

Application for Funding Projects



About this form

This form enables you to make an application for funding over \$100,000 from the Provincial Growth Fund for applications relating to the delivery of projects.

You will need to use the Express Form if your application is for an activity under \$100,000 or the Development Phase Form if your application is within the Development phase of a Project (i.e. feasibility / business case).

These forms are available on the [Provincial Growth Fund website](#)

Purpose of the Provincial Growth Fund

The Provincial Growth Fund aims to lift productivity potential in the provinces. Its priorities are to enhance economic development opportunities, create sustainable jobs, enable Māori to reach their full potential, boost social inclusion and participation, build resilient communities, and help meet New Zealand's climate change targets.

Completing this form

Please complete all sections fully and accurately. Square brackets and italics indicate guides.

Please see the PGF website, or contact your regional relationship manager, for further support. If you are applying on behalf of a number of parties, you need their consent to submit this application. You can add other applicants during the application process. You will be the point of contact for this application, but you must give us all information about all applicants.

Submitting your application

All completed forms must be emailed to PGF@mbie.govt.nz with a clear subject included.

If you are a Trust (or applying on behalf of a Trust), then you must provide a copy of your Trust Deed.

Next Steps

Applications will be assessed for eligibility, as well as how well they will deliver on the aims of the Provincial Growth Fund. One of our team will be in contact regarding your application.

Funding Agreement

The template funding agreements can be found on the [Provincial Growth Fund website](#)

Public disclosure

The Provincial Development Unit is responsible for leading the Provincial Growth Fund's design, administration and monitoring its operation in consultation with other government agencies. In the interests of public transparency, successful applications 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. Please identify by highlighting any information in your application that you regard as commercially sensitive or as personal information for the purposes of the Privacy Act 1993.

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: Collective Forestry Development Project -'Turanga Ngāhere'

2. Please provide a very brief description of the project/activity:

[If you had 30 seconds, or 50 words, to explain to someone with no knowledge of your sector what your project is, what would you say... i.e. what you will be doing, why, and what the outcome will be]

We seek a grant of \$971,158 to support the development of a forestry venture seeing 666 Hectares operating as a pine forest and 277 Hectares reverted. Both pine and reversion will see the economic benefits of carbon. This project includes 24 Maori Land Blocks which will collectivise under a Limited-Liability-Partnership to utilise the benefits of knowledge sharing, unity and scale.

The Maori Land Blocks include:

Commercial Information

[Redacted list of Maori Land Blocks]

The land is prime land for the proposed land use. Annual returns to Maori will increase from an average per hectare return of below \$^{Commer} per hectare to above \$^{Commerc} per hectare on average over ^{Comm} years. There will be significant land improvements to the land through the addition of legal access, tracks, fencing and general maintenance. The estimated job creation is estimated at an average of ^{Comme} full-time-equivalents (FTE) per annum over ^{Comm} years. Significant knowledge will be shared within the Maori Land owners getting into the forestry business. Positive environmental outcomes will also be achieved through good environmental practices applied together with reversion land. These considerations together uplift Maori.

The total finance requirement for this project is estimated as \$^{Commercial Informator} including a ^{Com}% buffer. The residual of the finance will be sought externally.

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

Legal Name:	TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST
Entity Type:	Registered Charitable Trust
Registered Offices / Place of Business:	Commercial Information
Identifying Number:	[e.g. Company Number, NZBN, Trust / society number, etc. if applicable] NZBN number:9429042837923
Organisation's Website:	www.mahaki.com

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

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

5. Please describe the principal role or activity of the applicant organisation.

[Note for completion: we wish to know what your organisation's primary function is].

Our organisation has lead the Turanga Whenua, Turanga Tangata project on behalf of our people and the Maori Land Blocks. We are the project manager. This project has included:

- Bringing together close to 100 Maori Land blocks over 15,000 hectares,
- Helping establish management structures (e.g. ahu whenua trusts) for those blocks without them,
- Co-ordinating feasibility analysis around potential land use,
- Clustering the Maori land blocks into land use collectives,
 - Horticulture,
 - Farming, and
 - Forestry.
- We have taken our people on the journey with us, sharing knowledge, getting buy in and helping guide the Maori Land Blocks to a position of commitment to positive change detailed in the proposals.

6. This project will be based in the region of:

Tairāwhiti

7. What type of funding is this application for:

Grant

[Note: the most appropriate funding type will be determined by the PDU in consultation with the applicant]

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

Start Date:	1/06/2020	Completion Date:	31/12/2021
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9. Has this project / activity been previously discussed with any part of Government? Yes: No:

- If Yes, please describe which part of government, and what the outcome of the discussions were.

[The PDU will consult with other parts of Government as part of the assessment]

The overall project had been discussed with Ministry of Business and Innovation (MBIE), Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), Gisborne District Council and Te Tumu Paeroa. The outcome of the discussions so far has been to support an investigation into land use options.

Privacy of natural persons and Privacy of natural persons from TPK have been involved in this project specifically and provide support on matters including governance for Māori land trusts in the area, finance for feasibility and land owner preparation.

Privacy of natural persons from MPI has been leading project development on other areas of the wider project.

Privacy of natural persons from the PDU leads the relationship for the PDU with Te Aitanga a Mahaki Trust and Principal Adviser to the Head of Regional Development, Privacy of natural persons has been involved in discussions.

