreed that these applications should progress to full assessment.

Ministers noted the explanation of why applications were not eligible was useful and more detail would be helpful with the eligible applications.

Analysis of eligible applications – Ministers were provided with an overview and discussed whether any concerns were noted in the list:

- Tourism Industry NZ Trust – this application will be taken out of current process and considered separately.
- Ministers queried two applications that related to accommodation, Duke of Marlborough and s 9(2)(b)(ii) – Ministers queried why these accommodation providers were eligible when other accommodation providers were not eligible. Officials explained that if an accommodation provider is historically significant then it could be deemed eligible, as is the case with the Duke of Marlborough's historic significance to the region. In the case of s 9(2)(b)(ii), the eligible part of the application relates only to the tourism component of the business.
- DOC wildlife relief package - DOC will provide advice on which applications best fit the STAPP or DOC package.
- Ministers asked about measures that will ensure funding is being appropriately awarded and monitored, including understanding what other avenues applicants had made to seek financial support. Officials confirmed that applicants complete a declaration that they have exhausted all other avenues of financial support and MBIE has also engaged Deloitte to undertake financial assessment of the applicants' finances. MBIE advised that declarations would be re-signed 3-monthly; that funding is paid quarterly on provision of a satisfactory report, and that random audits could be undertaken.
- Ministers queried why some tourism aviation operators were eligible while others were ineligible. Aviation operators, like other attractions, may be significant in one region but not in another. Where the individual applicant has been assessed as of regional or national significance they have been assessed as eligible and conversely ineligible where not regionally significant.
- Ministers asked that applicants' compliance history and any non-compliance/prosecutions also be part of the further analysis. MBIE noted that a declaration was sought from applicants.
- Minister Sage queried whether the analysis would include how applications rated against the Four Capitals. Officials noted that analysis was not explicit like the ITO funding but some aspects are assessed in the assessment process.

Action: MBIE to provide Ministers with more detail when making full assessments, including assessment criteria and spreadsheet that will be used for full analysis.

MBIE to undertake random audits of successful applicants finances.

Oral item – Tourism Futures Taskforce membership

Ministers noted that s 9(2)(a) is unable to join the Taskforce due to existing governance commitments. It was agreed that officials and the co-Chairs would provide Ministers with two-three names for consideration at the next TRM meeting. Minister Sage asked for s 9(2)(a) to be considered for the list.

Other discussion – Financial delegation for the Tourism Recovery Fund

Treasury officials asked for the financial recommendation (a) in the ITO paper be corrected as Tourism Recovery Ministers don't have the authority to allocate funding. The financial recommendation in 3513-19-20 - Using the Regional Business Partner Programme for Tourism Transitions Support also requires correction. Tourism Private Sec to make corrections and resend to Ministers for signing.

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