

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



BRIEFING

Provincial Growth Fund – approval for package of three land restoration projects under the One Billion Trees programme

Date:	28 June 2018	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	B18-0576

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Grant Robertson Minister of Finance	Note and agree the recommendations contained in this briefing	At the RED Ministers meeting on 2 July 2018
Hon Phil Twyford Minister of Transport		
Hon David Parker Minister for Economic Development		
Hon Shane Jones Minister for Regional Economic Development Minister of Forestry		
Hon Eugenie Sage Minister of Conservation	Note the content of this briefing	At your convenience
Hon Meka Whaitiri Associate Minister of Forestry Note the content of this briefing		
Fletcher Tabuteau Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development		

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Justine Gilliland	Deputy Director-General, Sector Partnerships and Programmes	Privacy of natural persons	X
Steve Penno	Director Investment Programmes	Privacy of natural persons	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Department of Conservation

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

Provincial Growth Fund – approval for package of three land restoration projects under the One Billion Trees programme

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Purpose

This paper seeks delegated Regional Economic Development (RED) Ministers' approval to fund three investment-ready land restoration projects through the One Billion Trees programme (the Programme) under the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF).

The three projects comprise the following two proposals identified by the Department of Conservation (DOC):

- **Te Waihora Restoration**, Canterbury (\$^{Commercial Information} over ten years)
- **Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project**, West Coast, South Island (\$^{Commercial Information} over four years)

And the following direct application (supported by DOC):

Commercial Information - Declined Application

The total combined package of proposals is \$^{Commercial Information}, with \$^{Commercial Information} of this funding sought from the PGF.

Executive Summary

1. Landscape restoration projects involve undertaking a number of ecological restoration and pest control projects within a defined geographical area, working with a range of parties, to reverse the decline in indigenous biodiversity. Such projects can deliver significant environmental, biodiversity, afforestation and climate benefits.
2. The Forestry and Conservation Ministers asked DOC to identify possible investment-ready landscape restoration projects for consideration for funding. Three of these identified proposals are set out for approval in this paper, at an overall cost of \$^{Commercial Information}, with \$^{Commercial Information} of this funding sought from the PGF.
3. This diverse range of projects will directly support the PGF and the One Billion Trees programme's environmental objectives and criteria, and also support social, cultural, and economic outcomes. The proposals will also result in up to ^{Commercial Information} trees being planted towards the One Billion Trees planting target.

4. As agreed by Cabinet, delegated RED Ministers can approve funding for specific afforestation proposals between \$1 million and \$20 million. If funding is approved, the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) will continue to work with DOC and applicants to progress contract development and implementation.
5. DOC has noted that the funding sought for the three projects varied markedly, depending on the location, species and density of seedlings planting, and seed source (e.g. commercial nurseries, DOC nurseries, Department of Corrections nurseries, or from on-site volunteer nurseries).
6. These initiatives have a combination of factors that lead to the higher financial commitment than our current tree funds can provide. Density of trees and shrubs is a considerable factor, with the existing Afforestation Grants Scheme (AGS) requiring an establishment rate of 750 trees per hectare (ha) for natives and exotic tree species, whereas these initiatives propose planting rates of between 2000 and 5000 trees and shrubs per ha. In addition, these initiatives also focus on wider activities to support tree planting such as building local capability, maintenance of existing planting, pest control, weed control and local seedling development. All of these require significantly more investment than existing grants provide, but are core components to deliver the benefits of these restoration projects. The remote locations involved also impact on travel, freight and equipment costs.

Recommended action

MPI recommends that you:

- a) **Note** that three land restoration projects have been identified as investment-ready, and available for planting in winter 2018, if funded;

Noted

- b) **Note** that Cabinet has given interim authority to delegated RED Ministers (RED, Economic Development, Finance, Transport) to approve applications for afforestation proposals under the One Billion Trees Programme of between \$1 million and \$20 million (CAB-18-MIN-0045 refers);

Noted

- c) **Note** that each proposal has been assessed as sound, and meets the environmental and social, cultural, and economic objectives of the PGF and the One Billion Trees programme;

Noted

- d) **Agree** to fund the following investment-ready landscape restoration proposals:

Commercial Information - Declined Application

- b. Te Waihora Restoration, Canterbury, South Island: \$^{Commercial Information} over ten years;

Agreed / Not Agreed

- c. Purakaiki Coastal Restoration Project, West Coast, South Island: \$^{Commercial Information} over four years;

Agreed / Not Agreed

- e) **Note** that these projects have a combined total cost of \$^{Commercial Information} over the expected timeframes of the projects, with \$^{Commercial Information} of this funding sought from the PGF;

Noted

- f) **Note** that the source of these funds, if agreed, would be from the Sector Investment (including One Billion Trees programme) category of the RED: PGF multi-category appropriation;

Noted

- g) **Note** that the Ministry for Primary Industries and the Provincial Development Unit will work to determine an effective mechanism to transfer \$ ^{Commercial Information} of funding from the Provincial Growth Fund to give effect to decisions by Ministers.

Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Justine Gilliland
Acting Deputy Director-General
Sector Partnerships and Programmes
Ministry for Primary Industries

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

..... / /

Hon Phil Twyford
Minister of Transport

Hon David Parker
Minister for Economic Development

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Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Economic Development

.... / /

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Land Restoration Planting Programmes

Landscape restoration projects overview

7. Landscape restoration projects involve undertaking a number of ecological restoration and pest control projects within a defined geographical area to reverse the decline in indigenous biodiversity.
8. Landscape restoration projects involve working with a range of partners across central and local government, landowners, iwi, community groups and philanthropic organisations, and include projects on both public and private land. DOC indicates it is actively progressing restoration opportunities in Northland, Taranaki and the East Coast.
9. Landscape restoration projects typically involve a mix of trees and shrubs, with the mix depending on the specifics of the location (e.g. trees represent more than % of the Punakaiki proposal, and % of the Te Waihora proposal). Projects of this type deliver significant environmental and biodiversity benefits, and can also support significant social, cultural and economic outcomes.

Genesis of this landscape restoration package of proposals

10. Earlier this year, the Forestry and Conservation Ministers met and agreed that a package of indigenous restoration projects would be developed for consideration by Ministers to support the Programme and boost DOC's wider integrated landscape restoration conservation efforts.
11. Ministers were advised that proposals for land restoration planting projects would be considered under existing grant funding schemes subject to scale and eligibility criteria. Investment-ready proposals that do not meet this criteria may need to be considered using PGF funding.
12. In response to the request of Ministers, DOC proposed an initial list of five investment-ready projects (three currently being advanced in this package), another seven near-ready proposals, and a longer list of 40 potential projects.
13. The three investment-ready proposals were selected on the basis that they:
 - Are consistent with the strategic objectives of the Programme;
 - Carry the least risk because they scale up already established projects;
 - Are geographically diverse;
 - Support a wide range of benefits beyond biodiversity (such as water quality, tourism and regional economic development); and
 - Will be supported by project partners including local communities and iwi.
14. DOC noted that the funding sought for the three projects varied markedly, depending on the location, species and density of seedlings planting, and seed source (e.g. commercial nurseries, DOC nurseries, Department of Corrections nurseries, or from on-site volunteer nurseries).
15. These initiatives have a combination of factors that lead to the higher financial commitment than our current tree funds can provide. Density of trees and shrubs is a considerable factor, with the existing AGS requiring an establishment rate of 750 trees per ha for natives and exotic tree species, whereas these initiatives propose planting rates of between 2000 and 5000 trees and shrubs per ha. In addition, these initiatives also focus on wider activities to support tree planting such as building local capability, maintenance of existing planting, pest control, weed control and local seedling development. All of these require significantly more

investment than existing grants provide, but are core components to deliver the benefits of these restoration projects. The remote locations involved also impact on travel, freight and equipment costs.

Cost and funding sources of Proposals

16. Implementing and delivering all three projects over the expected timeframes will cost \$^{Commercial Information} with \$^{Commercial Information} sought from the PGF to enable this work to commence this year. Costs for the programme are broken down below:

Initiative and Time	Region	PGF \$ requested	\$ co-funded	# ha	# trees	PGF \$ per tree	Trees per ha
Commercial Information - Declined Application							
Te Waihora 2018 - 2028	Canterbury SI	\$ ^{Commercial Information}		100	200,000	\$ ^{Commercial Information}	2000
Punakaiki- 2018 - 2022	West Coast SI	\$ ^{Commercial Information}		70	350,000	\$ ^{Commercial Information}	5000
Total		\$ ^{Commercial Information}	\$ ^{Commercial Information}	270	950,000		

* As noted, landscape restoration projects typically involve a mix of trees and shrubs, with the mix depending on the specifics of the location (e.g. trees represent more than 90% of the Punakaiki proposal, and 70-80% of the Te Waihora proposal).

Approval for One Billion Trees Programme initiatives

17. Cabinet agreed that Programme initiatives should support one or more PGF objectives (supporting jobs and sustainable economic development, social inclusion and participation, Māori development, climate change and environmental sustainability, and resilience), and also one or more Programme-specific criteria:
- Encouraging regional economic growth and building a more resilient forestry and wood processing industry;
 - Creating sustainable, high quality jobs;
 - Providing opportunities for Māori to develop their land and achieve their wider aspirations;
 - Helping New Zealand to meet its climate change targets; and
 - Supporting more sustainable use of land, water and other natural resources, and increasing biodiversity.
18. To enable momentum prior to the overall report-back to Cabinet establishing the Programme, Cabinet agreed to use the existing PGF delegation thresholds for specific Programme initiatives. This means that delegated RED Ministers (RED, Economic Development, Finance, and Transport) can agree to funding for projects of between \$1 million and \$20 million.
19. If approved, the source of these funds would be from the Sector Investment (including One Billion Trees programme) category of the RED: PGF multi-category appropriation.

Commercial Information - Declined Application

Te Waihora Restoration

21. This proposal seeks \$ ^{Commercial Information} from the PGF to support ^{Commercial Information} of Kahikatea swamp forest restoration in sites adjacent to Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere in Canterbury between 2018 and 2028.

This proposal scales up an existing project restoration, and will support the planting of ^{Commercial Information} trees and shrubs across the duration of the project, predominantly Kahikatea trees. This project will be directly project managed by DOC, and there is strong iwi support for this initiative. Existing forestry funds were considered to support this project, but the proposal did not meet the criteria for these.

Approximately ^{Commercial} % of the funding requested will support the planting and maintenance of trees over a ten year period, with the remaining funding for the collection of seeds. The higher cost associated with this initiative reflects the expected need for commercial nursery, planting and maintenance expertise (compared to the significant use of volunteers for the other projects), and also reflects the swamp location which requires bigger trees to ensure establishment (which have higher production costs).

A full assessment of the proposal against the PGF and One Billion Trees objectives and criteria is attached as Appendix Two.

Recommendation: We recommend delegated Ministers **approve** funding for Te Waihora Restoration project.

Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project

22. This proposal seeks \$^{Commercial Information} to support the restoration of 70ha at Punakaiki on the West Coast between 2018 and 2022.

It builds on an existing project which, over the last seven years, has involved collecting locally sourced seeds, and the establishment of a nursery and planting of 170,000 trees, shrubs and flaxes over approximately 35ha of the 75ha site. This project will be led by Conservation Volunteers New Zealand (CVNZ).

The additional funding requested will support the planting of over 350,000 trees and shrubs at the site, and on a further 30ha towards the Razorback Point and adjoining Papatua. In addition to delivering significant environmental and biodiversity benefits, and supporting the One Billion Trees programme, it is also expected to support tourism development on the West Coast. Existing forestry funds were considered to support this project, but the proposal did not meet the criteria.