10. Have you previously received Government funding for this Project?

Yes: No:

- If Yes, please list which part of the Government, when the funding was received, and how much under Q11.

Previous funding received:

The process for the Collective Forestry Development Project - 'Turanga Ngāhere' has included the following:

1. Setting up legal structures where required,
2. High level land use assessment and clustering forestry blocks,
3. Initial forestry background report and benefits of a collective. Meeting to approve feasibility of a collective forestry initiative, questions etc.,
4. Desktop forestry feasibility of the Maori Land Blocks as a collective. Meeting to approve progressing and which blocks are in/out, questions etc.,
5. Ground truthing feasibility of the Maori Land Blocks as a collective. Meeting to approve progressing and which blocks are in/out, questions etc.,
6. Currently securing finance.

TPK have provided \$ ^{Commercial Info} and \$ ^{Commercial I} under two contracts towards the above process.

11. Are you an overseas investor for the purposes of the Overseas Investment Act? Yes: No:

To find out if you are an overseas investor, and find support, please visit the Overseas Investment Office [website](#).

12. Please set out the proposed sources of funding for the Project:

Source of Funding: <i>[please indicate where all other funding is sourced from, noting who the funder is]</i>	\$ (excluding GST)	Status / Commentary <i>[i.e. received / confirmed / in principle]</i>
Provincial Growth Fund Funding (through this application)	\$971,158	
<i>[please specify all other sources of funding, including prior Govt. funding]</i> External finance / Private investment Maori Land Owners	\$ ^{Commercial Information}	Commercial Information
Total:	\$ ^{Commercial Information}	

Part B: Project Description

13. This application is: “a stand-alone activity” or “in support of a wider project/programme”

14. Will additional funding be required in the future? Yes: No:

If Yes, please describe at a high level, what this may include, and when this is likely to be applied for.

[Insert your commentary here]
N/a

15. Has a feasibility study, or equivalent, been conducted prior to this application? Yes: No:

- If Yes, please provide a copy, including an overview of the feasibility study and any outcomes.
- If No, please explain why not; and how feasibility/viability of the project has been assured.

[Insert your commentary here]
The feasibility study has been provided by **Commercial Information**

The feasibility study included:

- A physical assessment of each block, including forest feasibility, fencing requirements, access requirements, tracking requirements, roading requirements, cartage requirements, and the consideration of specific harvest planning requirements on a block by block basis.
- An assessment of ETS eligibility using mapping,
- Assessment of impacts on whanau and alternative land uses,
- Financial analysis of the opportunity.

Key outcomes from the feasibility study and related Maori Land Block meetings associated with the study include:

- The Maori land blocks agreeing to collectivise,
- All the blocks included in the report are capable and feasible in forestry offering the returns detailed in the report,
- Excluding land value and pre-tax internal rates of return (‘IRR’) range between ^{Commercial} % and ^{Commercial Info} % (The higher block is already planted in pine but is land locked with no physical or social infrastructure, but huge potential), the average IRR is ^{Commercial} % excluding the ^{Commercial Info} % block.
- Carbon sales at a price of \$ ^{Comm} per unit are estimated to cover \$ ^{Commercial Information} of operational costs of the collective over ^{Comm} years.
- The required investment is \$ ^{Commercial Information} which includes:
 - Capital costs in the first year including fencing, external and internal tracking, and site prep
 - start-up costs in the first year including planning, seedling purchase and cartage, planting labour, releasing chemical and labour, oversight costs, ETS registration,
 - some of the operational costs excluding harvest up to year ^{Comme} and
 - a ^{Com} % buffer,
- Harvest costs are estimated as \$ ^{Commercial Information}
- Log sale income is estimated as \$ ^{Commercial Information}
- Total accumulative net cashflow of \$ ^{Commercial Information}
- An average net return per hectare per year of \$ ^{Commerc} up from below \$ ^{Commerc}

16. Please provide a detailed description of this project for which funding is being applied, including the benefits arising from the project:

[Note: please describe what the funding is for, why it is required, what the project will do, how it links to other projects or activities and the benefits which will be attributed to it – for more information on benefits management, see this [guide](#).]

We seek a grant of \$971,158 to support the development of a forestry venture seeing [Commercial Information] Hectares operating as a pine forest and [Commercial Information] Hectares reverted. Both pine and reversion will see the economic benefits of carbon. This project includes [Commercial Information] Maori Land Blocks currently unproductive or leased for grazing which will collectivise under a Limited-Liability-Partnership to utilise the benefits of knowledge sharing, unity and scale.

The total finance requirement for this project is estimated as \$ [Commercial Information]. We are requesting \$971,158 be financed by the PGF while the residual of the finance will be sought externally.

The total investment will finance:

- start-up costs in the first year including planning, fencing, tracking, desiccation, planting, releasing, oversight costs,
- some of the operational costs excluding harvest up to year [Commercial Information] and
- a [Commercial Information] % buffer,

The funds from the PGF will be used for land improvements including:

- legal access to certain land locked blocks with roading through neighbouring blocks, and easements negotiated and formalised,
- tracks and roading added to the Maori land blocks,
- fencing on blocks protecting the land and forests, and
- other land preparation costs.

Holistically this project will contribute to significant improvements to financial outcomes on Maori land use with higher returns, create jobs for the region and Maori people, improve the land, help the environment and generally flow-on to improve the well-being of Maori.

