

Council Briefing

Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)

17 September 2024

Agenda

Today, we will cover the following items:

- What is the Regional Infrastructure Fund?
- Decision Making
- Who is eligible to apply?
- What type of projects would be eligible?
- The Kāpiti Growth Summit
- Proposed next steps
- Opportunity for questions

What is the Regional Infrastructure Fund?

- The Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF) is a \$1.2B fund and is part of the Government's commitment to investing in and improving regional infrastructure.
- The fund is focused on helping to boost the New Zealand economy, increase regional prosperity, and create jobs.
- The fund will be administered by Kānoa, part of Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.
- The RIF is primarily a capital fund. Funding support will be provided through a mix of loan and equity investments. Grants will be available only in very limited cases.
- Applications are now open, and investment will be made over the next three years.

Decision Making

- The Regional Development Ministerial Group (RDMG) will make decisions regarding loan and equity investments up to \$35 million and grants over \$3 million. The RDMG comprises:
 - The Minister of Finance
 - The Minister of Infrastructure
 - The Minister of Local Government
 - The Minister for Māori Development
 - The Minister for Regional Development
- Cabinet will make decisions on all eligible RIF investments over \$35 million.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) will make decisions on grant investments of up to \$3 million.

Kanoa - Regional ED and Investment Unit

- Part of MBIE, responsible for Provincial Growth Fund implementation.
- Existing relationship with Principle Regional Advisor – Manawatu – Whanganui and Kapiti
- The Economic Development Kotahitanga Board (EDKB) is a key connection point for Kanoa in regards to confirmation of local priorities and endorsement of projects for consideration.
- Will be the contact point for the Kapiti Growth Summit and other RIF activities

Kāpiti Growth Summit

- A series of 15 'Growth Summits' will take place over the next six to eight months. Ministers will be attending these events.
- The summits are an opportunity for collective discussions between Ministers, iwi representatives, local government, business leaders and sector organisations about regional economic growth priorities and opportunities.
- The Kāpiti Summit is tentatively anticipated to be held in February 2025, with Ministers Jones and Peters coming to Kapiti. Approx 40-50 attendees .

What types of projects would be eligible?

There are two main project categories for funding allocations:

- **Enabling infrastructure:** supports growth by ensuring regions are well-connected and productive. Investment into assets that are used by and/or generate benefits for, multiple businesses or parts of the community.
- **Resilience infrastructure:** including flood and weather event protection, water supply resilience, energy security, water security, food security, or ensuring the resilience of infrastructure.

Initial focus areas are **flood resilience** and **Māori economic development**.

What types of projects are not eligible?

- Projects already funded through existing govt programmes, such as:
 - Social Infrastructure – Housing and accommodation, Schools, Hospitals, Digital connectivity, Roads o National Significance
- Ancillary commercial activity, such as:
 - Marketing, Business Development
- Apprenticeships or vocational education and training
- A project in potable water, wastewater and storm water assets, except for the following:
 - Rural, community owned assets that aren't part of the local authority network
 - Water assets that aren't business as usual, flood protection project
- Projects already underway
- Land purchases

Who is eligible to apply?

- Projects based in the provincial regions of New Zealand are eligible to apply, **including Kāpiti**.
- Areas specifically excluded are Auckland, Wellington (including Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua) and Christchurch.
- Applicants need to be a New Zealand-based legal entity.
- Iwi, businesses, trusts and Council can apply to the fund.

Applicant Criteria

- Applicants must be able to:
 - Show an ability to deliver,
 - Have a co-investment element,
 - Require government financial support to progress or to attract private sector investment,
 - Show alignment to regional development priorities
- Where the investment is for an asset in an individual business:
 - The investment must generate broader benefits or services for other businesses or the community; and
 - The business must have a primary focus on one of the following areas: energy security, water security, food security, connectivity (transport solution or digital connectivity), or growth of a Māori-owned business that is critical to enabling outcomes throughout a community or region.

Proposed next steps

A three phased approach is proposed to ensure that we are ready for the Growth Summit:

1.

Develop the Kāpiti Growth Story, including confirmation of regional priorities.

2.

Partner and stakeholder coordination and engagement

3.

Identify growth opportunities and evaluate opportunities for prioritisation.

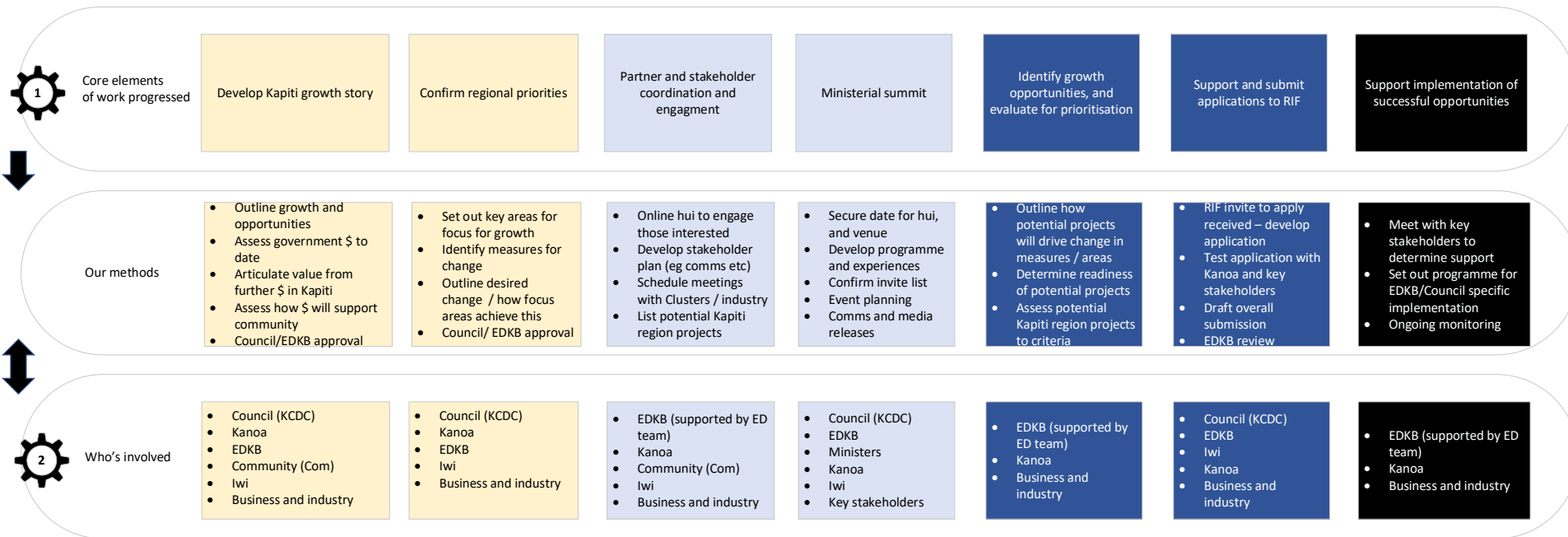
4.

Support implementation of successful opportunities

Summit Objective: Receive a Ministerial invitation to submit applications to the fund.

A little bit more detail

We will be working to develop:



We are landing a timeline with the EDKB and key stakeholders incl Kanoa and will share this detail with you in October. We expect to hold the first online hui around mid-October.

Questions