



Predator Free 2050 Ltd Project

Executive summary

Predator Free 2050 Ltd (PF2050) has proposed contracting for at least five landscape scale projects targeted in Northland, Manawatu, Bay of Plenty/Hawke's Bay, West Coast, and Banks Peninsula. The project has a total value of \$^{Commercial} and is seeking a Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) commitment of \$19.5m, which will be used to leverage the remaining funding by simulating projects from an expression of interest process already undertaken by PF 2050, which includes approaches from regional entities (including iwi).

The project forecasts ^{Commercial} jobs in the regions alongside providing commercial opportunities and opportunities for regional training institutes.

Recommendation

Project description & benefits	Risks	Total cost of project	Appropriation and amount to be approved	Recommendation
Predator Free 2050 – landscaping scale projects leading to increased jobs in five regions, educational opportunities, and enhanced regional productivity over five years.	No substantial risks identified.	\$ ^{Commercial}	\$19.5m	Approve

Project overview

52. The project is to fund PF2050 to contract for at least five large landscape-scale projects targeted at five regions to generate predator control and eradication operations on approximately 270,000 ha of rural and forested land.
53. PF2050 is a Crown-owned company established under Schedule 4A of the Public Finance Act 1989 to realise NZ's Predator Free 2050 goal. It was formed in Nov 2016, with initial Crown funding of \$^{Commercial} for its first 4 years.
54. The funding sought from the PGF will enable PF2050 to significantly ramp-up projects in the regions identified, and develop tailored EOIs aimed at achieving regional economic development outcomes alongside its conservation outcomes. These projects will require around 83,000 trapping devices costing \$^{Commercial In}. Nine NZ firms currently manufacture traps and toxins; some are developing export markets. The projects will require around 5000 wireless technology nodes and hubs covering 500 square kilometres and costing \$^{Commercial Inform}. In addition to the big telcos, several NZ firms have capability to deliver solutions for this aspect of the programme.

Regions covered by proposal

55. The following regions are covered by this project:
 - a. Northland
 - b. Manawatu



- c. Bay of Plenty/Hawke's Bay
- d. West Coast
- e. Banks Peninsula (Canterbury)

Local support for proposal

56. PF2050 will use the PGF grant to enter into funding agreements with entities in each region for delivery of the projects. These are likely to be regional council or bespoke entities. Māori partners will be encouraged through the project criteria and design.

Key milestones and outputs

57. Milestones will be agreed upon following approval of the project and procurement plan.

Management and governance

58. PF2050 has strong governance processes and this project will be undertaken using its standard structures, including;
- a. Delivery methodology
 - b. Roles and responsibilities
 - c. Procurement
 - d. Risk management
 - e. Governance

Cost and funding sources

59. The Predator Free 2050 project has a total cost of \$^{Commercial}, of which the Provincial Growth Fund will contribute \$19.5m. The PGF funding will be used to leverage co-funding of an additional \$^{Commercial}, which is a prerequisite of the project. The PGF funding and other funding is to be spent on a pro-rata basis.



Assessment against the PGF criteria

Criteria	✓	Comment
Sustainable regional economic development	✓	Project will create regional jobs through the need for field crews, training schools, manufacturing, design engineers, software engineers, telecommunications and ecotourism.
Productivity and innovation	✓	New regional jobs, technology and manufacturing contracts, new curricula in local polytechs and training organisations; eco-tourism opportunities.
Increased employment, training or work readiness for the sectors workforce	✓	Commercial regional jobs paying \$ Commercial in salaries and wages to project employees and contractors over 5 years.
NZ's ability to meet climate change commitments	✓	Protection of trees.
Maori aspirations for utilising land and other resources and achieving cultural objectives	✓	The predator free operation will increase productivity of Māori land, and is fully supported by land owners involved in any of the projects
Additionality	✓	This funding accelerates an existing Government/regional initiative
Connections and alignment with regional priorities	✓	Strong alignment with regional priorities
Environmental sustainability and/or productivity of natural assets	✓	PF2050 advise that public research estimates the economic and tourism benefits of a predator free NZ at several billion dollars

Benefits

60. Opportunities for regional training institutes to provide new curricula in environmental management and field operations. Commercial Information [REDACTED]
61. More than \$ Commercial will be spent on regional property leases, consultancy, and general business activities associated with the projects over five years.



Risks

62. Predator Free 2050 has provided a strong risk/mitigation processes, and funding will be phased and released against agreed milestones.

Next steps

63. Subject to Ministers agreement funding approval for the Predator Free 2050 project, the next steps are as follows:
- a. a detailed project and procurement plan will be developed by PF2050 to include PGF criteria, and that the selection of agreed providers will take up to 12 months, with the individual projects funded for 5 years.
 - b. funding will be released to PF2050 on the following basis: commitment to the outcomes detailed in the application; following approval by PDU of each project and procurement plan; and, will be phased upon achievement of agreed milestones and project expenditure commitments.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED