

Expression of Interest

The purpose of this Expression of Interest form is for potential proposals to be highlighted to the Provincial Growth Fund so we can work with you to develop a full application if appropriate. The Provincial Growth Fund's objective is lifting productivity potential in the regions.

The information provided will help us to:

- 1 – Understand the eligibility of the organisation
- 2 – Understand the eligibility of the project
- 3 – Understand the appropriate investment tier

If your proposal has the potential to be funded, you will be invited to submit a formal application.

If the answer box is not big enough, please attach a document that provides the answer/s when you submit the form.

Please email your completed form to PGF@mbie.govt.nz

Proposal name:

Development and Restoration of Oparara Basin – Delivering a World-Class Visitor Experience whilst preserving the environment for future generations

Section 1: Organisation Overview

Please provide your Organisational Name

Tourism West Coast

Please provide your Point of Contact for this submission (*This should be the main applicant and include a name, contact details.*)

Jim Little, Privacy of natural persons

Please provide an overview of the organisation submitting this information.

(*This should include location, whether you are public / private, legal registration information, organisation background etc.*)

Tourism West Coast - official RTO for the West Coast

Section 2: Project Overview

Where is the project to be located? (*Insert a location, being as specific as possible.*)

Oparara Basin, Karamea Buller District

Outline the proposal

Please provide information on:

- purpose of project
- how the funding will be used
- key outcomes of the project
- the need for the project
- whether the project is part of a wider initiative, and
- indicative project timeframe.

Outline

The Oparara Basin is a spectacular and sensitive part of Kahurangi National Park in Buller District at the northern end of the South Island's West Coast. The Basin is home to the largest river caves in Australasia, numerous other Karst features, sub fossil bones and significant flora and fauna. The Department of Conservation and the Oparara Valley Trust developed tracks and facilities in the Oparara Valley that were opened to visitors in 2008. The Oparara Basin has been identified by Tourism West Coast as one of six world class West Coast Region icon attractions in their 2016 Marketing Strategy for the Region.

The Tai Poutini West Coast Economic Development Action Plan 2017 recommended the completion of a feasibility study and business case to assess the potential of the Oparara experience. Commercial Information (Independent Consultants) completed the feasibility and business case, taking into account the sensitive conservation values of the Oparara, they recommended a series of improvements. These improvements to visitor infrastructure and services are designed to allow for increasing visitor numbers while protecting the significant values of the place, enhancing the visitor experience and safety and building benefits for the local community.

TWC consulted with key stakeholders on the Co mer report and have put together a proposal for development and restoration of the Oparara Basin – Delivering a World-Class Visitor Experience whilst preserving the environment for future generations. Stage 1 includes priority actions to support improved safety, security of existing infrastructure, preservation of the natural environment, and an improved visitor experience. The recommended improvements include an upgrade of the access road to improve safety; safety improvements and site preservation work on the Oparara Arch track; safety improvements on the approach to Moria Gate; increased security for the Honeycomb Cave Special Area with a system that will feed back to a coordinated manned roster system; an extension to the Oparara Arch track to improve the visitor experience and safeguard the environment; an improved viewing experience at the Mirror Tarn with construction of a short loop track back to the car park to improve visitor safety; and the telling of the Oparara Story to enhance the visitor experience and understanding of the biodiversity of this special place.

The work is estimated to take approximately Commercial Informatio to completion.

Which industry or sector/s is the project within?

Recreation and Tourism

Criteria of the Fund: How does your proposal align with regional priorities? *(Also please specify all regional stakeholders that have been engaged with, the process of engagement and their level of engagement on the project.)*

Please describe how the project meets this criteria

This is one of the initiatives proposed from the Regional Growth Study and by the West coast Region for potential PGF funding following region-wide consultation. It has the support of the wider region, including the previous West Coast Governance Group and the Mayors and Chairs Group.

A list of stakeholders that have been consulted in the development of the Business Case can be found in appendix A of the attached Commer report. Key stakeholders were also consulted on the completion of the final TRC report resulting in the attached Commer proposal – September 2018. **Report withheld - Commercial Information**

Criteria of the Fund: Governance, risk management and project execution – Projects will need to be supported by good project processes and those involved should have the capacity and capability to deliver the project. Projects need to be sustainable in the longer term beyond the Fund's life.