The funding requested covers a number of activities in addition to planting trees. These include expansion and operating costs of the CVNZ nursery (where the plants will be sourced), resourcing; including capability building and partnerships with Ministry of Social Development for potential training opportunities, equipment, weed control and maintenance.

A full assessment of the proposal against the PGF and One Billion Trees objectives and criteria is attached as Appendix Three.

Recommendation: We recommend delegated Ministers **approve** funding for Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project.

Next Steps

23. If these proposals are supported by Ministers, MPI will work with DOC to enable the applicants to contract the funding to enable planting if possible for the current 2018 planting season.

Appendix Two - MPI assessment of the Te Waihora Coastal Restoration Project proposal against PGF and One Billion Trees criteria

Provincial Growth Fund operational criteria	Assessment	Rating (three ✓ ✓ ✓ being the highest)
Which sector of the PGF does the proposal fit into?	The proposal fits into the One Billion Trees section of the PGF. The substantive output will be the restoration of kahikatea swamp forest will directly contribute to the Government's One Billion Trees target by planting <small>Commercial Information</small> native trees and shrubs. This will in-turn contribute to an overall lift in the sustainable economic/natural capital base of Canterbury. This project will be managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC).	
Link with fund and government outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase sustainable regional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This project will lead to an increase in the productivity potential of local nurseries supplying plants for the project, as well as job creation to enable seed collection, planting and weed management. Recreation benefits for the local community and tourism sector (one planting site is a newly formed conservation reserve (at Aafaua) and is directly adjacent to the high-profile Rail Trail. Increase capability of the local community – most notably through utilising young adults through DOC's partnership with the Ministry of Social Development 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase productivity and innovation in forestry and related sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of the effectiveness of methods for bulk seed collection and large-scale planting methods (through a R&D component of the project). These learnings may be shared with other large-scale forest planting programmes. The project will also trial new methods to trial bulk seed collection and large-scale planting methods. Development of these methods will benefit other forest restoration initiatives (e.g. other initiatives supported through the One Billion Trees Programme). In the longer-term it is expected that current costs relating to the control of unwanted weed species will be significantly reduced due to the re-establishment of this critically rare habitat. 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to increasing jobs, training, and work readiness, particularly in priority areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The native plant nursery at Motukarara will create jobs, benefiting the Banks Peninsula and Canterbury communities Utilising a youth training programme (an arrangement put in place between DOC and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)) enabling young people to participate in conservation which has been successfully trialled in other regions. 	✓✓✓

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver community benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide wider benefits to the community (e.g. through participation in restoration activities / other recreational benefits). • Establishment of native vegetation in sites adjacent to the lake and capability building of the local community. 	✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the use of Māori assets, support Māori aspirations for land use and help them achieve their cultural objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restore a natural asset which is of high cultural importance to iwi (in relation to tikanga Māori in respect of Ngāi Tahu history and customary practices). 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainably use natural assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To maximise the likelihood of success, analysis of soil samples and surveys of remnant vegetation communities will be undertaken at all prospective planting sites in order to determine site suitability (and mitigate against plant mortality). • Planting plans will then be developed for suitable sites to ensure the right plants are planted in the right place. In addition, seedlings will be grown from locally sourced stock so they are well adapted to site conditions and appropriate to the location. 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigate & adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restored wetlands may help to mitigate lake level rise (through sea level rise). • The Lake and residents will benefit as the permanent carbon sink nature of the site is significantly increased. • A significant increase in biodiversity values through restoration of a critically rare habitat. • Long-term improvements in water quality contribute to meeting New Zealand's climate change targets. 	✓✓✓
Additionality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Does the project demonstrate adding value by building on what is there already and acting as a catalyst, while not duplicating existing efforts? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project will result in a significant regional scale-up in response to the Government's new direction around planting One Billion Trees; this project has been identified as 'investment-ready' by DOC. The project builds on existing projects in other parts of the Te Waihora catchment, including: DOC's Living Water Partnership with Fonterra which focuses on the Ararira / LII River, and Whakaora Te Waihora, a cultural and ecological restoration programme led by Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury. • DOC considers this project to be an important pre-cursor to longer-term plans to deliver a Landscape-scale Restoration programme in the Banks Peninsula (with the project being located on the edge of the Peninsula). The landscape-scale programme will be a coordinated approach (involving local government, iwi, NGOs, community groups and businesses) addressing pest 	✓✓✓

