

Minutes – Regional Economic Development Ministers meeting, 2 May, 5.00pm-6.00pm

[note that Minister Jones was not present at the meeting]

	Item	Decision	Comment and action
1	Draft Sector Investment position paper	Deferred	<p>Ministers stated that they were supportive of the paper overall but raised two areas for amendment before the paper is signed off:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring there is appropriate flexibility around the co-investment requirements ensuring the typology of firms and sectors presented in the paper allows for projects involving horticultural automation robotics and technology improvements in the energy sector. <p>ACTION. Officials to address Ministers comments and recirculate the sector position paper, by round robin for RED Ministers' sign off.</p>
2	Commercial Information		
3-5	Airports investment strategy paper	<p>Agreed to PGF position for funding in airports</p> <p>Noted the MOT air services strategy</p> <p>Agreed to establish a Cabinet paper regarding funding for the Chatham Islands</p>	<p>RED Ministers considered these three items at the same time.</p> <p>Minister Twyford and Ministry of Transport (MOT) officials outlined MOT's air services paper, including the proposal to establish a wider framework and contestable fund for improving airport infrastructure.</p> <p>Ministers noted that airports and air connectivity were important parts of provincial growth in some areas. Ministers agreed that the PGF should be used to fund airports where an investment would lead to a clear increase in productivity (e.g. growth in sectors in the regions, jobs and business development). Ministers agreed that strong business cases were a requirement for airports to receive PGF funding and that funding in individual airports would be of the order of \$^{Commercial Information} or less. Ministers noted that around \$^{Commercial Information} of funding for all airports would be a realistic assessment</p> <p>Ministers discussed the PDU's indicative assessment of airports that could receive PGF funding. Ministers noted that the three airports that were most suitable for PGF funding had already received PGF funding. They noted that a number of other airports might be suitable, particularly in the surge regions, although this would depend on the specifics of the proposals that come forward.</p> <p>When discussing the Chatham Islands airports paper, Ministers agreed to take a wider package for the Chatham Islands to Cabinet covering the full set of its key needs – the airport, ^{Commercial Information}</p>

			<p>Commercial Information Ministers agreed that Cabinet should consider a package of funding for the Chatham Islands, which is not exclusive to PGF funding.</p> <p>ACTION: Officials to draft Cabinet paper on financial assistance for the Chatham Islands' economic development priorities.</p>
	Revisiting the Upgrade of the Oparara Arches and Access Road Funding Decisions	Deferred	<p>Minister Parker requested further information on the revised allocations between agencies proposed in the item.</p> <p>ACTION. Officials to provide Ministers with further information about the funding.</p>
6	Te Ara Mahi Proposals for Review		
	Commercial Information - Declined Application		
	Te Kaha People Development	Approved	<p>Ministers agreed to approve this proposal, which will provide jobs for the Te Kaha land use and application, which RED Ministers had previously agreed to provide PGF funding to.</p> <p>MFAT officials noted that they do not have concerns with this proposal. Minister Parker stated that Cabinet must approve any 'amber box' proposals.</p>
7	PGF Proposals for Review		
	Commercial Information - Declined Application		

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	Hawke's Bay Water – Regional Freshwater Assessment and SkyTEM (approve)	Approved Ministers agreed to the proposal and noted that further Hawkes Bay water storage proposals will be considered at the next RED Ministers meeting.
	Aotearoa Social Enterprise Trust	Approved Ministers noted that they had originally agreed to fund this project in conjunction with the Leaderbrand project without a specific funding amount. They agreed to fund the proposal to the value of \$2m as a grant.
	Omeo Technology	Approved Ministers agreed to fund the proposal to the value of a \$2.5million loan.
8	Commercial Information	

PROACTIVELY RELEASED