

An initial pilot has been undertaken in Northland and Tairāwhiti/East Coast – a data elevation improvement programme which has developed a scalable framework for working with councils.

regions and those ready with a business case now) would be the preferred approach.

Rationale:

- Provides a focus and boost in regions most in need
- Review after 2 years - if initial performance and take-up has been supported, then an extension to other regions to be considered.

The purpose of this discussion paper is to: consider approving PGF funds to the Better Evaluation Data Infrastructure project

Alignment to PGF criteria:

Benefits identified by LINZ

Increased Economic Benefit through:

- Better decisions around land use and stocking, leading to increased production and cost savings.
- Increased efficiencies in resource uses such as fertilisers.
- Improved forestry management – the modelling of optimal design of forests, enabling cost savings for engineering works and harvesting estimated at 1%. Also target better pruning for increased plantation productivity.
- Supporting environmental sustainability – model soil erosion, improved management of fertiliser and effluent runoff.
- Assists Maori freehold landowners in making better decisions to help realise economic returns from different land activities.

Climate Change:

- Improves understanding of both the short term impacts from intensified extreme weather events and long term trends and predicted impacts from climate change.

Additionality

- Builds on existing capability, enabling and supporting better, faster, and more confident decision making across a wide range of private and public sector activities.
- Investment through the PGF will open access to data that smaller companies would not have been able to afford. There are only a small percentage of businesses that operate at a scale that makes the data collection viable (e.g. Comma0% of forest owners).
- Builds on an initial pilot undertaken in Northland and Tairāwhiti/East Coast – data elevation improvement programme which has developed a scalable framework for working with councils.

Alignment with regional plans/ Stakeholder support

- Letters of support from regional councils and other stakeholders including Department of Conservation, Earthquake Commission, Civil Aviation Authority, Ministry for Primary Industries, and Ministry for the Environment.
- MPI and MfE engaged by LINZ (application refers to letters of support – these to be provided).
- It provides for a collaborative, managed approach reducing costs, rather than ad-hoc requests from various councils.

Management and Governance

- Managed by LINZ with an advisory governance group to be set up.

Risks Issues:

- Data capture delay due to limited supplier capacity.

Commercial Information

[Redacted] ?

- Uptake by regions and clarification as to how the contribution from Commercial Information will be agreed – range $\text{Comme}^0\%$ to $\text{Comme}^0\%$, expected average $\text{Comme}^0\%$.
- The risk that the data is collected but is not accessed by businesses – potential users are not aware of the availability of the data and do not understand how to derive benefits from its use.

Consultation undertaken or implications:

Legal	N/A	HR	N/A	Finance	N/A	MBIE policy	N/A	Other	MPI
Supporting proposal:		For discussion							
Appendices:		Yes – Application attached as annex							
Sponsor(s):		N/A							
Manager/Author of paper:		Nick Hough, Investment Team							

PROACTIVELY RELEASED