Funds are required from the PGF for several reasons including:

- Commercial Information [Redacted]
- Commercial Information [Redacted], which makes it more difficult securing finance while upholding a financially feasible proposition, this includes the area's detailed above which we're seeking to finance through PGF funding (with PGF grant funding, the average internal rates of return ('IRR') excluding land value and pre-tax would be [Commercial Information] % excluding [Commercial Information] with a [Commercial Information] % IRR),
- The forestry proposition is dependent on carbon credit sales at \$ [Commercial Information] per unit. Therefore with this exposure, worst case scenario, if the carbon market subdues, the less external finance we have, the easier it will be to find external finance, or partnership finance to assist with operational costs through to harvest.

This project aligns with regional activities, an example being TEAP action 1.1 Māori sustainable forestry action plan, specifically, supporting Iwi/Maori into progressive tree ownership, and preparing business cases [Commercial Information] [Redacted] Also, generally with the pursuit of Gisborne as a wood cluster centre of excellence.

We note further detail on the benefits of this project as follows:

The land is prime land for the proposed land use. Annual returns to Maori will increase from an average per hectare return of below \$ [Commercial Information] per hectare to above \$ [Commercial Information] per hectare on average over [Commercial Information] years. Excluding land value and pre-tax this will see internal rates of return increase to an average of above [Commercial Information] %. With PGF grant funding, the average internal rates of return ('IRR') excluding land value and pre-tax would be [Commercial Information] % (excluding Waipaoa 3B with a [Commercial Information] IRR). The lowest IRR would be [Commercial Information] %.

There will be significant land improvements to the land through:

- the addition of legal access to certain land locked blocks with roading through neighbouring blocks, and easements negotiated and formalised,
- tracks and roading added to the Maori land blocks,
- fencing on blocks protecting the land and forests, and
- A general maintenance plan put in place across the blocks for general up-keep.

The estimated job creation is estimated at an average of 6.8 full-time-equivalents (FTE) per annum over ^{Comm} years.

This is illustrated as follows:

Forest component	Total cost	% labour	hourly rate	Annual hours	Accumulative FTE	Average FTE over 25 years
Planting	Commercial Information	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Thinning	Commercial Informa	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial In	Commer	Commer
Management	Commercial Informa	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial In	Commer	Commer
Maintenance	Commercial Information	75%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Pest control	Commercial Information	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Harvest	Commercial Information	60%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Informat	Commercia	Commer

6.8

Significant knowledge will be shared within the Maori Land owners getting into the forestry business. There are ^{Comm} Maori Land Blocks who will be apart of this forestry collective. They will be exposed to the business side of being in forestry. Job opportunities will be available to our people to further their credentials in the forestry sector and set ourselves up to take advantage of future forestry land-use opportunities for Maori. The ETS offers a significant opportunity for land use in forestry to our people, including reversion and retirement land where suited.

Positive environmental outcomes will also be achieve through good environmental practices applied together with reversion land. Reversion land will be fenced and maintained positively contributing to positive environmental outcomes. Regarding pine land, the ground truth feasibility steps included the consideration of which blocks can be harvested in an environmentally sustainable manner, and only those blocks have been included in this proposal.

The overall Turanga Whenua, Turanga Tangata project is a great example of collective efforts by Maori. The Collective Forestry Development Project - 'Turanga Ngāhere' is a cluster spoke of this collective and provides further inspiration for other blocks to collectivise and significantly improve the productivity of Maori Land.

These considerations together uplift Maori.

How does this project demonstrate additionality within the region?

[Please cover:]

- Why the project is not already underway.
- The benefit of Central Government funding (i.e. over alternative sources).

Commercial Information

PGF support will be key to enable development to kick-start in a timely and co-ordinated manner. Private funding is being sought for the development. Government support will make the investment proposition for private investors or external finance providers more attractive and secure. Without government support the project will take longer to develop as land owners will need to secure private investment options. Right now one of the strengths in this community is that all the Māori land trusts are working together on a shared development plan for new land uses.

- How the project provides a new asset and is not seeking maintenance funding.

The project compliments rather than duplicates existing forestry in this region. It will allow land owners to build up the earning potential of their lands. The project will generate public benefit by improving the economic independence and resilience of this community of Māori land owners through increased capability development, employment and job training opportunities.

- Why this project will unlock the potential within the region.

Importantly, PGF support will enable an accelerated path to development thereby unlocking the region’s productivity potential and giving more immediate effect of the benefits of the project.

The Collective Forestry Development Project -‘Turanga Ngāhere’ demonstrates additionality as follows:

- The Provincial Growth Fund will contribute to capital infrastructure on these Maori Land Blocks which will directly improve the productivity of these ^{Comm} Maori Land Blocks, through land improvements and arrangements as follows:
 - legal access to certain land locked blocks with roading through neighbouring blocks, and easements negotiated and formalised,
 - tracks and roading added to the Maori land blocks,
 - fencing on blocks protecting the land and forests, and
 - other land preparation costs.
- The jobs generated from this project is estimated at an average of 6.8 full-time-equivalents (FTE) per annum over ^{Comm} years. Note that the hourly rates for these jobs are estimated at rates significantly above the liveable wage. This is illustrated as follows:

