

The Treasury

DEV Quarterly Progress Report on the CPC Priorities: October to December 2019 Information Release

April 2021

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Date: **11 February 2020**

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[38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice

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Office of the Minister of Finance
Chair, Cabinet Economic Development Committee

DEV Quarterly Progress Report on the CPC Priorities: October to December 2019

Proposal

1. This paper provides a quarterly progress report on the Government's priorities for which the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV) is responsible.

Context

2. Cabinet Committees are now due to provide a quarterly report on progress towards CPC priority initiatives (refreshed in April 2019) for the October to December 2019 quarter. The quarterly progress reports will be discussed at the CBC meeting on Monday 24 February 2020, at 1:00pm.¹
3. DEV provided its last quarterly progress report to the Cabinet Business Committee (CBC) on 30 September 2019, covering the July to September quarter [DEV-19-MIN-0185].

The DEV Quarterly Progress Report

4. My officials have collated information from agencies to produce a progress report on the initiatives for which DEV is responsible. The self-reported progress on each initiative is outlined in the attached report. Nine initiatives have been rated amber; the remaining 16 have been rated green.
5. I propose that we discuss the report, and in particular the initiatives that have been rated amber, with a view to identifying where we can collectively take action to support the progress of these initiatives.
6. The following initiatives were rated as amber:

6.1 Green Investment Fund

6.2 Trade

¹ Note that CBC is considering the quarterly updates in lieu of CPC as there is no CPC meeting scheduled for that week.

- 6.3 Fair pay agreements
 - 6.4 Pay Equity
 - 6.5 OIO Phase 2
 - 6.6 One Billion Trees
 - 6.7 Just Transitions work programme
 - 6.8 Low-emission vehicles proposals
 - 6.9 Warmer Kiwi homes investment
7. Within these initiatives there are a variety of reasons for them to be rated amber. It does not necessarily mean that there is a problem with the work, but may reflect the particular stage the work is at.

Consultation

8. Reporting of progress on initiatives outlined in the attached report was provided by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Transport, Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Inland Revenue, Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Pike River Recovery Agency, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority, and Department of Internal Affairs.
9. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet was informed.

Financial Implications

10. There are no financial implications arising from this paper

Publicity

11. I do not propose any publicity. Any publicity on the progress of the Government's overall priorities will be co-ordinated by the Prime Minister.

Proactive Release

12. Pending any publicity decisions from the Prime Minister I intend to proactively release this paper and the attached quarterly progress report within 30 business days.

Recommendations

The Minister of Finance recommends the Committee:

1. **note** the quarterly progress updates on the CPC priorities for the period October to December 2019, for which DEV is responsible, as outlined in the attachment to this paper.

- 2.** **note** that the Minister of Finance intends to refer this quarterly report to CBC for discussion on Monday 24 February 2020.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Grant Robertson

Minister of Finance

DEV

	Previous Status	Current Status	Quarterly Deliverable (October - December 2019)	Comment on Status (including risks and issues)	Achievements this past quarter	Next quarterly deliverable (January - March 2020)
Priority Outcome: Grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity						
Policies of Focus						
Green Investment Fund	G	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make its first investments towards the end of 2019. • Move into new premises in November. 	<p>NZGIF is working to build a pipeline of investment opportunities and has been actively engaging with potential investors and investees.</p> <p>It is also working on the design of new financial products that seek to unlock private investment into green projects, where the market is not delivering on this outcome.</p>	NZGIF moved into its new premises in November.	NZGIF remains focused on making its first direct investments and on progressing the design of new financial products that can unlock private investment into green projects.