Criteria of the Fund: The project should lift the productivity potential of a region or regions and contribute to other objectives. These include jobs, community benefits, improved use of

Section 3: Cost Information

Total cost of the project: *(Insert the total cost of the whole project, showing capital and operating costs.)*

Stage 1: Capital expenditure Maintenance and operations Total Capex: \$ [redacted] Opex: Ongoing DOC Management

Road access (culverts and safety features) Capex: \$ [redacted]

Oparara Arch track upgrade Capex: \$ [redacted]

Oparara Arch track extension Capex: \$ [redacted]

Mirror Tarn Loop Track Capex: \$ [redacted]

Mirror Tarn Viewing Platform Capex: \$ [redacted]

Moria access safety improvement Capex: \$ [redacted]

Security system for Honeycomb Caves Capex: \$ [redacted]

Toilet Upgrades in upper car park Capex: \$ [redacted]

Orientation outlook on McCallums Mill Road Capex: \$ [redacted]

Development of the Oparara Story Capex; \$ [redacted]

Project Management & Development Costs Capex: \$ [redacted]

Total amount of the application: *(Provide the amount that is requested from the Fund.)*

\$ [redacted]

Other sources of funding:

(Provide detail of the funders, including self-funding and the status of the funding (i.e is it committed funding).)

Oparara V [redacted] secured \$ [redacted] in funding for the upgrade to the Oparara Arch Track which needs to be drawn down by [redacted]

Additional Information

Have you had any previous engagement with the Provincial Growth Fund on this project?

Oparara Valley Trust has submitted an application for \$ [redacted] for the Upgrade of the Oparara Arch track – this item is included in this submission

Is there any other information which would be useful background or context at this stage?

Provide additional information which may be of use to officials at this stage, noting there will be more detail required during the application phase.

Attached Commercial Information Oparara Arches Feasibility Study and Business Case Final Report July 2018 commissioned by MBIE with Tourism West Coast as the Lead Agency as a result of the West Coast Economic Development Action Plan 2017
Attached Proposal from Tourism West Coast - Development and Restoration of the Oparara Basin - Delivering a World-Class Visitor Experience whilst preserving the environment for future generations - the final proposal as a result of consultation with key stakeholders on the recommendations out of the Commercial Information Report

Report withheld - Commercial Information

Why do you need Government funding?

With a low Rating base on the West Coast, Government funding is required for significant capital projects that are included in the West Coast Regional Economic Development initiatives and initiatives that fit with the West Coast Regional Economic Development Strategy (2018-2025)



Application Declarations

About this form

This form enables Provincial Development Unit (PDU), part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, to progress applications to the Provincial Growth Fund (PGF) through the system to reach a decision.

The form requests the high level detail of the project and applicant, then seeks the applicant's declarations against the terms and conditions. This form is to be used where the PDU has been previously provided information by the applicant.

Part A: Key Details

Please note that if the funding agreement will not be held with the applicant (i.e. applying on behalf of another organisation), then we require the details of that organisation.

1. Proposal Title:

2. Please provide the details of the applicant organisation/entity for which funding is being requested:

Legal Name:	Tamara West Coast (Inc)
Entity Type:	Choose an item. Society
Registered Offices / Place of Business:	
Identifying Number:	[e.g. Company Number, NZBN, Trust / society number, etc. if applicable] 243152
Organisation's Website:	www.westcoast.co.nz

3. Please provide the contact details for a person as a key point of contact:

Contact Name and Role:	Jim Little		
Email Address:	Privacy of natural persons	Telephone:	Privacy of natural persons

4. What is the activity / funding start and end date?

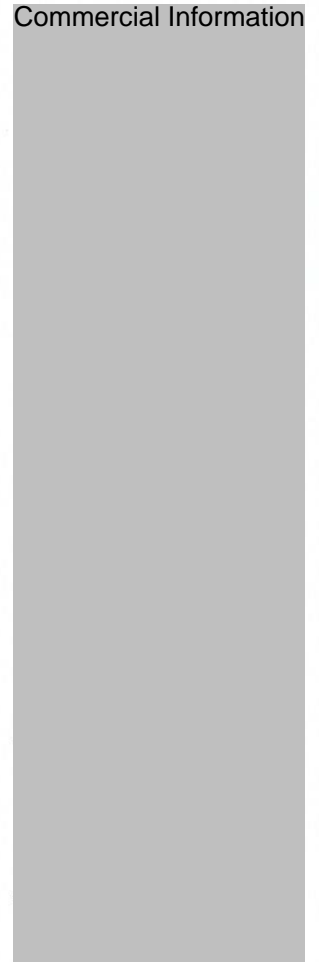
Start Date:	Click here to enter a date.	Completion Date:	Click here to enter a date.
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5. Please provide details of the project team (including the Applicant's Leadership Team, directors, partners, or trustees, or any key members of the project):

[Please provide full names and position details of the members of the Project Team and Leadership Team]

