

Jobs for Nature progress update

Date Submitted:	4 September 2024	Tracking # BRF-5260
Security Level	Unclassified	

To	Action sought
Hon Andrew Hoggard, Associate Minister for the Environment	<p>note the Jobs for Nature programme progress update for the June 2024 Quarter Four, Year Four.</p> <p>forward this briefing and attachments to wider Jobs for Nature portfolio Ministers</p>

Actions for Associate Minister for the Environment's Office Staff	Forward this briefing and attachments to the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Forestry, Minister for Regional Development, Minister of Conservation, Minister of Climate Change, Minister for the Environment, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Land Information
Number of appendices and attachments: 1	1. Latest quarterly programme dashboard

Contacts

Position	Name	Cell phone	1 st contact
Principal Author	Oliver Sangster		
Programme Director	Ilana Miller	022 054 0469	✓

Overview

1. As Associate Minister for the Environment, you are responsible for Jobs for Nature programme oversight. The purpose of this briefing is to provide you with a quarterly update on progress across the programme.

Programme progress update

2. The programme is in the first quarter of its final year (July-September 2024/25). The programme is on track with project partners still delivering on environmental and employment outputs and the programme continues to execute the transition strategy, evaluation and will provide an annual review on the progress made in Year Four later this year.

Programme evaluation and benefits

3. The programme has three complementary workstreams to support assessment of the investment's impact. These include the independent programme wide evaluation by Allen and Clarke Ltd, the economic benefits by MartinJenkins and the social return on investment by ImpactLab.
4. We will provide you with a social return on investment report and an updated economic benefits report in your next update, scheduled for late November 2024. The latest evaluation update is below.

Evaluation update

5. Allen and Clarke Ltd (the independent evaluator) is in the middle of a three-stage, three year evaluation of the Jobs for Nature programme. The first stage interim report was published in September 2023¹.
6. We have received a draft second stage interim report, which assesses the programme's effectiveness and assesses whether the programme remains on track to achieve the expected outcomes. The second year of this evaluation concentrated on emerging findings from three thematic case studies: Social Impact, Freshwater Restoration, and Climate Change Resilience.
7. Preliminary findings indicate that expected outcomes are already materialising, and the programme remains stable and on track to achieve its objectives. Key findings include:
 - The programme has contributed to regional economic growth and more resilient rural communities. It created sustainable employment opportunities; directly increased disposable incomes including for disadvantaged groups and supported local businesses to continue their operations following the impacts of COVID-19.
 - The programme continues to accelerate environmental progress through building a strong foundation for success through improved collaboration and partnerships. Next generation technologies and innovative methods have been deployed to restore ecosystems across New Zealand.
 - The programme has helped build capability in environmental management in New Zealand by providing education and training, advancing participants' careers, and creating a highly skilled workforce.

¹ environment.govt.nz/assets/publications/jobs-for-nature-evaluation-year-one-report1.pdf

- The programme supported communities to be more adaptable and resilient to economic shocks and climatic weather events. During major flooding events, such as Cyclone Gabrielle, the workforce was able to assist rapidly in civil defence and community response efforts.
 - Many participants continue to report direct improvements in their mental health and well-being due to working in nature and their involvement in the community.
8. Allen and Clarke also conducted a Te Ao Māori evaluation in parallel to the second stage report. This evaluation focuses on the extent to which the programme is on track to deliver its intended outcomes for Māori.
 9. Once complete, we will provide you with the final copies of the second stage evaluation report as part of next quarterly update in November, in advance of publication.
 10. The third stage of the evaluation is underway and will culminate in a final report due later in 2025, providing a more comprehensive analysis of outcomes achieved.