Forest component	Total cost	% labour	hourly rate	Annual hours	Accumulative FTE	Average FTE over 25 years
Planting	Commercial Information	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Thinning	Commercial Informat	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial In	Commer	Commer
Management	Commercial Informat	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial In	Commer	Commer
Maintenance	Commercial Information	75%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Pest control	Commercial Information	90%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Inform	Commercia	Commer
Harvest	Commercial Information	60%	\$ Commercial In	Commercial Informat	Commercia	Commer

6.8

- Increased employment (and reduced unemployment) and wages, lower rates of young people not in employment, education and training will transform Turanga. The workers and students within the proposed projects who will be accessing the cadetships, apprenticeships and training will be Māori landowners who either live in Turanga or who intend to return home to Turanga or its surrounding areas to relocate for permanent work. The social and economic impact will be life-changing for the residents of Turanga. Full time, gainful employment has not been readily available for most whānau for generations. The uptake of tertiary learning will be a positive game-changer for the district and will augment the broader plans Te Aitanga a Mahaki have to invest in Turanga people and whenua.
- This project sees the collectivisation of ^{Comm} Maori Land Blocks as one legal entity and forestry operation. This sets a precedence for the potential of small Maori Land Blocks to become productive.
- Increasing returns from assets and enhanced utilisation and productivity of Māori land to be developed is one of the main goals of the LLP. ^{Comm}% of underutilised land in Turanga is Māori freehold land. The improvement of Māori assets will be immense; with more than ^{Commercial Inform} of Māori freehold land being committed to forestry through this project.
- The collective will also look to work with other forestry operators in the Te Aitanga a Mahaki tribal domain working closely with other Maori owners and collective initiatives for further opportunities of collaboration, efficiencies and possibilities which arise with increased scale.
- Increased regional activity with greater economic output in the sectors that this proposal and wider project proposals will fund will be a game-changer for Turanga and will create sustainability for the region that has not been present in the past.
- Social inclusion and positive participation by those people who have traditionally been precluded from actively being involved in community will be one of the greatest benefits of the Turanga Development Plan. Mental health rates in the region attest to the high numbers of whānau who experience issues associated with disassociation from pro-social activities. Alcohol and drug abuse, particularly among young people feature highly in the Vital Signs 2018 report in terms of priorities for the District. This Development Plan once implemented will contribute to changing the social fabric of the community for the better.

17. How is the project connected to regional (and sector) stakeholders and frameworks?

[Please provide an overview, including any evidence where appropriate of any relevant local and regional support, either via existing regional development mechanisms (i.e. regional plans), or through any other relevant body (i.e. council, iwi, hapū, or other representative group). If you do not have support, please explain why not and how you intend to get it]

TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST are leading this project and fully endorse the application of funding to support these Maori Land Blocks.

This project aligns with regional activities, an example being TEAP action 1.1 Māori sustainable forestry action plan, specifically, supporting Iwi/Maori into progressive tree ownership, and preparing business cases to access Government subsidies. Also, generally with the pursuit of Gisborne as a wood cluster centre of excellence.

The partners over this TEAP action include: Commercial Information

18. How will your project lift productivity potential in the regions?

[We want to understand how your project will meet the primary objective of the fund: “to lift productivity potential in the regions”. Please provide a description of this and where relevant, please cover how your project contributes to the following outcomes:

PGF Outcome	✓	How will the project positively or negatively impact this outcome in the region(s) identified?
1. Increase economic output	✓	<p>Total net cashflows to the land owner over ^{Comm} years are estimated as \$^{Commercial Information}. The current land use is estimated to return below ^{Comm}% of this projection. This provides upward of a \$^{Commercial Information} increase in the economic return to land owners over ^{Comm} years.</p> <p>To the region, estimated payments to contractors, service providers and employees are estimated as \$^{Commercial Information} over ^{Comm} years.</p>
2. Enhance utilisation of and/or returns for Māori assets	✓	Returns for Maori land owners enhanced detailed above.
3. Increase productivity and growth	✓	Improved productivity and growth for Maori land owners detailed above. Through increased employment opportunities, the region will see a lift in productivity and output.
4. Increase local employment and wages (in general and for Māori)	✓	<p>^{Comm} of the population of the Turanga region is of Māori descent.</p> <p>The jobs generated from this project is estimated at an average of 6.8 full-time-equivalents (FTE) per annum over ^{Comm} years. An emphasis will be put on placing Maori to fill these employment opportunities.</p> <p>As detailed above in the workings of the FTE estimate, the average hourly rates for employment are significantly higher than the living wage.</p> <p>The introduction of new jobs in the region will directly impact the Provincial Growth Fund’s success measure of increasing employment opportunity for Māori in particular.</p>
5. Increase local employment, education and/or training opportunities for youth (in general and for Māori)	✓	<p>There is a strong link with the development of training programs in forestry and the employment opportunities. Local providers currently offer forestry programs. Attendee numbers will increase with increased sector opportunities, and we will work with our forest manager when appointed, to facilitate pathways for our people, including on the job training and supported education.</p> <p>This contributes to the PGF goal of increasing the work readiness and skills of people in the regions to increase sustainability and productivity.</p> <p>Business Studies – training in accounting and other business activities such as forestry business will be needed.</p> <p>Environmental Studies – This application in conjunction with TURANGA CLUSTER has opened up new areas of interest and studies on the East Coast in soil, water, air and sea through the nursery development</p>