Part B: Declarations

6. The contracting entity is compliant and will continue to comply with all applicable laws, regulations, rules and professional codes of conduct or practice including but not limited to health and safety and employment practices
7. Has this activity ever been declined Crown Funding in the past?
8. Has the applicant or the contracting entity ever been insolvent or subject to an insolvency action, administration or other legal proceedings?
9. Has any individual in the Project Team (including the Applicant's Leadership Team, directors, partners, or trustees, or any key members of the project) ever been insolvent or subject to an insolvency action, administration or other legal proceedings, or actively involved in any organisation which has?
10. Has any individual in the Project Team (including the Applicant's Leadership Team, directors, partners, or trustees, or any key members of the project) ever been adjudged bankrupt or is an undischarged bankrupt?
11. Has any individual in the Project Team (including the Applicant's Leadership Team, directors, partners, or trustees, or any key members of the project) ever been under investigation for, or been convicted of, any criminal offence?
12. Are there any actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that the applicant or any of the key personnel have in relation to this project.
"In a small country like ours, conflicts of interest in our working lives are natural and unavoidable. The existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily mean that someone has done something wrong, and it need not cause problems. It just needs to be identified and managed carefully..."
<https://www.oag.govt.nz/2007/conflicts-public-entities>



If you answered "Yes" to any question from 7 to 12, please provide a description below:

By completing the details below, the applicant makes the following declarations about its application for Provincial Growth Fund funding for the project ("application"):

- I have read, understand and agree to the Terms and Conditions of applying for Provincial Growth Fund funding which are attached as Appendix 1;
- The statements in the application are true and the information provided is complete and correct, and there have been no misleading statements or omissions of any relevant facts nor any misrepresentations made;
- I have secured all appropriate authorisations to submit the application, to make the statements and to provide the information in the application;
- I have obtained the permission of each member of the Project Team to provide the information contained in this application and those individuals are aware of, and agree to, the Terms and Conditions of applying for Provincial Growth Fund funding which are attached as Appendix 1;
- I consent to this application being publically released if funding is approved. I have identified the commercially sensitive and personal information.
- The applicant warrants that it has no actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest (except any already declared in the application) in submitting the application, or entering into a contract to carry out the project. Where a conflict of interest arises during the application or assessment process, the applicant will report it immediately to the Provincial Development Unit by emailing PGF@mbie.govt.nz.
- I understand that the falsification of information, supplying misleading information, or the suppression of material information in this application, may result in the application being eliminated from the assessment process and may be grounds for termination of any contract awarded as a result of this application process.
- The applicant consents to the Provincial Growth Fund undertaking due diligence including any third party checks as may be required to fully assess the application.

Full name:

JAMES ALISDAIR MITCHELL

Title / position:

CEO TOURISM WEST COAST

Signature:

Privacy of natural persons



Date:

11/3/2019

Appendix 1 – Terms and Conditions of this Application

General

The terms and conditions are non-negotiable and do not require a response. Each applicant that submits a request for Provincial Growth Fund (“PGF”) funding (each an “application”) has confirmed by their signature on the application that these terms and conditions are accepted without reservation or variation.

The Provincial Growth Fund is a government initiative which is administered by the Provincial Development Unit, a unit within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. Any reference to the Provincial Development Unit in these terms and conditions, is a reference to MBIE on behalf of the Crown.

Reliance by Provincial Development Unit

- The Provincial Development Unit may rely upon all statements made by any applicant in an application and in correspondence or negotiations with the Provincial Development Unit or its representatives. If an application is approved for funding, any such statements may be included in the contract.

Each applicant must ensure all information provided to the Provincial Development Unit is complete and accurate. The Provincial Development Unit is under no obligation to check any application for errors, omissions, or inaccuracies. Each applicant will notify the Provincial Development Unit promptly upon becoming aware of any errors, omissions, or inaccuracies in its application or in any additional information provided by the applicant.

Ownership and intellectual property

Ownership of the intellectual property rights in an application does not pass to the Provincial Development Unit. However, in submitting an application, each applicant grants the Provincial Development Unit a non-exclusive, transferable, perpetual licence to use and disclose its application for the purpose of assessing and decision making related to the PGF application process. Any hard copy application or documentation supplied by you to the Provincial Development Unit may not be returned to you.

- By submitting an application, each applicant warrants that the provision of that information to the Provincial Development Unit, and the use of it by the Provincial Development Unit for the evaluation of the application and for any resulting negotiation, will not breach any third-party intellectual property rights.

Confidentiality

The Provincial Development Unit is bound by the Official Information Act 1982 (“OIA”), the Privacy Act 1993, parliamentary and constitutional convention and any other obligations imposed by law. While the Provincial Development Unit intends to treat information in applications as confidential to ensure fairness for applicants during the assessment and decision making process, the information can be requested by third parties and the Provincial Development Unit must provide that information if required by law. If the Provincial Development Unit receives an OIA request that relates to information in this application, where possible, the Provincial Development Unit will consult with you and may ask you to confirm whether the information is considered by you to be confidential or still commercially sensitive, and if so, to explain why.