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Priority Outcome: Grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity						
Trade	A	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to conclude China Free Trade Agreement (FTA) Upgrade. • Aim to complete Singapore Closer Economic Partnership (CEP regulation drafting process). • A further EU FTA round proposed for November / December but not yet confirmed. 	Sixth round of EU FTA negotiations held in December and agreement now to hold seventh round (w/c 30 March 2020). [38]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • China FTA Upgrade negotiations concluded. • Singapore CEP Upgrade entered into force 1/1/2020. • Sixth EU FTA round held. • Domestic consultations on possible rules for changed Geographical Indications regime (to end March). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal verification of China FTA Upgrade text [38] • Seventh EU FTA round w/c 30 March

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Priority Outcome: Grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity						
Tax Policy Work Programme	G	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy papers on multinational tax and business package. • Loss continuity discussion document developed. • Progressing options for tranche 1 and 2 of land reforms and Cabinet paper for tranche 1. • Progressing options for infrastructure tax settings, GST and telecommunications, and a GST issues paper. 	<p>Multinational tax issues are progressing at OECD level, but have some way to go. [1]</p> <p>Loss continuity work is progressing with a discussion document expected to be released second quarter of 2020.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase price allocation issues paper released in Dec 2019. • Cabinet has signed-off on tranche 1 of the land review and these amendments will be included in the next omnibus tax bill, due for introduction in April. • Reported to Ministers on tranche 2 of land review seeking guidance on further work required. • Reported to Joint Ministers on findings from consultation and potential changes that may both improve the tax system and support infrastructure investment. • Cabinet has signed off on GST and telecommunications proposals for inclusion in next omnibus Bill (expected to be April 2020). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report to Ministers following receipt and consideration of submissions on the purchase price allocation issues paper. • GST issues paper to be released. • Progressing work on child support administrative improvements for inclusion in tax bill in March/April 2020.
Fair pay agreements	A	A	Consultation paper open. MBIE to prepare advice to Minister on final proposals.	Producing policy advice on design details for a Fair Pay Agreements system following public consultation. There remain different views among stakeholders about key design features.	Public consultation held 17 October – 27 November. 22 stakeholder meetings held and 648 submissions received. Prepared initial summary of submissions on key topics.	MBIE to finalise summary of submissions and prepare advice on key design features.

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Priority Outcome: Grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity						
Other key initiatives reporting to DEV						
Pay equity	A	A	-	Following comments from Business NZ and NZCTU after the report-back from select committee, officials have provided advice on a range of new design elements for the pay equity process. There will be further delays to the passage of the Bill while drafting changes are made to reflect the numerous policy decisions.	MBIE and Ministry for Women (MfW) have provided advice to Ministers on a range of design features for changes to the proposed pay equity process.	Amendments to the Equal Pay Amendment Bill are scheduled to be discussed at DEV on 12 February. MBIE and MfW officials will work with PCO to begin work on an SOP to reflect policy decisions.
OIO Phase 2	A	A	Obtain policy authority for reform recommendations.	Cabinet agreed to recommendations to reform the Overseas Investment Act in November 2019. Other issues, including how tax matters should be considered under the Act, have been agreed by relevant Ministers consistent with Cabinet's delegated authority.	Coalition consultation concluded. Cabinet paper lodged.	LEG committee of Cabinet to consider Overseas Investment Amendment Bill for introduction to the House.
Capital markets policy	G	G	-	<p>The new <i>Venture Capital Fund</i> should be ready to start investing by early 2020.</p> <p>The implementation phase of this programme is all but complete, with legislation passed and a contract between the Guardians and NZVIF agreed.</p> <p>A lunch event is being planned for March 2020, but market engagement has already started.</p>	<p><i>Venture Capital Fund</i> legislation passed in December 2019. The Policy Statement has now been issued and contract negotiations have been completed.</p> <p><i>Kiwisaver</i> - Decisions made on the settings for KiwiSaver default funds.</p>	<p>Responsibility for delivering the <i>Venture Capital Fund</i> has now passed to the Guardians of NZ Superannuation. Quarterly monitoring reports are to be provided.</p> <p><i>Kiwisaver</i> - A public announcement will be made about the settings in February 2020.</p>

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Priority Outcome: Grow and share more fairly New Zealand's prosperity						
Rail policy development of options	G	G	-	Decisions on structure and Track User Charges are yet to be made.	<p>Rail Ministers issued publicly the Draft NZ Rail Plan. LEG Committee approved the introduction of the Land Transport (Rail) Legislation Bill. The Bill was introduced, had its first reading, and was referred to Select Committee. Select Committee called for public submissions in December 2019.</p> <p>Rail Ministers met to confirm their view on KiwiRail's structure.</p>	<p>Public submissions on the Land Transport (Rail) Legislation Bill close on 7 February 2020.</p> <p>Cabinet is due to consider Rail Ministers' views on KiwiRail's structure and the framework for track user charges.</p>

