

Regional Economic Development

Weekly Report

28 April – 1 May 2020

To: Hon Shane Jones

Minister for Regional Economic Development

Fletcher Tabuteau

Under-Secretary to the Minister for Regional Economic
Development



IN-CONFIDENCE

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1. Dashboard updates

1.1 Proposals received by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) (as at 28 April 2020)

New proposals received in week starting 28 April 2020	7
Total proposals received to 28 April 2020	1,668*

*Includes applications and expressions of interest

1.2 Progress of proposals received by the PDU (as at 28 April 2020)

Stage	Count*
Awaiting assessment	110
Being assessed	213
Unsuccessful	873
Approved	472
Total received	1,668

* 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 31 March 2020) (monthly)

Total PGF funding committed	Total funding contracted	Total funding paid to date
\$2,869.0m	\$1,305.0m	\$511.7m

1.4 Job numbers (as at 31 March 2020) (monthly)

Number of people employed in PGF-supported projects	2,586*
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* Based on information provided by funding recipients on contracted projects.

2. Comms Update

Planned announcements – Due Date to Office			
Date	Location	Announcement	Additional Information
Week of 4-8 May	Te Tai Tokerau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tapuatahi Incorporated • Okaroro Incorporation 	Whenua Māori
	Waikato	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridge Synthetic Track 	Deputy Prime Minister to announce
	Manawatū-Whanganui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pūkaha – Mount Bruce 	
	Nationwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information TAM and HPR projects 	
	Nationwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 x Digital Hubs 	
Week of 11-15 May	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Canterbury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hekeao Hinds Water Enhancement Trust 	Commercial Information
Media releases May			
Month of May – dates TBC	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	Grow regions website
	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Te Tai Tokerau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Chinese Association Ventnor Memorial Project • Commercial Information 	
Post Covid-19 Level 2	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	
	Commercial Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Information 	

3. Priority updates

3.1 Top priority projects of interest

Project name	Description/ update
Activation Destinations (Central Waikato Tourism Trail)	The building consents require the theatre and hotel to be built simultaneously for the integrity of the structure. Funding committed by the PGF is for the theatre [REDACTED] Commercial Information [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
	Meetings with the [REDACTED] Commercial Information will occur this week and PDU Officials will provide updates on the situation as it develops.
	Amount: \$12.000m Region: Waikato Status: Contracted

3.2 Other projects

Project name	Description/ update
Kaipara District Council - Kaipara Kickstart (Growing the Kai in Kaipara)	The Kaipara Kai Hub Final Feasibility Study has been submitted, which is a key milestone for this contract. The study is an important component of the wider Kaipara Kickstart programme (which also includes roading and wharf improvements). The study, combined with the Kai Hub at Ruawai and a new project to establish demonstration sites, will help to diversify the use of land for food production in the district.
	Amount: \$980,000 Region: Northland Status: Contracted
The Food Factory	Work re-commenced on the Food Factory this week, including the construction of an outside building pad for housing gas bottles whilst the tradespeople are working on the air ventilation. This is the last major milestone for this project to be completed. [REDACTED] Commercial Information [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
	Amount: \$778,000 Region: Top of the South Status: Contracted
Chatham Islands Electricity Multi-Purpose Lines Vehicle	This project has been completed and the final payment has been made. The recipient has advised that the vehicle has arrived and is performing well.
	Amount: \$192,169 Region: Chatham Islands Status: Contracted

The Coordination of South Island Events	Commercial Information
	The recipient is hopeful that restrictions around inter-regional travel and mass gatherings will be lifted by this time and the website will be an important tool for regions to promote major events in the South Island and to stimulate economic growth in this sector.
Amount: \$150,000 Region: Canterbury Status: Contracted	

4. Delivery of projects updates

4.1 Te Ara Mahi (TAM) / He Poutama Rangatahi (HPR) update

Labour Market Ministers Group

Commercial Information	
Contact:	Stephen Ruddell, Principal Advisor, <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>

Feedback from Te Ara Mahi Projects

We have maintained contact will all TAM and HPR providers throughout the lockdown periods. Discussion with all projects also includes the impacts of COVID 19 on their community/region and any need to adapt their programme. Some recent feedback includes:

Kouou Digital Agency (Wairou)

The Wairoa Digital Employment Programme involves 12 weeks of paid digital and technology industry training including software engineering, programming application and game development followed by 40 weeks employment as a 'digital apprentice' to complete work that is sourced and managed by the Korou Digital Agency through their industry networks. This initiative will move 48 participants through the programme over Commercial years. The first programme commenced just prior to New Zealand moving to Alert Level Four lockdown but the first Commercial In participants have been employed and training is being delivered via on-line channels.

Blue Light Youth Driver Navigation Programme (Bay of Plenty and Waikato)

Blue Light Ventures seeks to remove barriers to attaining Full Drivers Licences – inclusive of learning to drive, practising in registered and warranted vehicles, transport to tests and payment of all test fees. It receives referrals from NZ Police and Social Service providers of rangatahi given 56 days to obtain drivers licence to avoid conviction and Secondary Schools (decile 1-5) as a preventative measure for students disengaging from education.

Blue Light have set up a Facebook campaign with the Secondary Schools in the BOP/Waikato area during lockdown and in the first four days, had 300 applicants. Many applicants are no longer at school, but wish to be proactive to get their licences. Many also have no licenced drivers in their family or a registered vehicle to learn.

Contact:	Stephen Ruddell, Principal Advisor, <small>Privacy of natural persons</small>
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