Progress reporting

11. The latest dashboard for the June 2024 quarter is attached (Appendix 1). Key metrics are updated quarterly on the programme website.² Delivery progress includes:
 - steady increases across environmental and training outputs.
 - increases of over 750,000 in hours worked, and over 200 employment starts since Quarter Three.
 - the number of people currently employed has remained relatively stable throughout the first three quarters but shows a significant drop in Quarter Four. This is expected due to the completion of 65 projects and is anticipated to continue as projects continue to complete.
 - a total of 513 contracted projects, two less than reported the previous quarter. This reduction is due to one project from the Ministry for the Environment being withdrawn (valued at \$829.7K) and the removal of a project incorrectly reported as a Jobs for Nature project by Agriculture and Investment Services – Ministry for Primary Industries in previous quarters (valued at \$400K).
 - the total funding decreased from \$1,198.7 billion to \$1,184.8 billion, a reduction of \$19.9 million. This reduction is a result of the government budget decisions. The total funding approved for Jobs for Nature is now \$1,178.8 million.
12. Programme delivery confidence overall rating remains steady:
 - 92% of the projects assessed as Amber-Green or Green.
 - two projects are rated Red (one fewer than in Q3), primarily due to landowner financial constraints and delivery delays from providers.
 - two projects are rated Amber-Red (one fewer than in Q3), and nine are rated Amber-Green (four fewer than in Q3).
13. Key issues affecting projects Red to Amber include delays caused by external factors such as the consent process and the involvement of third parties, including landowners. Other challenges include work completion delays, funding issues, recruitment and skill shortages. Small number of projects are still impacted by weather events.

² www.jobsfornature.govt.nz

14. Challenges are being mitigated or resolved through ongoing recruitment efforts to manage skill shortages, discussions to determine next steps for delayed projects (including potential early closures), and revisions to work plans to account for unforeseen challenges, such as weather events. Additionally, final reports are being prepared for projects that have reached the end of their funding terms.
15. The Secretariat is using data from Quarter Four to produce the Year Four Annual Review report.

Next steps

16. We recommend forwarding this briefing and attachments to wider Ministers, including Agriculture, Forestry, Regional Development, Conservation, Climate Change, Environment, Biosecurity, and Land Information.
17. The next programme progress update is scheduled for late November 2024 and will include
 - Programme Annual Report for Year Four of the programme (2023-2024 financial year)
 - A copy of the final reports for Year Two of the independent evaluation
 - Update on the social return on investment, and the economic benefits
 - The next programme dashboard for Quarter One ending 30 September 2024.

Recommendations

The Jobs for Nature Secretariat recommends you:

- a. **note** the Jobs for Nature programme progress update for the June 2024 Quarter Four, Year 4.
- b. **note** the Secretariat is working on the Annual Report for Year Four of the programme, and we will provide your office a copy of that report ahead of publication
- c. **forward** this briefing to wider Ministers noted in paragraph 16 above.

Signature



Ilana Miller
Programme Director, Jobs for Nature

Hon Andrew Hoggard
Associate Minister for the Environment

Date

**Appendix 1: Jobs for Nature Dashboard – June 2024 Quarter Four,
Year Four**

Jobs for Nature Programme Dashboard - Quarter 4 (Apr - Jun) as at 21 Aug 2024

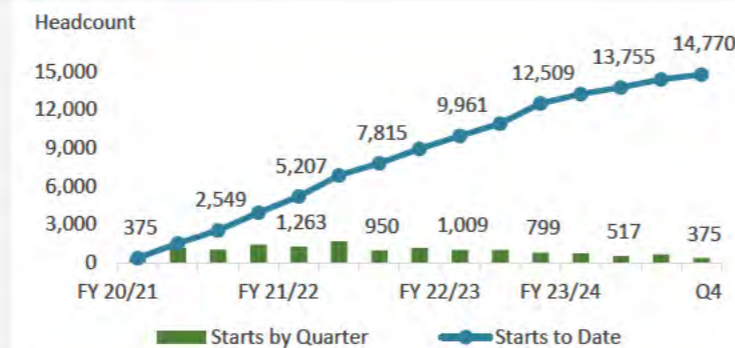
\$1.155b Contracted <small>-1.9m since Q3</small>	\$886.5m Paid <small>+78.6m since Q3</small>	\$355.5m Completed <small>+226.1m since Q3</small>	513 Contracted Projects <small>-2 since Q3</small>	184 Completed Projects <small>+65 since Q3</small>	11.42m Hours Worked <small>+0.75m since Q3</small>	14,770 Employment Starts <small>+0.2k since Q3</small>	1,836 FY 23/24 FTE (Estimate)	1,986 Currently Employed	Amber-Green Delivery Confidence <small>No change since Q3</small>
Programme to Date						Forecast	Current Quarter		