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Priority Outcome: Support thriving and sustainable regions						
Policies of Focus						
Regional transport investment	G	G	-	The Transport Agency and the Ministry have undertaken to update the regional summaries annually, which means they will next be updated in August 2020.	The Transport Agency released Arataki – its ten year view of the land transport system – for sector engagement in December 2019. This provides summaries of challenges and opportunities for each region, and an outline of current investment.	The draft Government Policy Statement for Land Transport 2021/22-2030/31 will be released for public engagement in March 2020. This will provide strategic direction for investment from the National Land Transport Fund over that period.
PGF Implementation – <i>this is the subject of a separate report to CBC</i>						
Other key initiatives reporting to DEV						
Biosecurity overhaul	G	G	-	This work is currently in policy development phase. Ongoing engagement with stakeholders, including workshops with industry, Māori/Iwi, and regional council representatives. A discussion document for public consultation on issues with the Biosecurity Act and system is being developed, including external departmental comment. This will be delivered to Cabinet in May.	Targeted engagement workshops with stakeholders took place in October – December, leading to a series of issues papers summarising issues and opportunities with the current biosecurity system in December.	-

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Priority Outcome: Support thriving and sustainable regions						
One Billion Trees	G	A	-	The 1BT programme is delivering on immediate goals and is on track to meet the one billion trees goal by 2028. As at 31 December 2019 we have allocated 66.8% of the total funding for grants, partnerships, and joint ventures (\$480m). As we move to replenish the pipeline for the 2020/21 planting seasons, marketing and high-quality collateral will be critical to enable targeted engagement.	As at 31 December, the 1BT Fund has approved a total of \$28.5m direct land owner grants for 14,012.8ha of new planting, and \$46.8m partnerships projects throughout the regions. Contracted joint ventures now totals 20,068 ha with the remaining to reach target (24,000ha by 30 June 2020) under negotiation and expressions of interest.	Continuing to improve and simplify our collateral, and extending our engagement and outreach to ensure the pipeline of quality applications is maintained. Targeted engagement is planned over the period from November to February and we anticipate this will drive an increase in interest.
Accelerate rural broadband rollout	G	G	Further deployment of network infrastructure for providing broadband connectivity services through the Rural Broadband Initiative Phase Two (RBI2) and Mobile Black Spots programmes.	Deployment of rural broadband infrastructure across contracted network partners is overall tracking to plan.	<i>Extended rural broadband coverage</i> - A cumulative total of 42,919 rural homes and businesses can now access improved broadband through the RBI2 programme (51% of all end users in scope of RBI2). <i>Mobile towers</i> - A cumulative total of 61 new cellular mobile towers have now been established through the Mobile Black Spots programme. These support mobile coverage for 368 km of State Highway and 33 tourism destinations.	<i>Extended rural broadband coverage</i> - Improved broadband is expected to be available to 51,500 of all end users in scope of RBI2 by the end of June 2020. <i>Mobile towers</i> - A cumulative total of 130 new cellular mobile towers are forecast to be complete under the Mobile Black Spots programme by June 2020.

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Priority Outcome: Support thriving and sustainable regions						
Racing reforms	G	G	<p>Policy decisions to Cabinet on the proposed content of the Racing Industry Bill, to be introduced in 2019. The Bill is focused on changes to governance, racing industry property, and wagering products to support the racing industry's revitalisation.</p>	<p>The Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee is currently considering the Racing Industry Bill with submissions due to close on 11 February 2020.</p> <p>The Departmental Report is due to Select Committee on 12 March 2020. Any policy changes to the content of the Bill will require Cabinet approval.</p>	<p>Cabinet agreed to the Government's final response to the Messara Report.</p> <p>The Racing Industry Bill was introduced on 5 December 2020.</p>	<p>Finalising analysis of submissions on the Racing Industry Bill.</p> <p>The Departmental Report will be delivered on 12 March.</p>
Three Waters	A	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation and introduction of Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator Bill. Consideration of the Cabinet paper, <i>Three Waters Service Delivery and Funding Arrangements: Approach to Reform</i>. Advice on an application for funding from the Hawke's Bay region for work to explore changes to three waters service delivery arrangements. 	<p>Good progress is being made with the regulatory reform components of the Three Waters programme. Following Cabinet decisions in September, legislation to establish Taumata Arowai, the new Water Services Regulator (Crown agent), has already been prepared and introduced.</p> <p>Work to design and build Taumata Arowai within DIA is also progressing well, and the leadership team is largely in place.</p> <p>The drafting process for the accompanying Water Services Bill (which contains the detailed new regulatory framework) is well advanced.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In December 2019, the Taumata Arowai – the Water Services Regulator Bill was introduced to Parliament, had its first reading, and was referred to the Health Committee. The paper, <i>Three Waters Service Delivery and Funding Arrangements: Approach to Reform</i>, was considered by DEV in December and referred to Cabinet for decision. Funding of \$1.55m was agreed for the Hawke's Bay region to consider changes to the three waters service delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet consideration of the paper <i>Three Waters Service Delivery and Funding Arrangements: Approach to Reform</i> (decisions to be made by CBC on 28 January 2020). Consultation on draft Water Services Bill. Advice on any further applications for funding from regions seeking to explore changes to service delivery arrangements. Development of advice on monitoring arrangements for Taumata Arowai and stewardship of the three waters system (leading to a Cabinet paper in April 2020).

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Priority Outcome: Support thriving and sustainable regions					
			<p>Engagement and relationships with the local government sector have improved considerably. Sector representatives have provided highly constructive input into the legislation development process. However, the sector continues to be significantly concerned about cost and capability implications, and are seeking to discuss this with the Government. Some regions are starting to explore potential changes to local service delivery arrangements.</p> <p>The main risk to the programme relates to ongoing resources, given that DIA's current funding to lead the Three Waters Review expires in June 2020. The future effectiveness of the Three Waters programme, and the establishment and success of Taumata Arowai, are highly dependent on an initiative being progressed through Budget 2020.</p>		

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Priority Outcome (owned by ENV): Transition to a clean, green carbon neutral economy					
Policies of Focus					
Just Transitions work programme	A	A	Draft Taranaki action plans for: energy; people and talent; food and fibre; research, science and innovation to be completed. Ministers have agreed to better align the Future of Work and Just Transitions work programmes. Expectations of government support for Taranaki remain high.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First tranche of Taranaki 2050 Roadmap action plan workshops completed for: energy; people and talent; food and fibre; innovation and R&D; arts and; infrastructure and transport. • Draft action plans completed for: food and fibre and; innovation and R&D. • Energy action plan completed and published. • Establishment of the National New Energy Development Centre has begun following agreement from Joint Ministers (Minister of Finance, Minister for Economic Development and Minister of Energy and Resources) to release \$27 million appropriation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Taranaki 2050 action plan workshops for: Health and Wellbeing; Environmental Science and; Regulation. • Support and monitor the establishment phase of the National New Energy Development Centre.
Other key initiatives reporting to DEV					
CMA Phase 2 reform	G	G	-	Discussion Document released for consultation December 2019 – consultation to close January 2020.	Resource Strategy (final) published in November.

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Priority Outcome (owned by ENV): Transition to a clean, green carbon neutral economy						
Electricity Pricing report response	G	G	-	Government has accepted the majority of the 32 recommendations in the review's final report. Relevant agencies (particularly MBIE and the Electricity Authority) are progressing work in response. This work relates to consumer advocacy, energy hardship, retail and wholesale competition, regulatory arrangements, and innovation. The Minister plans to introduce an Electricity and Industrial Emissions Bill in 2020.	Final report and Government response released early in October. Electricity Authority and Commerce Commission received letters of expectations incorporating relevant aspects of the final report's recommendations. In December 2019 Cabinet approved further detail on initiatives to strengthen the consumer voice, reduce energy hardship, improve the regulatory system, and prepare for a low-carbon future.	-
Renewable electricity targets	G	G	-	Work is progressing on options to accelerate growth in renewable energy supply and reduce emissions from process heat. This has included extensive stakeholder engagement and public consultation. Policy recommendations will be prepared after consideration of feedback through the consultation process. The Minister plans to introduce an Accelerating Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Bill in 2020.	Public consultation on the <i>Accelerating renewable energy and energy efficiency</i> discussion document commenced late December 2019, and will close on 28 February 2020 (note that this work is primarily reporting back to the ENV committee).	-