Use and disclosure of information

The Provincial Development Unit will require you to provide certain information, including personal information, on application forms if you wish to apply for funding. If you do not provide all of the information that is required on an application form, the Provincial Development Unit may be unable to process or otherwise progress your application.

- MBIE will generally only use personal information provided in the application process for the purpose of administering the PGF which includes assessing an application you have submitted, contracting, monitoring compliance and reporting.

We may use personal information provided to us through the application for other reasons permitted under the Privacy Act (e.g. with your consent, for a directly related purpose, or where the law permits or requires it).

The Provincial Development Unit may disclose any application and any related documents or information provided by the applicant, to any person who is directly involved in the PGF application and assessment process on its behalf including the Independent Advisory Panel (“IAP”), officers, employees, consultants, contractors and professional advisors of the Provincial Development Unit or of any government agency. The disclosed information will only be used for the purpose of participating in the PGF application and assessment process, including assessment and ongoing monitoring, which will include carrying out due diligence. Due diligence may involve MBIE disclosing information to another MBIE business unit or relevant agency in order to

Privacy of natural person

assess the application and verify the information contained in the application and accompanying documents.

MBIE will generally not otherwise disclose personal information provided or collected through this application unless required or otherwise permitted by law. For example, we may seek your consent to undertake additional due diligence checks and request information from other relevant third parties. If an application is approved for funding, information provided in the application and any related documents may be used for the purpose of contracting.

In the interests of public transparency, if an application is approved for funding, the application (and any related documents) may be published by the Provincial Development Unit. Commercially sensitive and personal information will be redacted by reference to the provisions of the Official Information Act 1982.

Limitation of Advice

Any advice given by the Provincial Development Unit, any other government agency, their officers, employees, advisers, other representatives, or the IAP about the content of your application does not commit the decision maker (it may be Senior Regional Officials, Ministers or Cabinet depending on the level of funding requested and the nature of the project) to make a decision about your application.

This limitation includes individual members of the IAP. The IAP's recommendations and advice are made by the IAP in its formal sessions and any views expressed by individual members of the IAP outside of these do not commit the IAP to make any recommendation.

No contractual obligations created

No contract or other legal obligations arise between the Provincial Development Unit and any applicant out of, or in relation to, the application and assessment process, until a formal written contract (if any) is signed by both the Provincial Development Unit and a successful applicant.

No process contract

The PGF application and assessment process does not legally oblige or otherwise commit the Provincial Development Unit to proceed with that process or to assess any particular applicant's application or enter into any negotiations or contractual arrangements with any applicant. For the avoidance of doubt, this application and assessment process does not give rise to a process contract.

Costs and expenses

The Provincial Development Unit is not responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by you in the preparation of an application.

Exclusion of liability

Neither the Provincial Development Unit or any other government agency, nor their officers, employees, advisers or other representatives, nor the IAP or its members will be liable (in contract or tort, including negligence, or otherwise) for any direct or indirect damage, expense, loss or cost (including legal costs) incurred or suffered by any applicant, its affiliates or other person in connection with this application and assessment process, including without limitation:

- a) the assessment process
- b) the preparation of any application
- c) any investigations of or by any applicant
- d) concluding any contract
- e) the acceptance or rejection of any application, or
- f) any information given or not given to any applicant(s).

By participating in this application and assessment process, each applicant waives any rights that it may have to make any claim against the Provincial Development Unit. To the extent that legal relations between the Provincial Development Unit and any applicant cannot be excluded as a matter of law, the liability of the Provincial Development Unit is limited to \$1.

Nothing contained or implied in or arising out of the PGF documentation or any other communications to any applicant shall be construed as legal, financial, or other advice of any kind.

Inducements

You must not directly or indirectly provide any form of inducement or reward to any IAP member, officer, employee, advisor, or other representative of the Provincial Development Unit or any other government agency in connection with this application and assessment process.

Governing law and jurisdiction

The PGF application and assessment process will be construed according to, and governed by, New Zealand law and you agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of New Zealand courts in any dispute concerning your application.

Public statements

The Provincial Development Unit and any other government agency, or any relevant Minister, may make public in whole or in part this application form including the following information:

- the name of the applicant(s)
- the application title
- a high-level description of the proposed project/activity
- the total amount of funding and the period of time for which funding has been approved
- the region and/or sector to which the project relates

The Provincial Development Unit asks applicants not to release any media statement or other information relating to the submission or approval of any application to any public medium without prior agreement of the Provincial Development Unit.