

Programme Objectives

1. Creation of about 11,000 – 13,000 jobs at pace and with regional spread
2. Enduring benefits for healthy waterways, biodiversity, climate change and cultural values
3. Supporting sustainable land use and the implementation of regulatory requirements, including for freshwater, biodiversity, and climate change.

Cabinet's Investment Principles and Direction for Action

EMPLOYMENT

Speed & certainty are critical

Funding decisions need to be made quickly for a significant proportion of the available funding so people can access job opportunities as soon as possible.

Rapid deployment

Use resourcing to overcome barriers to rapid deployment. In normal circumstances, the Crown would seek a significant private contribution to projects – typically around half. This takes time and risks compromising the primary employment objective.

Additionality

Funding must lead to additional activity and employment – not simply use Crown funding to fund what would have happened anyway (although can accelerate things that would have happened over a longer timeframe).

Ready for delivery

Fund specific projects ready for delivery – not proposals that are at an early stage of development.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Phased approach

Where programmes can be delivered immediately, they should be. However, if more planning or human resources would deliver greatly enhanced environmental outcomes, then this should occur provided it does not compromise the employment objectives.

Enhance the environment

Where applicable, project conditions will require measures to ensure that environmental benefits persist over the long term, for example by including elements to prevent future degradation.

ORGANISATION & PARTNERSHIP

Leverage what exists

Use existing organisations and structures if they can be made fit-for-purpose. Developing new structures takes time and risks creating overlaps.

FINANCIAL & DELIVERY

Coordinated but distributed

Programme decision-making and oversight delivered centrally, yet well connected and project managed locally. Decisions about funding individual projects will be delegated as much as possible.

Regional delivery

Only at place can the workforce be effectively connected with training and job opportunities.

Funding areas

Environmental domain

- Freshwater ecosystems
- Water quality
- Biodiversity
- Biosecurity
- Sustainable land use
- Cultural values

Focus of projects

- Operational work
- Monitoring
- Capability building

Region/location

- ### Land tenure
- Private land
 - Public land
 - Māori-owned land

Climate change co-benefits

Assessment principles – what we do

EMPLOYMENT ASSESSMENT

1. A mix of:
 - a) Jobs to address immediate unemployment
 - b) Enduring jobs leading to careers that fill known capacity and capability gaps
 - c) Jobs for employees of distressed businesses
2. Jobs that address existing employment disparities
 - a) Rangatahi/youth
 - b) Māori
3. Training and capability building either within projects or dedicated funding

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

1. Targeting of projects
 - a) Evidence that projects and other aligned initiatives have been targeted based on a holistic system-view of catchments and ecosystems; or
 - b) Projects target interventions that are known to have a broad and strong influence on environmental outcomes within an ecosystem or catchment; or
 - c) Projects fit within a regional/catchment strategy
2. Projects create enduring outcomes beyond the life of the funding
3. Projects are linked to long term monitoring and reporting of environmental outcomes
4. Across the programme, there are projects that:
 - a) Increase the quality of knowledge and data used to design and evaluate projects
 - b) Trial innovative approaches

Assessment principles – how we do it

ORGANISATION & PARTNERSHIPS ASSESSMENT

1. The ways projects are funded, managed by departments/ministries and delivered...
 - a) Builds delivery partnerships between central government, local government and iwi/hapu/whānau
 - b) Increases partnerships with Māori and provides leadership opportunities
 - c) Increases involvement and engagement of community and private sector in environmental projects
 - d) Are appropriate to the capabilities of the funding recipients with support where required

FINANCIAL & DELIVERY ASSESSMENT

1. Level of co-funding or co-resourcing/in-kind
2. Value for money
3. Regional equity and delivery including agency distribution
4. Appropriate monitoring and reporting built into the projects
5. Phasing funding and assurance to enable initial speed and ongoing agility, especially if some projects required the need to 'pivot'.

Risk management

RISK, DEPENDENCIES & MITIGATIONS ASSESSMENT

- Assessing how agencies manage and share the following risks with funding recipients
- Regulatory compliance
 - Health and Safety
 - Non-delivery
 - Delayed delivery
 - Cost overruns and underspend
 - Extreme events
 - Delays in supply of material and labour
 - Ongoing liability and maintenance
 - Scalability of physical resources
 - System implications and unintended consequences

Important note: Potential risks need to be identified and mitigated, with funding to be delivered at speed, with certainty, and additionality wherever possible. The Reference Group may see a need to 'pivot' funding where required as projects progress.

Overview & assurance of programme

This framework sets the expectations of the Reference Group across the whole jobs for Nature programme and will be used to frame recommendations to Ministers. It will be reviewed every 3 months.

Application of the framework

- a) Providing advice and suggestions about the direction/ reprioritisation of existing funding
- b) Advice as Investment signals / guidance to those developing future programmes
- c) Retrospectively to evaluate the success of programme delivery
- d) Influenced by the monitoring and reporting information from each funding stream

Monitoring & reporting framework

Supporting of wellbeing in the four capitals must be evident through the funding streams including through investment in social capital, human health, community health, cultural health and economic health.

REFERENCE GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS AND GUIDANCE, INCLUDING GAPS ASSESSMENT