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Priority Outcome (owned by ENV): Transition to a clean, green carbon neutral economy						
Low-emission vehicles proposals	G	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete workshops with vehicle industry on policy design. • Draft Cabinet paper prepared to support the accelerated implementation of the Clean Car Discount. 	Cross party consultation on the Clean Car Discount continues. Additional industry consultation on the Clean Car Standard expected in quarter 1 2020.	Clean Car Discount cabinet paper prepared. Industry workshops on the Clean Car Standard completed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet approval of the Clean Car Discount policy. • The Transport Agency completes the design stage of the systems to support the Clean Car Discount scheme. • Policy development finalised on the Clean Car Standard.
Auckland light rail	G	G	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete proposal process, including interactive sessions with the Bidders. • Undertake policy work. • Finalise the evaluation process. • Start evaluation of the proposals. 	<p>In quarter 1, Transport Agency and NZ Infra agreed to develop proposals for the delivery of light rail. A response requirement document was issued to both respondents to inform their proposals.</p> <p>Cabinet plans to determine its preferred delivery partner in early 2020.</p>	The Transport Agency and NZ Infra submitted their proposals in November 2019. The Ministry started a rigorous evaluation of the proposals that will inform their advice to the Minister.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise evaluation of proposals. • Develop and provide advice to the Minister. • Commence the preparation for the next phase.

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Priority Outcome (owned by SWC): Ensure everyone has a warm dry home						
Policies of Focus						
[None for DEV]	-					
Other key initiatives reporting to DEV						
Warmer Kiwi homes investment	A	A	-	The 2019/20 target is to deliver 16,000 retrofits (insulation and/or heating). EECA is well on track to meet or exceed this target.	Between 1 July 2019 and 19 January 2020, EECA has processed claims for 10,079 grants (7,737 insulation and 2,342 heating).	-
Urban Development Authorities legislation	G	G	-	The Urban Development Bill is being considered by the Environment Committee and is on track to be passed by mid-2020.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities was established. • The Urban Development Bill was introduced. 	Submissions close on 14 February, with oral hearings getting underway in March.
Residential Tenancies Act reform	G	G	-	The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill to implement the proposals agreed by Cabinet in 2019 has been drafted. The Bill is due to be introduced to Parliament in February 2020.	SWC considered proposals on minor fittings, rent setting and access to justice on 16 October 2019. Drafting instructions were sent to PCO to draft these proposals, and the proposals to improve tenants' security of tenure and to strengthen compliance with the Act.	-

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Priority Outcome (owned by SWC): Ensure everyone has a warm dry home						
Implementation of Healthy Homes Act and standards	G	G	-	Agencies are implementing a multiyear programme of work to inform landlords and tenants of the new obligations. Agencies have been engaging with landlords, tenants and professionals.	<p>MBIE is leading targeted information and education activity aimed at encouraging landlords to act early to ensure their properties comply with the standards by 1 July 2021 where required.</p> <p>The first phase of focussed activity for boarding house landlords to inform broader targeted activity is taking place in mid-2020.</p>	-

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Priority Outcome (owned by SWC): Deliver transparent, transformative and compassionate Government					
Policies of Focus					
[None for DEV]					
Other key initiatives reporting to DEV					
Pike River re-entry	G	G	-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and preparation phase complete. • Agency teams now moving up the drift beyond the 170-metre barrier. Progress report to DEV in February. 	Detailed entry and exit execution plan reviewed and accepted by WorkSafe. Regulatory exemption granted by WorkSafe to allow use of preferred ventilation approach. 170-metre barrier breached successfully.