



Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate 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.

Establishment of a Plastics Innovation Fund

Portfolio **Environment**

On 20 May 2021, the Cabinet Environment, Energy and Climate Committee:

- 1 **agreed** to establish a \$50 million Plastics Innovation Fund (the Fund);
- 2 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment will use his powers under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to establish the Fund, with these key elements:
 - 2.1 *Objectives:* the primary objective of the Fund is to promote or achieve plastic waste minimisation, and secondarily to:
 - 2.1.1 create jobs and support the transformation of New Zealand's industries, including the manufacturing and primary sectors;
 - 2.1.2 maintain New Zealand's international clean green reputation;
 - 2.2 *Scope:* funding will be available to a wide range of applicants for innovative projects that aim to reimagine how plastics are made, used and disposed of. Investment will be guided by plastics research and innovation priorities approved by the Minister for the Environment;
 - 2.3 *Funding mechanism:* funding will be by way of grant, following a contestable process. Loans will not be offered in the first year of the Fund but may be considered from 2022/23;
 - 2.4 *Decision-making:* the Minister for the Environment will make decisions for funding in accordance with the Waste Minimisation Act 2008;
- 3 **noted** that for applications less than \$1 million, the Minister for the Environment will delegate decision-making to the Secretary for the Environment;
- 4 **noted** the eligibility and assessment criteria in Appendix One to the paper under ENV-21-SUB-0020, which the Minister for the Environment intends to include in the relevant Gazette Notice;

- 5 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment will use his powers under the Waste Minimisation Act 2008 to allocate funding for plastics related projects using waste levy revenue in accordance with the terms of the Act;
- 6 **noted** that:
- 6.1 no new funding is being sought in the paper under ENV-21-SUB-0020;
 - 6.2 the Fund's project grants, administration and monitoring costs will be met from waste levy revenue;
 - 6.3 projected waste levy revenue is already within the Ministry for the Environment's baseline;
- 7 **noted** that the Minister for the Environment will announce the Fund in mid-2021 and it will be opened for expressions of interest in November 2021.

Vivien Meek
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker (Chair)
Hon Nanaia Mahuta
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Ayesha Verrall
Hon Phil Twyford
Rino Tirikatene, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for ENV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister for the Environment