



Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of the Deputy Prime Minister, Hon Grant Robertson:

Progress report on Implementation Unit Assignments

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: Progress report on Implementation Unit Assignments
(CAB-21-SUB-0519 refers)

- Implementation Unit Work programme update
- Progress Update on Actions from the Mid-Term Review of the Budget 2019 Mental Health and Addiction Package
- New Zealand Upgrade Programme Transport Assessment
- Report: Emergency and Transitional Housing
- Jobs for Nature Stocktake of Progress
- Infrastructure Reference Group Programme Status Update

Title of minute: Progress report on Implementation Unit Assignments (CPC-21-MIN-0034 refers)

Title of minute: Report of the Cabinet Priorities Committee: Period Ended 10 December 2021
(CAB-21-MIN-0519 refers)

Title of paper: Stocktake of Progress Report – Carbon Neutral Government Programme
(CAB-22-SUB-0006 refers)

- Carbon Neutral Government Programme Stocktake of Progress

Title of minute: Stocktake of Progress Report – Carbon Neutral Government Programme
(CBC-22-MIN-0006 refers)

Title of minute: Report of the Cabinet Business Committee: Period Ended 25 February 2022
(CAB-22-MIN-0045 refers)

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.



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FAQs to Support the Release of the Jobs for Nature Stocktake of Progress

What is the Jobs for Nature Programme?

The Jobs for Nature Programme was designed in May 2020 in response to an anticipated need for short-term jobs to bridge a gap in employment opportunities resulting from COVID-19. The Programme was established with three related objectives:

- creation of additional employment opportunities for 11,000 to 13,000 people, at pace and with regional spread;
- enduring benefits for freshwater ecosystems and water quality, biodiversity, climate change and cultural values;
- supporting sustainable land use and the implementation of new regulatory requirements, including for freshwater, biodiversity, and climate change.

Total funding for Jobs for Nature is \$1.219bn, split across five agencies. Of this total, \$1.102bn was funded through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund (CRRF), and the remainder through several non-CRRF initiatives. As at 29 October 2021, more than 83% of the funding has been allocated to more than 350 specific projects around New Zealand.

What was the Implementation Unit asked to do?

The Implementation Unit was asked to assess current progress across the Programme and within key elements and provide advice on whether components of the Programme require re-baselining and/or redesign given New Zealand's stronger-than-anticipated economic performance since the Programme's inception.

What were the Implementation Unit's findings?

The initial focus of Jobs for Nature was creating short-term jobs at pace in response to high unemployment forecasts, while directly delivering environmental benefits through activities like pest control, planting, and fencing waterways. Agencies were mostly successful at creating jobs at pace, resulting in quick support to a range of businesses and workers.

As the Programme developed, the labour market remained stronger than initially forecast. Accordingly, the mix of projects being funded evolved, and the jobs being created started to evolve towards building skills and capability, and roles better suited to developing career pathways, such as land management advisors and planners.

It is likely that at least 11,000 people will be employed through the life of the Programme, noting that Jobs for Nature comprises projects lasting between one and ten years and creating a mix of short- and long-term jobs.

Progress on the environmental outputs contracted so far is mixed: most projects are proceeding well, and a minority are receiving additional attention from agencies.

Over the past 12 months a number of changes were made to strengthen delivery across the Programme. Programme management and governance arrangements within and across agencies are appropriate for managing delivery.

What, if any, follow up work will the Implementation Unit do?

The Implementation Unit did not consider it necessary for it to undertake any follow up work in relation to this Programme.