



BRIEFING

Provincial Growth Fund- funding proposal for Matariki Tu Rākau

Date:	28 May 2018	Priority:	High
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	B18-0477

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Grant Robertson Minister of Finance	<p>Note and agree the recommendations contained in this briefing</p>	As soon as possible
Hon Phil Twyford Minister of Transport		
Hon David Parker Minister for Economic Development		
Hon Shane Jones Minister for Regional Economic Development		
Fletcher Tabuteau Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Regional Economic Development		

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Julie Collins	Head — Te Uru Rākau	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Damian Diack	Project Manager — Matariki Tu Rākau	Privacy of natural persons	

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

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 Withdrawn |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

PROACTIVELY RELEASED



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Provincial Growth Fund- funding proposal for Matariki Tu Rākau

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Purpose

1. To seek your agreement to transfer \$5.55 million from the Provincial Growth Fund to Te Uru Rākau to enable them to establish and run the Matariki Tu Rākau programme. This is a tree planting programme which will provide communities with the opportunity to recognise the service of both past and present service men and women.

Executive Summary

The proposal

2. The Government has indicated its intention to establish Matariki Tu Rākau, a programme to support tree plantings to recognise the men and women who have served in New Zealand's armed forces.
3. Matariki Tu Rākau will see up to 350,000 trees planted across the country, representing those who have served New Zealand, particularly in the armed forces.
4. The programme will launch over Matariki (15 June 2018) and will continue through until 2020. It is intended that plantings will be permanent, publicly accessible, with a preference for native tree species. Each planting will also have a commemorative plaque.
5. It is estimated that implementing Matariki Tu Rākau will cost \$5.55 million. Te Uru Rākau is seeking funding from the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) in order to implement the programme.
6. The proposal supports the One Billion Trees afforestation programme by raising the profile of the programme as a whole. Plantings will be publically accessible and in prominent locations, whereas other initiatives are likely to be located in more remote areas. Additional linkages are explained below.
7. The proposal contributes to the PGF's wider criteria by providing local communities the opportunity to recognise service men and women; localised environmental and aesthetic benefits; and a moderate nation-wide stimulus in indigenous seedling production.

Risks

8. Te Uru Rākau forsee's minimal commercial, environmental, or consenting risks with this programme.
9. Te Uru Rākau will implement contractual arrangements to ensure funding is spent appropriately, and the ongoing maintenance of funded plantings.

10. Te Uru Rākau will encourage a mix of small and larger scale plantings, in order to maximise the proportion of funding being allocated to trees (as opposed to administrative and ceremonial costs) while meeting community's needs.

Action

11. If Ministers support this proposal, we recommend that the PGF provide funding of \$5.55 million in support of the Matariki Tu Rākau Programme.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Recommended action

Te Uru Rākau recommends that you:

- a) Note that the Matariki Tu Rākau proposal supports tree plantings to recognise the men and women who have served in New Zealand's armed forces. This will complement the wider aims of the One Billion Trees Programme, and the Provincial Growth Fund.
- Noted**
- b) Note that Cabinet has given delegated authority to Ministers (Regional Economic Development, Economic Development, Finance, Transport, and other portfolio Ministers as relevant) to approve applications to the the Provincial Growth Fund of between \$1 million and \$20 million (CAB-18-MIN-0045 refers)
- Noted**
- c) Note that this proposal was announced by the Government on 25 April 2018
- Noted**
- d) Agree to fund \$5.55 million towards the Matariki Tu Rākau Programme from the Provincial Growth Fund, to allow for the planting of up 350,000 seedlings at locations across the country
- Agreed / Not Agreed**
- e) Note that the source of these funds, if agreed, would be from the Sector Investment (including One Billion Trees programme) category of the Regional Economic Development: Provincial Growth Fund multi-category appropriation
- Noted**
- f) Note that Te Uru Rākau MPI will continue to develop application assessment criteria and operating processes for the Matariki Tu Rakau programme. Te Uru Rakau will provide regular updates on progress on this programme.
- Noted**

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

Hon Grant Robertson
Minister of Finance

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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

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Project overview

Outline of Matariki Tu Rākau

12. The Government has indicated its intention to establish Matariki Tu Rākau, a programme to support tree plantings to recognise the men and women who have served in New Zealand's armed forces.
13. This is part of a series of initiatives to recognise the 100 year anniversary of the end of the First World War in 1918, and provides an opportunity for local communities to recognise the service of both past and present service men and women.
14. Matariki Tu Rākau will see up to 350,000 trees planted across the country, representing those who have served New Zealand, particularly in the armed forces.
15. The programme will launch over Matariki (15 June 2018) and will continue through until 2020/21. Subject to demand the programme planting would occur over Matariki on publicly accessible land such as Marae, public parks and other places of remembrance. It is intended that plantings will be permanent, publicly accessible, with a preference for native tree species. Each planting will also have a commemorative plaque.
16. This project would encourage public participation in tree planting, while getting children, families and communities to further recognise the service of our armed services.