		Climatology – Climate change, Weather, Telemetry and Satellite are possibilities for the future.
6. Improve digital communications, within and/or between regions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not directly.
7. Improve resilience and sustainability of transport infrastructure, within and/or between regions	✓	Part of the funding will see transport infrastructure developed on the Maori Land Blocks and neighbouring blocks for access by way of tracking and roading. The intention is for the infrastructure to be sustainable with a long term view taken by the Maori land owners.
8. Contribute to mitigating or adapting to climate change	✓	<p>This project contributes to the ETS, with all of the proposed Maori land blocks being eligible for ETS, and therefore the estimated carbon tonnes absorbed over ^{Commercial Inform} years in pine is ^{Commercial Inform} tonne. This is forecast to remain the average carbon position of this forestry into the foreseeable future.</p> <p>The estimate carbon tonnes absorbed over ^{omni} years of reversion is ^{Commercial Info} tonne.</p> <p>This is a total contribution to ETS of ^{Commercial Inform} tonnes of carbon.</p>
9. Increase the sustainable use of and benefit from natural assets	✓	<p>Environmental sustainability will be a priority as the development progresses. As discussed previously positive environmental outcomes will be achieve through good environmental practices applied together with reversion land.</p> <p>Reversion land will be fenced and maintained positively contributing to positive environmental outcomes.</p> <p>Regarding pine land, the ground truth feasibility steps included the consideration of which blocks can be harvested in an environmentally sustainable manner, and only those blocks have been included in this proposal.</p>
10. Enhance wellbeing, within and/or between regions	✓	As this is a low economic area the wellbeing of the locals will be enhanced with better job opportunities and training options within the region and with payment exceeding a living wage.
Total number of outcomes project contributes to	9/10	

19. Has public consultation been conducted?

Yes:

No:

- If yes, what were the results?
- If no, is there a plan to do so?

Consultation with TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST has cover this proposal. TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST is the iwi that these hapū belong to. The proposal has support from the relevant landowners within the Maori land block areas. Informal agreements with the Māori land Trusts / partners over whose land the infrastructure will be built are in place **Commercial Information**.

This proposal has been discussed at land symposium involving representatives from almost all Māori land trusts in the Turanga area including **Commercial Information** and a governance group has been established that includes representatives of the relevant land blocks. It is a discrete scheme that has community support through the community being well reflected by the land owners who have fully supported this project in multiple meetings of land owners. Whānau have been kept up to date with the development with regular emails of information, reports and proposals. They have also had the opportunity to attend multiple meetings (upward of five), to consider the proposal, ask question, and support the next steps.

As discussed, this project aligns with the Tairāwhiti Economic Action Plan (TEAP), which has had significant public consultation and has been endorsed.

20. Please provide your customer demand / market analysis for this project, covering the following where possible:

- What is the current market for this project’s outcome, and what is your current involvement in the market?
- What opportunities are there to *expand* market activity (i.e. what is the customer demand)?
- What customer market relationships do you have to leverage success of the outcomes of this project?
- Is the project primarily aimed at enhancing the share of a single market? If so, please detail the proposed markets with this intention.

Commercial Information

Commercial Information

Commercial Information

We see that we’re enhancing the share of the log market with Gisborne being identified as a positive location as a wood clustered centre of excellence for which our supply would help accommodate with such processing growth, or accommodate other international demand.

21. Where the project utilises land, does the land have any other interests associated with it? (i.e. Treaty claims, or iwi/hapū ownership)

Yes:

No:

Not applicable

22. Is the land is owned by others, i.e. not solely by the applicant?

- If yes, then please describe the other interests and how will this be managed?

Maori Land.

The land is owned by the Maori owners of the ^{Common} Maori land blocks. The applicant is acting on behalf of these Maori land Blocks as the project manager and administrator. A limited liability partnership will be established (this has been approved by the Maori land blocks). The LLP will oversee the operations and administration of the forestry operation on behalf of the Maori land blocks, with governance of the LLP being provided by Maori Land Block representatives with appropriate sector, business, and regulatory experience in forestry.

23. Does the land have appropriate Resource Management Act consents?

Yes:

No:

- If no, how and when will this be addressed?

The project will need resource consent for tracking and then to plant. The resource consent process would be started on the confirmation of funding. The process usually takes 3 months with GDC. The Harvest planning considerations as part of the feasibility study have pointed out that the areas included are safe to plant and will not present resource consent challenges. Therefore, it is anticipated that all consents will be obtained allowing for the proposed timetable of the project to be realised. The intention is to try and get collective consent over multiple blocks.

Part C: Project Delivery

[Please note – this section refers to the actual activity associated with this application.]

24. Please provide an overview of the project management approach / plan for this activity.

[We would like you to demonstrate:

- How the activity will be managed from your organisation?
- What other partners are required for successful delivery? (demonstrating this with diagrams where possible)
- What project management practices will be in place?
- Who are the key personnel within the organisation relating to this project?

