

# Regional Economic Development

**Weekly Report**

**20 - 24 April 2020**

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**To: Hon Shane Jones**

Minister for Regional Economic Development

**Fletcher Tabuteau**

Under-Secretary to the Minister for Regional Economic  
Development



**IN-CONFIDENCE**

## Contents

1.	Dashboard updates .....	3
1.1	Proposals received by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) (as at 19 April 2020).....	3
1.2	Progress of proposals received by the PDU (as at 20 April 2020) .....	3
1.3	Headline Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) Numbers as at 29 February 2020 (monthly) .....	3
1.4	Job numbers as at 29 February 2020 (monthly) .....	3
2.	Priority Updates .....	<b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b>
2.1	Manawatū-Whanganui New Senior Regional Official .....	4
1.	Dashboard updates .....	3
1.1	Proposals received by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) (as at 19 April 2020) 3	
1.2	Progress of proposals received by the PDU (as at 20 April 2020) .....	3
1.3	Headline Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) Numbers (as at 29 February 2020) (monthly) .....	3
1.4	Job numbers (as at 29 February 2020) (monthly) .....	3
2.	Priority updates .....	4
2.1	Manawatū-Whanganui New Senior Regional Official .....	4
3.	Delivery of projects update .....	4
3.1	Top priority projects of interest .....	4
3.2	Other projects .....	5
4.	Policy update .....	5
4.1	PGF Limited .....	5

## 1. Dashboard updates

### 1.1 Proposals received by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) (as at 19 April 2020)

<b>New proposals received in week ending 19 April 2020</b>	10
<b>Total proposals received to 19 April 2020</b>	1,662*

\*Includes applications and expressions of interest

### 1.2 Progress of proposals received by the PDU (as at 20 April 2020)

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Count*</b>
Awaiting assessment	109
Being assessed	213
Unsuccessful	868
Approved	472
<b>Total received</b>	<b>1,662</b>

\* These include all proposals that have come through the Provincial Development Unit's application and decision-making process. Application numbers may differ from project numbers as multiple applications may result in a single project or vice versa.

### 1.3 Headline Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) Numbers (as at 29 February 2020) (monthly)

<b>Total PGF funding committed</b>	<b>Total funding contracted</b>	<b>Total funding paid to date</b>
\$2,881.8m	\$1,255.6m	\$469.5m

### 1.4 Job numbers (as at 29 February 2020) (monthly)

<b>Number of people employed in PGF-supported projects</b>	1,849*
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\* Based on information provided by funding recipients on contracted projects.

## 2. Priority updates

### 2.1 Manawatū-Whanganui New Senior Regional Official

In the Manawatū-Whanganui region, Di Grennell, Senior Regional Official (SRO) has resigned from her role as Deputy Chief Executive Regional Partnerships at Te Puni Kōkiri, creating a vacancy in the SRO role. Di has been the SRO in the region since the PDU was established and her in-depth knowledge and strong regional networks have been an asset to the region. Until a permanent replacement is appointed, Hannah Buchanan, Director Regional Development at the PDU, will be acting SRO for the region.

<b>Contact:</b>	Chloe Kincaid, Regional Advisor, <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>
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## 3. Delivery of projects update

### 3.1 Top priority projects of interest

Project name	Description/ update
Nelson Artificial Intelligence Institute	The CEO of Nelson Artificial Intelligence Institute (NAII) has resigned and NAII has already started the process to appoint a new CEO. We will provide an update once the new CEO has been appointed.
	<b>Amount:</b> \$3.400m   <b>Region:</b> Top of the South   <b>Status:</b> Contracted
Whanganui Rail Upgrade	Due to COVID-19, this project missed an important opportunity to carry out works over Easter 2020 whilst the lines were closed. KiwiRail will need to schedule another four day closure at a later date, however this needs to be in line with their obligation to line users to keep the lines open. KiwiRail will need to assess the safety of their construction environment to adhere to guidelines for COVID-19 Alert Level 3 and PDU officials will work with KiwiRail to ensure the project progresses.
	<b>Amount:</b> \$3.000m   <b>Region:</b> Manawatū-Whanganui   <b>Status:</b> Contracted
Westport Airport - Critical Infrastructure resilience	Construction work for this project can resume on 28 April 2020 once we move to COVID-19 Alert Level 3. There is only a few weeks of construction left to complete this project and the seawall is due to be finished by the end of May.
	<b>Amount:</b> \$2.074m   <b>Region:</b> West Coast   <b>Status:</b> Contracted

### 3.2 Other projects

Project name	Description/ update
Wairarapa Dark Sky Reserve - International Certification	The recipient provided its final reports to the PDU on 16 April 2020 and after the final payment is processed, this project can be closed. The Board accepted the consultant's reports as a valuable resource for achieving its outcomes and has a positive outlook for the future. <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Commercial Information</span> <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">[REDACTED]</span> .
	<b>Amount:</b> \$100,000   <b>Region:</b> Wairarapa   <b>Status:</b> Contracted
Hokianga Reference Group	The Hokianga Reference Group is looking to develop a Hokianga Action Plan that will guide the region's economic development for the next 10 years. The Group has been motivated by the more than \$20m of PGF funding that has been invested in the region over the past year, and the support it has received from central and local government.
	<b>Region:</b> Northland   <b>Status:</b> Contracted

## 4. Policy update

### 4.1 PGF Limited

PGFL Directors are meeting with PDU on 29 April 2020 to discuss the operational matters relating to PGFL.	
<b>Contact:</b>	Isabel Poulson, Manager Strategy and Policy, <span style="background-color: #cccccc;">Privacy of natural persons</span>