	control, ecological restoration and threatened species across landscapes.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project demonstrate the potential to generate clear public benefit? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainability of one of New Zealand's most important natural assets – this project will significantly increase the biodiversity values of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere and restore a large area (Commercial Information) of critically rare habitat. Establishment of Kahikatea swamp forest will contribute to a reduction in erosion, improvement in water quality, provide an important habitat for a range of natural species, and enhance natural landscapes 	✓✓✓
Connected to regional Stakeholders and frameworks		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project demonstrate alignment with regional priorities? If so, how? 	<p>Restoration of Te Waihora is identified as a priority in a number of relevant resource management plans, including the Canterbury Conservation Strategy (2016) and the Te Waihora Joint Management Plan between DOC and Ngāi Tahu (2005). This management plan sets out a vision in 3 parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ngāi Tahu cultural identity is restored through the rejuvenation of the mauri and life-supporting capacity of Te Waihora The Joint Management Plan Area is managed in an integrated manner for "mauringa kai, conservation and other purposes", in a way that enhances the enjoyment of the wetland for all New Zealanders Management of the Joint Management Plan Area provides an example that can be encouraged for the management of the entire lake margin and the adjoining inflowing tributaries and their wetlands. 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the project been discussed and agreed with relevant local stakeholders? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> in collaboration with Environment Canterbury (ECan) and other project partners, DOC has identified an initial ten key sites for forest restoration, which have been detailed in a related Te Waihora Investment Ready Tree Planting Restoration Project proposal. A number of organisations are involved in the governance and management of Te Waihora and its catchment. This project will complement existing on-the-ground programmes - including the existing partnership between Environment Canterbury and DOC (focused on weed control and wetland restoration), the Living Water - DOC/Fonterra Partnership (focused on improving freshwater quality) and the Whakaora Te Waihora programme (a cultural and ecological restoration programme led by Ngāi Tahu and Environment Canterbury). 	✓✓✓
Governance, risk management and project execution (includes evidence of robust project governance, and future ownership options for capital projects)		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project describe the governance for the project and is there evidence of robust project governance? If so, how? 	<p>The Project will be predominately undertaken on public conservation land, which means that there is no specific requirement to undertake formal consultation with iwi on the proposed activities. However, given this project is part of the wider Te Waihora catchment work, local iwi, council and regional council representatives will be included on the project governance group that will be established to oversee and advise on the project.</p> <p>DOC is engaging with local iwi/runanga (Waiwera and Taumutu) and the Selwyn Waihora Water Zone committee to advise them that the project is likely to commence with initial planting schedule for tail-end of Winter 2018. These groups have confirmed that the project is well aligned with their aspirations for the lake.</p>	<p>✓✓✓</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project describe the risk management approach for the project? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOC's standard risk management approach will be used, and is detailed in documentation supporting the PGF application. 	<p>✓✓✓</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is project execution discussed? If, so how? 	<p>DOC has prepared a planting and activity plan for Winter 2018. As part of this year's project (Phase 1) it will build and develop a comprehensive multi-year restoration plan and budget for the remainder of the initiative. The comprehensive multi-year restoration plan and cost breakdown will finalised by December 2018 if PGF funding is secured.</p>	<p>✓✓</p>
<p>General comment</p>	<p>The project is well-conceived with lots of local stakeholder support and is likely to succeed as DOC has the appropriate experience, expertise and resources to project manage it.</p>	
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Recommend the proposal be submitted to Ministers for consideration.</p>	

Appendix Three - MPI assessment of the Punakaiki Coastal Restoration Project proposal against PGF and One Billion Trees criteria