The project management oversight and administration of the funding requirements of the PGF will be managed by TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST. Key personnel include Privacy of natural persons

The Collective Forestry Development Project - 'Turanga Ngāhere' Limited Liability Partnership, once established will oversee the forestry operations. This will include the appointment of a forest manager. Governance for the LLP will be by representatives of the Maori land blocks, agreed by the Maori land blocks. We will also seek to have professional governance or governance independent from the Maori land blocks if there is an experience gap or if external finance requirements need it. The LLP will oversee, contribute and approve works proposed by the forest manager. Key personnel include Privacy of natural persons

The Comm Maori land blocks will commit their land to the LLP and become partners. The Maori land blocks will have representation on the LLP governance body and hold the LLP to account through the partnership agreement. Maori land blocks will be consulted with specifically for decisions where appropriate.

The forest manager will be a commercial provider who will undertake the detail of the project management. This will include contracting out development work to reputable contractors through a professional procurement process. The contract will include a performance clause and a requirement to hire locals with the view of setting up a development team. **Commercial Information**

The Accounting function will be contracted out by the LLP.

- What involvement is required by the Provincial Development Unit?

Approval of the finance request from the PGF.

- Please include bio's and provide an organisational/project structure where possible
- Please attach a copy of your health and safety policy that will apply for this project].

The key personnel with forestry expertise will be the forest manager once appointed. As mentioned above, there are options around who the LLP will appoint. Therefore we have not attached a bio as this appointment has not been made. Although, generically the company appointed will have experience in forestry management to meet the requirements of this project.

Furthermore, the forest manager would have a health and safety policy, which, on appointment we would see adapted and adopted for our project.

25. Have you have independent verification of the project approach / plan?

Yes:

No:

If yes, who verified the project and when?

The project approach and plan has been developed by **Commercial Information** Director **Privacy of natural p** **Privacy of natural p** has provided independent verification of the plan. **Privacy of natural p** is an experienced forest manager who has significant experience as a forest manager for large commercial operations, does forest planning throughout the region for large commercial operators, and is the local council's forest expert who advises the council on forestry related consent applications.

Privacy of natural p utilised **Privacy of natural persons** in assisting the development and checking of financial models used to forecast the financial outcomes of the proposed project.

The project approach / plan was verified Feb 2020.

26. Please provide us with a project plan, where possible please attach a schedule (i.e. Gantt chart):

[Please use the following table to describe the milestones of the project, if preferred, a schedule can be provided]

#	Project Activity	Responsible:	Date / Period: (done by)
1	Establish a LLP	TAAMT	Now
2	Appoint a forest manager	LLP	On confirmation of finance
3	Take out insurance	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Information
4	Appoint contractors (need to secure as soon as possible)	Forest Manager / LLP	Before Commercial Info
5	Road tracking	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Information
6	Fencing	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Information
7	Site preparation	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Info
8	Planting (need to secure seedlings with a deposit before Commercial Inf at the latest)	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Information
9	Releasing	Forest Manager / LLP	Commercial Information
10	Final reporting to Ministry	TAAMT	Commercial Info

27. Please provide a complete breakdown of the costs of the project to assist us in understanding where the funds will be utilised:

[Note that figures in this table must align with other figures provided in Q11. Please use as many lines as it takes to provide us with the appropriate detail. If more suitable, please attach a budget spreadsheet to this application]

Cost Description (note all include a 5% buffer):	\$ (excluding GST)
Tracking/road (including gaining legal access)	\$ Commercial Inform
Fencing	\$ Commercial Inform
Land preparation	\$ Commercial Info
Total	\$971,159

For full costing of the total project please refer to the business case document.

28. What are the proposed deliverables if funding is approved?

[Please use the following table, consider what deliverables there will be, when, and whether there are any payments associated with them and against what criteria payment should be made. If it is a single deliverable with single payment, please just use one line]

#	Description	Payment criteria:	Invoice Value \$ (Exc. GST)	%	Invoice Date:
1	Initiation payment	-On signature of the funding agreement.	\$ Commercial Inform	[10%]	Commercial Informa
2	Secure contractors	-On receipt of resource consent	\$ Commercial Inform	[21%]	Commercial Informa
3	Summer infrastructure	-On receipt of resource consent -Contractors confirmed	\$ Commercial Inform	[67%]	C rci 111 f

31. Please outline the project team and explain the Governance arrangements for this project

*[We would like to know about the members of your project team (the key personnel/leadership team involved in your application), how your organisation will govern the project/activity, as well as how other organisations may be involved (i.e. the Provincial Development Unit, local council, or iwi/hapū) in the governance procedures. Specifically please name who is on the governance board / leadership team (the **Project Team**)]*

The project management oversight and administration of the funding requirements of the PGF will be managed by TE AITANGA A MĀHAKI TRUST. Key personnel include Privacy of natural persons

The Collective Forestry Development Project - 'Turanga Ngāhere' Limited Liability Partnership, once established will oversee the forestry operations. This will include the appointment of a forest manager. Governance for the LLP will be by representatives of the Maori land blocks, agreed by the Maori land blocks. We will also seek to have professional governance or governance independent from the Maori land blocks if there is an experience gap or if external finance requirements need it. The LLP will oversee, contribute and approve works proposed by the forest manager. Key personnel include Privacy of natural persons

The Comm Maori land blocks will commit their land to the LLP and become partners. The Maori land blocks will have representation on the LLP governance body and hold the LLP to account through the partnership agreement. Maori land blocks will be consulted with specifically for decisions where appropriate.