Implementation of the Programme

17. Te Uru Rākau will establish an online application process for funding. Proposals will be eligible for funding if Te Uru Rākau is satisfied that:
 - The proposal is for new planting and specifies the number and species of trees required;
 - The proposal clearly identifies the area of the proposed planting;
 - The planting will be accessible by the general public;
 - The planting can be expected to be permanent; and
 - Reasonable steps will be taken to ensure the protection and ongoing care of the trees;
18. Successful applicants will receive:
 - An average of \$10 per tree to cover the costs of planting;
 - A standardised plaque or sign for each planting; and
 - At Te Uru Rakau's discretion a contribution of up to \$10,000 to cover costs incurred by community groups in staging planting events.
19. Local authorities and the RNZRSA (Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association) will work with their communities to organise the commemorative events and ongoing care of the plantings.

Costs and Funding sources

Cost and funding sources

20. It is estimated that implementing and delivering Matariki Tu Rākau will cost \$5.55 million. Costs for the programme are broken down below:
 - Trees: \$3.5 million (350,000 at \$10 each)
 - Contribution to planting events: \$1 million (100 planting events in 2018, costing approximately \$10,000 each)

- Commemorative plaques: \$500,000 (500 at \$1000 each)
- Administration, specialist advice, communications, and contract management: \$504,921 over three years
- One-off establishment costs: \$45,000

21. Te Uru Rākau is seeking \$5.55 million from the Provincial Growth Fund in order to implement and deliver the programme over three years beginning in 2018.

Discussion on the proposal

22. The per- tree cost estimates include the cost of acquiring plants, site preparation, and contributes to initial upkeep during establishment.
23. The commemorative plaque will be designed in conjunction with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF), Ministry of Culture and Heritage (MCH) and the Royal New Zealand Returned and Services Association (RNZRSA).
24. It is expected that in some instances the costs will be lower where, for example, there are pre-existing arrangements for sourcing trees and ongoing management of the plantings.
25. Alternatively, it is recognised that costs will be higher for communities with limited access to indigenous nurseries and limited existing arrangements for ongoing management/
26. We anticipate overall, costs will be higher in 2018 due to short timeframes to achieve planting objectives.
27. The number trees that are planted and the location of plantings will be recorded and made publicly available.

Contribution to the One Billion Trees Programme

28. Matariki Tu Rākau will contribute both directly and indirectly to the wider aims of the One Billion Trees Programme.
29. Matariki Tu Rākau plantings will be publicly accessible and highly visible, being concentrated at places of community remembrance and other civic centres. This will raise the visibility of the One Billion Trees Programme within the wider community, particularly given most other initiatives will be in remote rural areas
30. The programme will complement previous signalling to nurseries that indigenous trees will be a critical component of the One Billion Trees Programme, allowing them to plan for increased seedling production in the future.
31. The programme will support Maori in recognising the significant contribution of Maori service personnel.
32. It is likely a significant proportion of plantings will augment existing plans for restoration, amenity, riparian, and urban green space plantings. These will bring localised environmental and aesthetic benefits. It is also possible some larger plantings will be of a size that they are capable of being enrolled into carbon trading schemes.

Commercial risks

Contractual arrangements

33. All applications will be assessed against the criteria specified. Te Uru Rākau will implement contractual arrangements with all successful applicants to ensure:
- Funding is spent appropriately and is reconciled with actual costs, and
 - Adequate arrangements are in place to ensure the ongoing maintenance of funded plantings.

Cost over-runs risk/ Contingencies

34. Should funding applications be slower than expected, the programme will be extended over the 2019 and 2020 planting seasons.
35. Te Uru Rākau will encourage a mix of small and larger scale plantings, in order to maximise the proportion of funding being allocated to trees (as opposed to administrative and ceremonial costs) while meeting community's needs.