NATURE BASED EMPLOYMENT

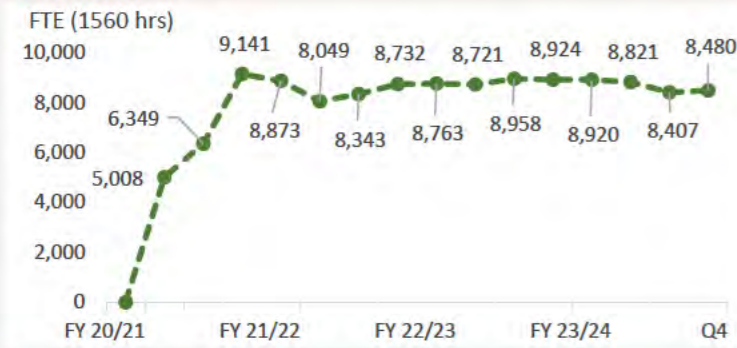
ACTUAL HOURS WORKED TO DATE



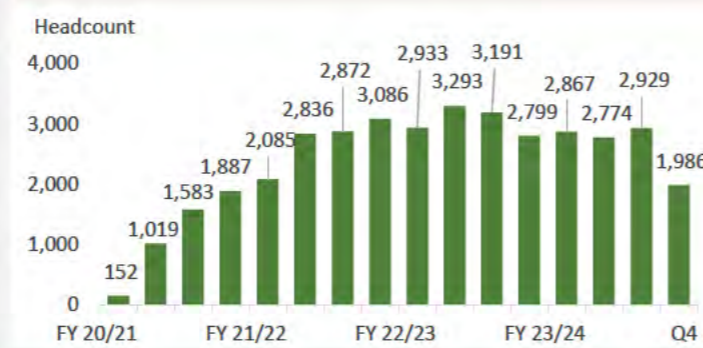
EMPLOYMENT STARTS



LIFETIME FTE FORECAST



PEOPLE CURRENTLY EMPLOYED



REGIONAL INVESTMENT DISTRIBUTION

Area	Approved Projects	Planned Spend	Actual Spend	Paid %	FTE Life	Employment Starts	Proportion of Contracted Funding
Auckland	15	27.0	21.3	79%	275	517	
Bay of Plenty	55	109.3	89.2	82%	868	1,228	
Canterbury	50	144.2	131.4	91%	1,122	2,435	
Gisborne/Tairāwhiti	34	45.8	35.9	78%	505	560	
Hawke's Bay	39	39.4	31.6	80%	328	1,035	
Manawatū-Whanganui	32	60.4	48.7	81%	534	570	
Marlborough	9	32.6	25.8	79%	234	786	
Northland	47	60.7	50.4	83%	592	1,081	
Otago	33	62.1	54.0	87%	667	1,024	
Southland	20	34.5	30.9	90%	341	835	
Taranaki	24	23.0	19.8	86%	224	490	
Tasman-Nelson	29	34.3	28.8	84%	329	594	
Waikato	55	49.2	39.8	81%	480	1,124	
Wellington	19	29.6	23.5	79%	234	406	
West Coast	17	27.0	22.9	85%	283	608	
Multiple Regions	38	375.8	232.4	62%	1,464	1,476	
NEW ZEALAND	516	1,155.0	886.5	77%	8,480	14,770	



