



# Cabinet Economic Development Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Organisational Arrangements for Te Uru Rākau

**Portfolio**                      **Forestry**

On 20 February 2019, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

#### Background

- 1 **noted** that the government has set ambitious targets for forestry and is re-shaping the government forestry organisational arrangements towards a comprehensive forestry service with a strong regional presence;
- 2 **noted** that on 11 May 2018, the Prime Minister and the Minister of Forestry launched Te Uru Rākau, a branded business unit within the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) responsible for delivering on the government's forestry work programme;
- 3 **noted** that on 15 August 2018, DEV:
  - 3.1 agreed to draw down funding from the tagged contingency set aside in Budget 2018 to support the development of long-term institutional arrangements for Te Uru Rākau;
  - 3.2 invited the Minister of Forestry to report back in November 2018 on options for further scale up and institutional arrangements for Te Uru Rākau;


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#### Progress update

- 4 **noted** that the government has ambitious goals for forestry, including:
  - 4.1 achieving one vision for all New Zealanders in the One Billion Trees planting programme through comprehensive economic and civic engagement;
  - 4.2 enabling Māori to achieve their forestry-related economic and cultural development aspirations;
  - 4.3 supporting sector and regional productivity increases to capture full market value;
  - 4.4 a strong, stable and reliable labour market that enables safe and rewarding lifetime careers in forestry;
  - 4.5 better environmental and climate change outcomes for New Zealand;

- 4.6 a stable investment environment enabling greater investment confidence in the forestry sector;
- 4.7 a stronger domestic market for wood products and security of supply for wood processors;
- 4.8 facilitating the transition to a low carbon economy through the replacement of petroleum-based products with wood-based products and the enablement of carbon farming;
- 5 **noted** that with additional funding provided to date, Te Uru Rākau has made progress towards:
  - 5.1 implementing the One Billion Trees programme;
  - 5.2 developing an approach to support Māori landowners unlock their potential in their land, focusing first in four regions;
  - 5.3 refreshing Te Uru Rākau website presence and supporting the development of a forestry information service (or 'knowledge hub');
  - 5.4 identifying options for the redevelopment of the Climate Change Information System so it can support proposed changes to the Emissions Trading Scheme;
  - 5.5 identifying long-term property solutions to enable the expansion of Te Uru Rākau's presence in Rotorua;
- 6 **noted** that Te Uru Rākau will remain a branded business unit within MPI until further consideration by Cabinet, proposed for 2020;

### Scaling-up of Te Uru Rākau

- 7 **noted** that a Budget 2019 bid has been submitted seeking funding for scaling-up the activities and functions of Te Uru Rākau;
- 8 s 9(2)(f)(iv) 
- 9 **noted** that the Minister of Forestry and Minister of Finance (joint Ministers) have agreed to extend the expiry date of the tagged contingency to allow the remaining \$8.640 million to support the development of long-term institutional for Te Uru Rākau in 2019/20;
- 10 **noted** that the scaled-up Te Uru Rākau would have the capacity to make enhanced progress towards:
  - 10.1 developing a stronger regional presence to provide advice and support to land-owners including iwi, and a strong focus on community engagement;
  - 10.2 supporting increased domestic wood processing, facilitating the development of bioenergy, and progressing a Think Timber work programme;
  - 10.3 supporting workforce development;
  - 10.4 managing forestry grants and partnerships to implement the One Billion Trees programme;

- 10.5 working with New Zealand Trade and Enterprise to support better investment decisions in the forestry sector;
- 10.6 leading the development of a New Zealand Forest Strategy, reviewing the Forests Act 1949, and supporting the review of the New Zealand Emissions Trading Scheme (for forestry);

### Further report

- 11 **invited** the Minister of Forestry to report back to DEV in early 2020 on Te Uru Rākau's achievements against the government's forestry ambitions, including whether its long-term organisational arrangements need to be revisited.

Janine Harvey  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Dr Megan Woods (Chair)  
Hon Chris Hipkins  
Hon David Parker  
Hon Stuart Nash  
Hon Iain Lees-Galloway  
Hon Shane Jones  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Eugenie Sage

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Minister of Forestry

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Officials Committee for DEV