

## **PGF Jobs – Q+A**

### **Why didn't you count cumulative job numbers from the start of the PGF's life?**

The PGF had to quickly scale up in order to achieve what Cabinet wanted it to achieve in one term of government – fully commit the \$3 billion, create thousands of jobs and lead to sustainable productivity uplifts across New Zealand, particularly in our surge regions.

Data collection evolved quickly and organically since late 2017 and officials have been busy dealing with more than 2000 applications and contracting, managing and monitoring hundreds of successful projects.

The natural slowdown of the PDU during and after the COVID-19 lockdown allowed us to take a breath and undertake a thorough stocktake.

### **What did this stocktake involve?**

PDU staff contacted every single successful applicant and asked a set of questions relating to past, current and expected future worker numbers.

The questions asked were:

- How many people are currently employed on the project?
- How many people have previously but no longer are employed on the project?
- Do you expect to bring more people on in the future? How many?
- Were any jobs saved as a result of the PGF funding that may have been otherwise lost due to COVID?
- Do you have any other information you'd like to pass on?

The significant majority, but not everyone, replied with the relevant information.

### **What is the benefit of doing this?**

It is clear that accounting for the cumulative number of workers provides a far greater understanding of the PGF's impact, both now, in the past and in the future.

The stocktake also allowed the PDU to undertake deeper analysis of its investments, and the impact these investments would have on regional economies during the economic recovery from COVID-19.

### **Are the jobs full-time or part-time?**

The PDU typically asks for information about the number of people working on each project broken down by fulltime, part time workers, and contractors and consultants.

For the initial stocktake of the cumulative job numbers, the PDU did not ask these questions, but these will be asked for current jobs going forward.

We have always included part-time, consultants and contractors in our jobs data collection as this shows the real impact of the project and reflects that a number of people working on PGF projects are from sectors that rely on contractors, such as the construction industry.

**What sort of peer review did the stocktake undergo?**

The PDU commissioned NZIER to review the data collection methodology and they supported the mechanisms in place. NZIER found “the survey method used has merit in that it provides a wider information base on numbers of people involved with PGF projects than is currently available from the monthly reporting”.

NZIER also provided a number of areas that the PDU could improve on in the future. The PDU is working to incorporate this feedback to optimise the process, including seeking a breakdown on the type of worker and the broader context of where those jobs sit in the jobs in the lifecycle of the project.