PROGRAMME OUTPUTS

Area	Metric	2023/24			Programme Life		
		Plan	Achieved	Complete	Plan	Achieved	Complete
Biodiversity	Area of ecosystem restoration (ha)	1,589	1,490	74%	12.5k	6.7k	42%
	Number of plants planted in terrestrial areas	513.8k	320.7k	26%	4.94m	3.22m	59%
	Length of tracks maintained and created (km)	541	1,800	83%	2.7k	4.4k	108%
	Number of assets maintained (incl. huts)	446	522	101%	678	1,048	154%
Freshwater	Area of freshwater restoration (ha)	1,390	1,764	121%	6.8k	6.1k	86%
	Number of plants planted in freshwater areas	3.04m	2.86m	73%	13.11m	8.41m	53%
	Length of fencing constructed (km)	1,144	928	61%	6.7k	4.5k	62%
	Number of fish passages remediated	371	449	122%	1,435	1,068	75%
Pest Control	Area of wilding conifers control (ha)	232.2k	163.7k	70%	2.18m	2.11m	97%
	Area of other plant pest control (ha)	88.9k	97.5k	104%	649.5k	703.4k	107%
	Area of wallabies control (ha)	400.0k	517.3k	122%	1.63m	1.87m	115%
	Area of other animal pest control (ha)	460.4k	508.0k	46%	2.27m	2.52m	109%
Training	People in formal training	1,108	1,336	28%	2,840	3,710	67%
	People completed formal training	298	669	61%	866	1,730	106%

REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAMME OUTPUTS

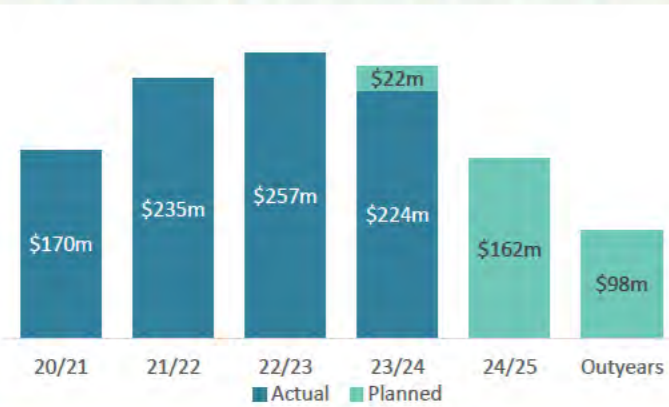
Area	Proportion of Actual Metrics by Region					Programme Life
	Biodiversity	Freshwater	Pest Control	Training*	Employment	Complete
Auckland	1%	2%	1%	0%	4%	76%
Bay of Plenty	9%	3%	18%	10%	10%	76%
Canterbury	6%	7%	37%	5%	15%	70%
Gisborne/Tairāwhiti	8%	4%	2%	8%	4%	77%
Hawke's Bay	11%	8%	2%	2%	6%	79%
Manawatū-Whanganui	8%	10%	6%	8%	5%	78%
Marlborough	1%	2%	3%	0%	3%	56%
Northland	4%	6%	4%	0%	5%	75%
Otago	5%	5%	9%	9%	6%	73%
Southland	6%	3%	3%	1%	4%	76%
Taranaki	3%	6%	2%	5%	3%	87%
Tasman-Nelson	6%	8%	1%	7%	4%	83%
Waikato	4%	11%	2%	2%	7%	77%
Wellington	6%	2%	1%	5%	3%	80%
West Coast	3%	2%	2%	0%	4%	85%
Multiple Regions	19%	21%	7%	38%	16%	55%
NEW ZEALAND	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%

Agencies can revise historical quarterly data when more accurate reporting is available. Percent complete columns only use data where planned and actual metrics are supplied. *Training data is provided by MfE and Doc. The majority of which is delivered across multiple regions. Projects also undertake informal training which is not reported.

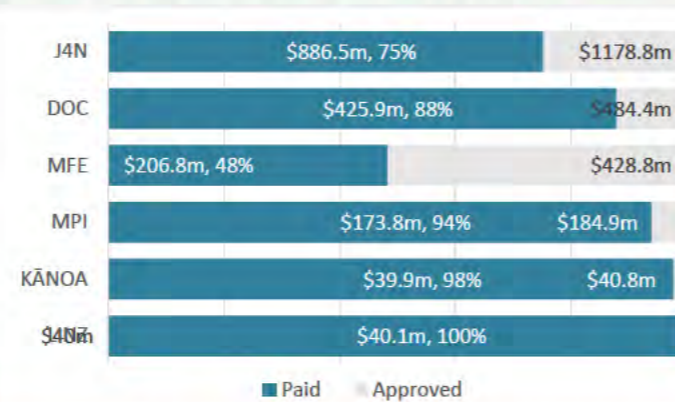
Jobs for Nature Programme Dashboard - Quarter 4 (Apr - Jun) as at 21 Aug 2024