The Maori Land Blocks include:

Commercial Information

[Redacted list of Maori Land Blocks]

Representatives from the Maori Land Blocks who have been part of the steering group include:

Privacy of natural persons



32. What procurement process has been undertaken (i.e. selection of a provider), or will be undertaken, and how will that be managed? In addition, please provide a description of how greater public value will be achieved through the procurement process, for example by considering one or more of the following:

- How regional businesses (inc. Māori / Pacifica enterprises) will be provided with opportunities
- How skills will be developed in the market (i.e. via construction apprenticeships)
- How worker conditions in the supply chain will be improved / managed
- How waste / emissions are being reduced in this procurement.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/broader-outcomes/>

[We wish to understand how you will approach the market effectively and ensure value for money / public value is delivered, noting that public money is being utilised. If you have already been to market, then please describe who the supplier(s) are, how/why they were selected, and what the contractual arrangements are]

Reputable contractors outlined above and in the attached business plan will be used.

33. What risks are associated with the delivery of this activity?

#	Risk	Mitigation approach	Rating
1	If resource consent is not received for tracking/roads, or planting.	- As discussed above, the land included in this project has been physically assessed by forestry experts who have verified the suitability in forestry under favourable conditions for resource consent approval.	Low
2	Not obtaining additional finance to meet the investment requirement.	- Commercial Information <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 95%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 90%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 85%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 80%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 75%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 70%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 65%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 60%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 55%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 50%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 45%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 40%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 35%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 30%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 25%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 20%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 15%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="background-color: #cccccc; height: 15px; width: 5%;"></div> - Our feasibility study shows positive indications of the potential of the opportunity.	High
3	We don't secure tree seedlings or contractors in time to meet our proposed timetable.	- Our timetable is not rushed, to allow for funding to be received to allow time to secure seedlings and contractors before the 2021 planting season.	Medium
4	We can't find labour and expertise to meet our project needs.	- We're already working with a forest manager as our expert. With enough notice, we will comfortably secure our resource requirements, as discussed in point 3 above.	Low

34. Will the applicant own the asset on delivery?

Yes:

No:

- If no, please describe who will own the asset.

The Maori Land Owners will own the asset/operation through the LLP they own on delivery.

35. When the project is delivered, what is the plan to operationalise the asset (if an asset), and maintain it through life?

[We would like to understand what will happen after the funding has been used, and the project is delivered. Please cover how sustainable the resulting asset will be in terms of funding, skills required, and consumer demands etc.]

*The option of forestry for the majority of the Maori land blocks included in this project is made feasible through the economies of scale obtained through the collective approach. The business case has been based on one rotation over ^{Comm} years. The business will be operationalised and maintained **Commercial Information** through the LLP and LLP's appointed forest manager. **Commercial Information***

Systems around reporting, meetings and distributions will be established by the LLP to facilitate transparency, accountability and returns for owners.

36. What will the impact be on the applicant's financial accounts?

[Please describe what impact the funding will have on the applicant's financial accounts over the time of the project.

Where possible, please provide us with the following:

- *Growth forecasts / projections post project completion.*
- *2 years of financial accounts.*
- *Current banking arrangements.*
- *Details of any borrowings (including lender, loan values and loan maturity dates).*
- *Current level of debt and equity and financial Ratios (i.e. Debt to Equity, Debt to Revenue, and Current Ratio).*
- *Insurance provider.]*

Detailed financial projections on an annual basis are included in the attached business case.

Attachments withheld - commercial information

Commercial Information

The LLP will look to secure insurance as set out in the project plan.

A summary of financial outcomes are listed as follows:

- *Excluding land value and pre-tax internal rates of return ('IRR') range between ^{Commercial} % and ^{Commercial Info} % (The higher block is already planted in pine but is land locked with no physical or social infrastructure, but huge potential), the average IRR is ^{Commercial} % excluding the ^{Com er all fo} % block. With PGF grant funding, the average internal rates of return ('IRR') excluding land value and pre-tax would be ^{Commercial} % excluding ^{Commercial Information} with a ^{Com er all fo} IRR. The lowest IRR would be ^{Commercial} %.*
- *Carbon sales at a price of \$ ^{Comm} per unit are estimated to cover \$ ^{Commercial Information} of operational costs of the collective over ^{Comm} years.*
- *The required investment is \$ ^{Commercial Information} which includes:*
 - *start-up costs in the first year including planning, fencing, tracking, desiccation, planting, releasing, oversight costs,*
 - *some of the operational costs excluding harvest up to year, and*
 - *a ^{Com} % buffer,*
 - *\$971,159 of this is estimated to be covered by the PGF which would leave \$ ^{Commercial Information} to be financed through another external source of private finance,*
- *Harvest costs are estimated as \$ ^{Commercial Information}*
- *Log sale income is estimated as \$ ^{Commercial Information}*

- Total accumulative net cashflow of \$ ^{Commercial Information} over ^{Comm} years,
- An average net return per hectare per year of \$ ^{Commerc} up from below \$ ^{Commerc}