Timetable

Date	Action
June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application assessment process finalised • Online application portal established • First tranche of applications processed
15 June 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Marque' plantings to coincide with Matariki 2018
June- September 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing funding Matariki Tu Rākau planting
October – November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of 2018 Matariki Tu Rākau funding round and plantings
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing funding Matariki Tu Rākau planting, again targeting ceremonies to coincide with Matariki 2019 • Targeted assessment of plantings conducted in 2018 to ensure contractual obligations have been met
2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any remaining funds allocated to final Matariki Tu Rākau planting • Targeted assessment of plantings conducted in 2019 to ensure contractual obligations have been met

Environmental risks

36. There is little to no environmental risk in this programme.
37. There will be a strong preference for planting of indigenous tree species. Seedlings will be sourced by applicants (many of which will be councils) from local nurseries, which are likely to have established eco-sourcing programmes. Local communities are also likely to demand eco-sourced tree seedlings.
38. Where exotic tree species are preferred, there likely to be a low wilding risk due to the fact that plantings will be in accessible areas, likely in or near settlements.

Consenting risks

39. It is expected that the majority of planting under this programme will be conducted by territorial authorities, or integrated as a small planting within existing land uses. It is highly unlikely there will be wide scale or significant consenting issues.

Compliance with the One Billion Trees specific criteria

The proposal primarily supports the One Billion Trees afforestation programme by raising the profile of the programme as a whole. Plantings will be publicly accessible and in prominent locations, whereas other initiatives are likely to be located in more remote areas. Additional linkages are explained below.

Regional development, productivity, innovation or work readiness

40. The programme will complement previous signalling to nurseries that indigenous trees will be a critical component of the One Billion Trees Programme. This will allow them to plan for increased indigenous tree seedling production in the future.
41. The programme will provide a moderate stimulus in indigenous seedling production, with the benefits of this distributed throughout the country.

Ability to support climate change commitments or support Maori aspirations

42. The programme will support Maori in recognising the significant historical and ongoing contribution of Maori service personnel.
43. It is possible some larger plantings will be of a size that they are capable of being enrolled into carbon trading schemes.

Enhance environmental sustainability

44. It is likely a significant proportion of plantings will augment existing plans for restoration, amenity, riparian, and urban green space plantings. These will bring localised environmental and aesthetic benefits for those communities.

Compliance with the PGF criteria

The proposal contributes to the PGF's wider criteria by providing local communities the opportunity to recognise service men and women; localised environmental and aesthetic benefits; and a moderate nation-wide stimulus in indigenous seedling production.

45. *Link with fund and government outcomes (including employment, improving productivity potential, evidence of public benefits, and being within a priority region).*

The programme will:

- Provide an opportunity for local communities to recognise the service of both past and present service men and women.
- Provide a moderate stimulus in indigenous seedling production throughout the country.
- Provide localised environmental and aesthetic benefits as a result of amenity, restoration, riparian, and urban green space plantings.

46. *Additionality*

- It is unlikely a programme of this scale could be coordinated and funded without central government involvement, due to the funding available to those groups with an interest in programmes of this nature (e.g. RNZRSA and Marae).
- Matariki Tu Rākau planting are likely to augment and enhance existing planting plans as opposed to freeing up funding for other work areas.
- The proposal has strong links to the One Billion Trees Programme. Plantings will be publically accessible and in prominent locations, whereas other initiatives are likely to be located in more remote areas.

47. *Connected to regional Stakeholders and frameworks*

- The programme has been raised with all of New Zealand's territorial authorities and relevant interest groups and has received a high level of support.

48. *Governance, risk management and project execution*

- Funding will be managed centrally by Te Uru Rākau with a robust application and governance process.
- Ongoing management costs will be met by successful applicants.

Recommendations and options

49. Cabinet has given delegated authority to Ministers (Regional Economic Development, Economic Development, Finance, Transport, and other portfolio Ministers as relevant) to approve applications to the Provincial Growth Fund from \$1m to \$20 million (CAB-18-MIN-0045 refers). If Ministers support this proposal, you are therefore jointly able to approve funding of \$5.55 million from the Provincial Growth Fund.
50. It is recommended that you support this proposal.
51. If supported, the source of these funds would be from the Sector Investment (including One Billion Trees programme) category of the Regional Economic Development: Provincial Growth Fund multi-category appropriation.

Next steps

52. If this proposal is supported, Te Uru Rākau begin work to:
- Refine and finalise the application assessment criteria and process; and
 - Work with applicants to process and organise the first tranche of applications, timed to coincide with Matariki 2018.