FUNDING AND PAYMENTS

PLANNED & ACTUAL SPEND OF PROJECT FUNDING



PAYMENTS OF APPROVED PROJECT FUNDING

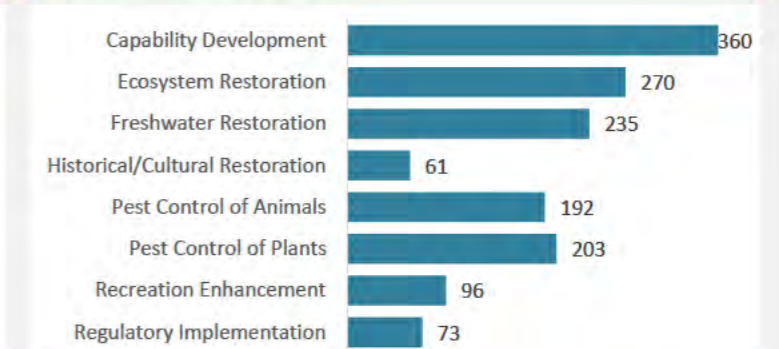


CONTRACTING AND DELIVERY

CONTRACTING STATUS



DELIVERY INTENTIONS



Funding by Agency Programme (\$m)	Total Funding	Planned Spend	Actual Spend	Completed Projects	
				Planned Spend	Actual Spend
MFE	430.6	405.1	206.8	24.8	25.0
Public Waterways & Ecosystem Restoration	67.0	66.6	50.7	19.8	19.7
Freshwater Improvement Fund	53.9	53.5	30.4	2.3	2.2
Kaipara Moana Remediation	100.0	100.0	16.6	0.0	0.0
At Risk Catchments	12.0	9.8	5.4	0.0	0.0
Te Mana O Te Wai	30.0	29.6	21.6	2.0	2.1
Essential Freshwater Fund	131.5	109.4	52.7	0.6	0.9
J4N Programme Setup	35.3	35.3	29.3	0.0	0.0
J4N Secretariat Programme Closure Activities	0.85	0.85	0.0	0.0	0.0
DOC	485.3	484.2	425.9	105.7	103.6
Kaimahi for Nature	198.6	198.2	184.1	99.9	97.8
Protecting Nature	147.5	147.4	128.0	3.2	3.2
Restoring Nature	122.9	122.3	97.1	2.6	2.6
Overheads	16.3	16.3	16.7	0.0	0.0
MPI	188.0	184.9	173.8	150.8	150.5
Wilding Conifers	100.0	100.0	99.5	100.0	99.5
Wallabies	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8	26.8
One Billion Trees	35.0	34.5	28.6	14.1	13.9
Agricultural Investment Services	19.1	17.6	15.0	9.8	10.2
EFF MPI	7.1	6.1	3.9	0.2	0.2
Kānoa (Fencing of Waterways)	40.9	40.8	39.9	36.7	36.2
LINZ	40.0	40.0	40.1	40.0	40.1
J4N PROGRAMME TOTAL	1,184.8	1,155.0	886.5	358.0	355.5
	100%	97%	75%	30%	30%

DELIVERY CONFIDENCE

Current Overall RAG Status	No. of Projects	Percentage by Overall RAG Rating		\$ of Projects
		by No. of Projects	by \$ of Projects	
Red	2 ↓	1.2%	0.5%	\$4.3m
Amber-Red	2 ↓	1.2%	0.3%	\$2.9m
Amber	9 ↓	5.2%	14.7%	\$121.0m
Amber-Green	32 ↑	18.5%	11.4%	\$93.7m
Green	128 ↓	74.0%	73.1%	\$602.4m