Provincial Growth Fund operational criteria	Assessment	Rating (three ✓✓✓ being the highest)
Which sector of the PGF does the proposal fit into?	The proposal fits into the One Billion Trees section of the PGF. The substantive output will be the planting of 350,000 over 70 hectares (ha), with additional community benefits and positive outcomes for conservation and climate change adaptation. The project is situated on the West Coast, which has been identified as a region targeted for early investment from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF).	
Link with fund and government outcomes		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase sustainable regional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project aims to support tourism development on the West Coast. The West Coast is identified as a region targeted for early investment from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). 	✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase productivity and innovation in forestry and related sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involvement of volunteers as partners in the project increases awareness of the conservation sector. Project involves a diverse range of partners in its ongoing development, with an underpinning commitment to research and development. 	✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to increasing jobs, training, and work readiness, particularly in priority areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is managed by Conservation Volunteers, who have developed a plant nursery which had provided an upskilling opportunity for its participants. Local secondary and tertiary students participate in activities associated with the project The project aims to support tourism development on the West Coast. The West Coast is identified as a region targeted for early investment from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF). 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver community benefits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project demonstrates the value of partnerships for conservation, with the involvement of Ngāti Waewae, Conservation Volunteers New Zealand, Lincoln University, the Department of Conservation (DoC), and the local community 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve the use of Māori assets, support Māori aspirations for land use and help them achieve their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is located on public land; however Ngāti Waewae, a West Coast-based hapu of Ngāi Tahu, is actively involved as a partner in the project. 	✓✓

cultural objectives		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainably use natural assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhancement of the only known breeding colonies of the Westland Black Petrel by restoration of the ecological corridor from the mountains to the sea at Punakaiki. The land was gifted to DoC and protected as the Te Ara Taiko Nature Reserve in 2010. This was part of an agreement with Western Ilmetnite Limited (WIL), a member of the Rio Tinto group. The land forms a contiguous conservation area including Paparoa National Park and two other reserves. Lincoln University is research partner for the project. This offers the opportunity develop a research and knowledge base that will provide a resource for other similar initiatives. 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigate & adapt to climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establishment of nationally rare sand-plain forest and wetland ecosystems Restoration of land on a site that has been used for pilot-scale mining and processing. 	✓✓✓
Additionality		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project demonstrate adding value by building on what is there already and acting as a catalyst, while not duplicating existing efforts? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is an existing project where over 170,000 trees, shrubs and flaxes have been planted over approximately 35 ha in seven years to establish the core foundation of the restoration project. Future work will involve protection of the of the on-ground outcomes delivered in the current partnership,, enhancement of existing plantings through in-planting, and increasing species diversity to enhance connectivity of remnants as well as weed control. 	✓✓✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project demonstrate the potential to generate clear public benefit? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnership involvement, strong local community participation. Further public benefit outcomes to be included in the full PGF application for the project. 	✓✓
Connected to regional Stakeholders and frameworks		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project demonstrate alignment with regional 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project aligns with needs of target regions identified through the PGF. Project management input from the Department of Conservation illustrates that conservation outcomes for the area are being addressed through this project. 	✓✓

priorities? If so, how?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further detail to be included in the full PGF application for the project. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has the project been discussed and agreed with relevant local stakeholders? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active local participation in the project, including management by conservation by volunteers and endorsement and involvement by iwi. Further detail to be included in the full PGF application for the project. 	✓
Governance, risk management and project execution (includes evidence of robust project governance, and future ownership options for capital projects)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project describe the governance for the project and is there evidence of robust project governance? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PGF application provides a robust plan 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Does the project describe the risk management approach for the project? If so, how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail for this is included, also noting this is an expansion of an established project 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is project execution discussed? If, so how? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed plan is provided, outlining what activity will be undertaken by year 	
General comment	The project demonstrates the ability to meet required 1BT and PGF criteria and support is recommended in principle, pending the completion for due diligence being undertaken once a full PGF application being completed.	
Recommendation	Recommend the proposal be submitted to Ministers for consideration.	