



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Shane Jones	Portfolio	Regional Development
Title of Cabinet paper	Regional Infrastructure Fund: Investing in the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research Development Facility project	Date to be published	23 March 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
December 2025	Regional Infrastructure Fund: Investing in the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research and Development Facility project	Office of the Minister for Regional Development
9 December 2025	Regional Infrastructure Fund: Investing in the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research and Facility Development project EXP-25-MIN-0131 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO (please select)

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reasons of commercial information and negotiations.



Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Regional Infrastructure Fund: Investing in the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research and Development Facility Project

Portfolio **Regional Development**

On 9 December 2025, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in May 2024, Cabinet agreed to establish the \$1.2 billion Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) [CAB-24-MIN-0168.02];
- 2 **noted** that Cabinet also agreed that the RIF will invest in:
 - 2.1 resilience infrastructure that improves a region's ability to absorb, adapt and/or respond to stresses and shocks; and
 - 2.2 enabling infrastructure that ensures regions are well-connected, productive and resilient;
- 3 **noted** that in June 2024, Cabinet agreed to the eligibility criteria for RIF investments, including specific requirements for investments in individual businesses [CAB-24-MIN-0214];
- 4 **noted** that the proposal for the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research and Development Facility, outlined in the paper under EXP-25-SUB-0131, does not meet the RIF's Cabinet-approved eligibility criterion for location;
- 5 **noted** that without RIF investment, the OpenStar project is expected to relocate to another country, and the associated benefits would not be realised;
- 6 **agreed** to waive the requirement for the proposed investment to meet the RIF's eligibility criteria for project assets to be based in one of the provincial regions of New Zealand, on the basis that the proposal:
 - 6.1 is expected to deliver significant regional and national economic benefits;
 - 6.2 aligns with the Government's Going for Growth approach;
 - 6.3 represents enabling infrastructure with strategic importance to the regional and the wider economy;

7 **agreed** to the following investment instrument and the key terms from the RIF for the OpenStar Fusion Energy Research and Development Facility:

Commercial Information

Terms	Proposed key terms for this project
Borrower	Open Star Technologies Ltd
Loan	Up to \$35.000 million, Commercial Information
Commercial Information, Negotiations	Commercial Information, Negotiations
Maximum Term	
Interest	
Repayment	
Security	
Entity	Open Star Technologies Ltd or Special Purpose Vehicle
Commercial Information	Commercial Information, Negotiations
Commercial Information	
Governance	

8 **agreed** that the above approval is subject to the standard conditions precedent and the following additional conditions being met to the satisfaction of Kānoa within **Commercial Information** of Cabinet approving this investment (unless otherwise agreed by Kānoa):

8.1 Open Star Group Companies must secure at least US\$ **Commercial Informa** million by **Commercial Information**

8.2 **Commercial Information, Negotiations**

8.3 **Commercial Information, Negotiations**

8.4 **Commercial Information, Negotiations**

8.5 **Commercial Information, Negotiations**

8.6 **Commercial Information, Negotiations**

9 **authorised** the Regional Development Ministerial Group to take any ongoing decisions in relation to the OpenStar project.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson

Officials present from:

Office of Hon Judith Collins KC
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for EXP