COMMENTARIES

PROGRAMME As of June 30th, 185 projects completed, up by 65 from the previous quarter, representing 36% of all projects. The programme has approved 513 projects, totalling \$1.179 billion, with \$886.5 million (75%) paid. As a result of government Budget decisions, funding has been reduced by \$14 million. The programme continues to deliver environmental and employment outputs. Employment starts have reached 14,770, with 11.42 million hours worked to date. Currently, 1,986 people are employed, down 33% from last quarter, with further declines expected as projects complete. Environmental achievements include planting 11.63 million plants, controlling 2.11 million hectares of wilding conifers (adjusted for a Q3 data error), completing pest control over 2.52 million hectares, and building or maintaining 4,500 km of fencing (adjusted for previous over-reporting).

DELIVERY CONFIDENCE Out of 216 projects over \$1 million, 81 are completed, including 41 in Q4. Currently, 131 projects are in delivery, 3 in contracting and 1 is on hold. Of the 173 projects assessed, 92% are rated Amber Green to Green, while 8% are rated Red to Amber, totalling \$128.2 million—\$3.3 million less than the previous quarter. Two projects are rated Red (one fewer than in Q3) due to financial constraints and delivery delays, while two projects are rated Amber-Red and nine Amber Green. These projects are facing delays in work completion, funding issues, and may need extensions or variations. Some are also impacted by cyclone damage and rising costs, leading to deferred payments. While some projects are nearing completion, others may need more time to meet their goals.

AGENCIES Majority of projects are on track to deliver and are actively being managed. Ministerial approval for remaining EFF and ARC funding has been confirmed. Unallocated funds have been returned to Treasury resulting in a \$14m decrease in MFE's total Jobs for Nature funding.

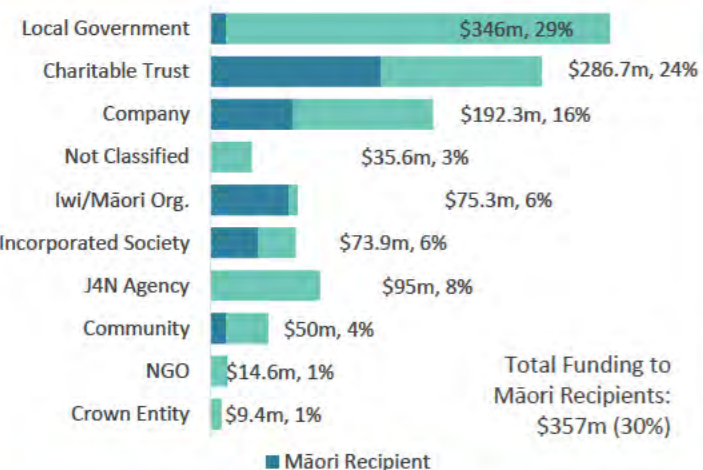
DOC In the final year DOC is shifting focus to transition, demonstrating performance, evaluation and closure. Projects are now starting to close more frequently freeing up resourcing for the work this year. Focus remains on improving data quality. Identifying where projects have reported repeat areas and correcting those. Ongoing project engagement for transition planning and project profiles. Promotion of Tūhono Taiao.

MPI AIS All projects are delivering on time against agreed Milestones (1 project was mistakenly reported and removed). BNZ Wildings Control work for J4N completed and Programme continues in 24/25 FY post-J4N funding. BNZ Wallabies Control work for J4N completed and Programme continues in 24/25 FY post-J4N funding. TUR In Q4, the 2024 planting season begins, with an expected increase in tree, riparian, and other plantings. However, the overall planting may not significantly rise compared to previous seasons due to project completions over the past year. Additionally, contract variations have shifted deliverables and funding, resulting in lower-than-expected Q4 expenditure.

KĀNOA Two projects left to complete. Both are on target to complete as planned.

LINZ All projects have reached their conclusion in regard to the J4N programme funding. All LINZ employment and environmental targets were met (with the understanding that year 1 was an incomplete year for delivery). Despite our best efforts, there was a delay in receiving the final reports from some of the projects and two remain outstanding.

FUNDING RECIPIENT TYPES



FUNDING STRUCTURE (CO-FUNDING)

