

# Regional Economic Development

**Weekly Report**

**13 - 17 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**

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## 1. Dashboard updates

### 1.1 Proposals received by the Provincial Development Unit (PDU) (as at 12 April 2020)

<b>New proposals received in week ending 5 April 2020</b>	20
<b>Total proposals received to 5 April 2020</b>	1,655*

Includes applications and expressions of interest

\* Received 20 new proposals but increase is only 19. One proposal (Chathams Island Airport Physical Works) has been moved out of PGF and into RIO for decision and thus has reduced the total by 1 explaining the 19 total change.

### 1.2 Progress of proposals received by the PDU (as at 12 April 2020)

<b>Stage</b>	<b>Count*</b>
Awaiting assessment	107
Being assessed	211
Unsuccessful	864
Approved	473
<b>Total received</b>	<b>1,655</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. Delivery of projects update

### 2.1 Top priority projects of interest

Topic	Description/ update
Kaipara Moana (Wharves)	Kaipara District Council has reviewed its engagement plan for the Wharves project, which will enable progress in spite of the lockdown. The final feasibility study was due to be submitted by <span>Commercial Informa</span> , but under the circumstances it has been agreed that a revised draft will be submitted <span>Commercial Information</span> . The final study, including community feedback, will be combined with the Programme Business Case and submitted <span>Commercial Informa ion</span> .
	<b>Amount:</b> \$ <span>Commercial Inform</span>   <b>Region:</b> Northland   <b>Status:</b> Contracted
<span>Commercial Information - withdrawn</span>	<span>Commercial Information - withdrawn project</span>
	<b>Amount:</b> \$ <span>Commercial Inform</span>   <b>Region:</b> <span>Commercial Information -</span>   <b>Status:</b> <span>Commercial Information - wi</span>

### 2.2 Other projects

Project name	Description/ update
Omataroa Eco Tours	The first phase of construction is due to begin <span>Commercial Infor</span> . The recipient aims to have a geotechnical engineer contracted and to order the pods prior to the lockdown being lifted so that building work can begin as quickly as possible. The pods will be for the podlife build, or the accommodation portion of the tour.
	<b>Amount:</b> \$615,902   <b>Region:</b> Bay of Plenty   <b>Status:</b> Contracted

### 2.3 Te Ara Mahi (TAM) and He Poutama Rangatahi (HPR)

Description/ update
<p>The PDU continues to monitor the TAM and HPR programmes funded through the PGF. All training programmes have faced challenges under Alert Level 4 lockdown, particularly where central locations have shut down. A number of programmes have been innovative, using existing online courses, or developing their own, and also utilising video conferencing to deliver training and as way to stay in touch with trainees, many of whom have vulnerable backgrounds.</p> <p>Whilst the use of online technology is suitable in some programmes, in some cases providers report difficulty delivering the quality of training they wish to, in providing pastoral care, and in keeping trainees engaged without personal social interaction. Additionally, some students don't have the appropriate hardware or internet connection to enable online delivery, or lack the digital skills necessary to complete online courses. In one TAM programme – <span>Commercial Information</span> – a number of trainees have elected to stay in the whanau 'bubble' on their hosting farm to continue their learning. Several programmes are now involved in community projects to help the vulnerable, by preparing or delivering food parcels (including for their own whanau) and in one case, trainees are being used to support the district's emergency helpline. The PDU is working with all providers to undertake a scan of impacts on their programmes and their likely access to employers and work experience in the post-COVID-19 environment. Projects which support forestry training are indicating a slow return back to training once other countries, such as China, begin importing again, but reflect concern that their training programmes may get out of sync with the forestry cycle and will need modification. Many are</p>

engaging with employers in their communities as to what employment opportunities will be available and the skillsets required to support recovery from COVID-19. This ensures they can modify their training accordingly. Some programmes have already been able to redirect trainees from one type of employer to another [REDACTED] Commercial Information [REDACTED] Providers have generally appreciated this pro-active contact during a stressful period and we are in discussion with some about the impact on delivery timelines and/or changes to programmes by preparing shorter, more intensive courses, or targeting smaller cohorts of trainees