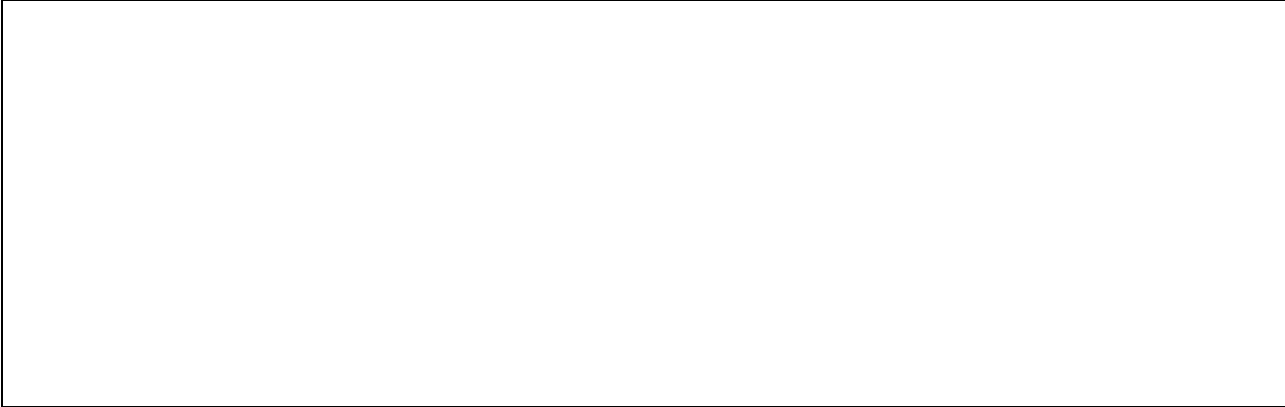
Part D: Declarations

37. 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 Yes: No:
38. Has this activity ever been declined Crown Funding in the past? Yes: No:
39. Has the applicant or the contracting entity ever been insolvent or subject to an insolvency action, administration or other legal proceedings? Yes: No:
40. 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? Yes: No:
41. 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? Yes: No:
42. 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? Yes: No:
43. 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. Yes: No:

“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 39 to 44, 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; and
- 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:

Title / position:

Signature / eSignature:

Date:
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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 (or e-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 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.

Electronic signature

You can only file documents and information with us using an electronic signature if you're the signatory, or have authority to act on behalf of the signatory, and are using software that complies with our standards, in particular keeping records of transactions where an electronic signature has been used. Once a document with your electronic signature has been filed with us, we consider the information:

- has been provided with your full knowledge and agreement
- is authentic and accurate
- wasn't amended after your electronic signature was added to the document, unless a change has been clearly marked on the document.

You're responsible for:

- safeguarding how and when your electronic signature and credentials are used on documents and information
- managing who has authority to use your electronic signature on your behalf, for example, a chartered accountant.

If your electronic signature on a document or information is filed with us, you won't be able to dispute having signed and approved the document or information. If we question the authenticity of an electronic signature or online transaction, you must be able to demonstrate on request the validity of the software used to apply your electronic signature to the document.

You must use electronic signature software that captures authentication, time and source details for any online transaction where a document with your electronic signature has been filed. These details must be held within the software itself, in the form of a file that:

- is maintained in its original form with no amendments, and
- can be provided to us, if requested, within a specified time.

The file must be treated as a record, as defined by the Companies Act 1993, and a business record as defined by the Evidence Act 2006.

Appendix 2 - Operational criteria for all tiers of the Fund

Link to Fund and government outcomes

- Demonstrate the ways in which the project will contribute to lifting the productivity potential of the region
- Demonstrate how the project contributes to the Fund's objectives of:
 - more permanent jobs
 - benefits to the community and different groups in the community
 - increased utilisation and returns for Māori from their asset base (where applicable)
 - sustainability of natural assets (e.g. water, soil integrity, the health and ecological functioning of natural habitats)
 - mitigating or adapting to climate change effects, including transitioning to a low emissions economy
- Clear evidence of public benefits (i.e. benefits other than increased profitability for the applicant)
- Are in a Government priority region or sector

Additionality

- Project is not already underway, does not involve maintenance of core infrastructure or assets (except for rail and transport resilience initiatives), and does not cover activities the applicant is already funded for (funding could be considered to increase the scale of existing projects or re-start stalled projects)
- Demonstrated benefit of central Government investment or support
- Detail of any supporting third party funding (and any funding sought unsuccessfully)
- Acts as a catalyst to unlock a region's productivity potential
- Demonstrated links to other tiers of the Fund and related projects, to maximise value of Government investment

Connected to regional stakeholders and frameworks

- Evidence of relevant regional and local support, either through existing regional development mechanisms, or through another relevant body such as a council, iwi or other representative group (or reasons for any lack of local support)
- Has been raised and discussed with the region's economic development governance group
- Alignment with, or support for the outcomes of, any relevant regional development plan, Māori development strategy or similar document (whether regional or national)
- Demonstrated improvement in regional connectedness (within and between regions)
- Leverage credible local and community input, funding, commercial and non-commercial partners
- Utilise existing local, regional or iwi/Māori governance mechanisms

Governance, risk management and project execution

- Evidence of robust project governance, risk identification/management and decision-making systems and an implementation plan appropriate to the size, scale and nature of the project
- Future ownership options for capital projects, including responsibility for maintenance, further development, and other relevant matters
- Benefits and risks clearly identified and quantified, depending on the scale of the initiative
- Evidence of potential exit gates and stop/go points, and a clear exit strategy
- Clearly identifies whole of life costs (capital and operating)
- Dependencies with other related projects are identified
- Evidence of sustainability after conclusion of PGF funding
- Adequacy of asset management capability (for capital projects)
- Compliance with international obligations (where relevant)