



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Stuart Nash	<b>Portfolio</b>	Small Business
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Further Regional Business Partnership advice for small businesses	<b>Date to be published</b>	16 October 2020

### List of documents that have been proactively released

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
9 June 2020	Further Regional Business Partnership advice for small businesses	Office of the Minister for Small Business
17 June 2020	DEV-20-MIN-0102	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**YES**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of Confidential advice to Government.



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

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### Further Regional Business Partnership Advice for Small Businesses

**Portfolios**                      **Economic Development / Small Business**

On 17 June 2020, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee, having been authorised by Cabinet to have Power to Act [CAB-20-MIN-0286]:

- 1        **noted** that COVID-19 funding of \$15 million for business advice, provided through the Regional Business Partner network in April 2020, is now fully committed;
- 2        **noted** that this funding, provided as vouchers (to a maximum of \$5,000), has primarily been utilised by smaller firms (with over 90 percent by firms with fewer than 20 employees) to ensure business continuity and survival;
- 3        **noted** that there is still a significant unmet pipeline of demand for these services, and they will play an important role in business recovery over the coming months;
- 4        **agreed** to the additional funding of \$40 million for business advice provided through the Regional Business Partner network, subject to the decisions by Budget Ministers on the next COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund round;

5        Confidential advice to Government

- 6        **noted** that a survey of impact of the programme will start in June 2020 and will report in July 2020 (surveying in June 2020 gives firms the chance to use the voucher and identify what benefits are accruing from the new information they have learned);
- 7        **noted** that New Zealand Trade and Enterprise will undertake an audit of business advice services in September 2020, and will forward the results of the audit to the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Economic Development, the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation, and the Minister for Small Business;

- 8 **approved** the following change in appropriation as a result of paragraph 4 above (subject to Budget Ministers' decisions), with a corresponding impact on the operating balance:

Vote: Business Science and Innovation Minister for Economic Development	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Support the Growth and Development of New Zealand Firms, Sectors and Regions MCA					
Non-Departmental Output Expense: Services to Support the Growth and Development of New Zealand Businesses	-	40.000	-	-	-
<b>Total Operating</b>	-	<b>40.000</b>	-	-	-

- 9 **agreed**, subject to Budget Ministers' decisions in relation to paragraph 4 above, that:
- 9.1 the change to the appropriation for 2020/21 above be included in the 2020/21 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;
- 9.2 the expenses incurred above be charged against the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund established as part of Budget 2020;
- 9.3 any unspent funding for business consultancy services in 2019/20 be transferred to 2020/21.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Winston Peters (Chair)  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Phil Twyford  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Damien O'Connor  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon James Shaw  
Hon Eugenie Sage

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV