

JOB SUMMIT TOP 20 ITEM	ACTIONS IN RESPONSE
<p><b>1. Retain and Upskill - the nine day fortnight:</b> Retain jobs by reducing wage costs while firms' earnings are down. Retain jobs short and long term by upskilling workers. Possible focus on a nine day fortnight or maximum 6 week block release.</p>	<p>The Job Support Scheme was introduced for firms with more than 100 employees in March 2009. It was extended to cover firms with more than 50 employees in April 2009.</p> <p>Under this Scheme, employers and workers negotiated voluntary agreements to reduce their hours of work to up to 10 hours a fortnight. The Government paid \$12.50 (the adult minimum wage) an hour per worker for up to five hours a fortnight.</p>
<p><b>2. Intra-national migration achieved:</b> Creation of a seasonal work marketplace that will remove barriers (information, infrastructure, qualifications/skills) between employers and seasonal workers.</p>	<p>A Key seasonal industry leadership group was established in June 2009. Workshops to introduce seasonal work trials across various industries completed in the 3 regions agreed to by the sector parties, Nelson, Southland and Hawke's Bay.</p> <p>Work and Income and the New Zealand Meat Workers and Related Trades Union are working in partnership with industries that may be able to provide off season employment opportunities for meat workers.</p> <p>Government agencies are working to build reliable seasonal labour market data to support industry planning.</p>
<p><b>3. Keeping people in education and creating jobs through education and training:</b> Expand group training programmes, review current apprenticeships models with a view to sustaining and expanding levels of training and introduce a training requirement as part of government procurement processes. Support summer employment for students, facilitating retraining and promoting the importance and value of education.</p> <p>Remove barriers and increase enablers/incentives to ensure that the education and training system is well-placed to meet current needs and opportunities including a specific focus on Maori/Pasifika people.</p>	<p>The Youth Ops programme provided 6,000 Job Ops to keep young people connected to the workforce, plus 3,200 Community Max places in addition to the 15,000 places in practical holiday programmes for young people over summer, and 1600 summer research scholarships.</p> <p>Nearly \$1 million was given to Student Job Search to support their campaign for additional student jobs over summer.</p> <p>An extension was made to the time that industry training organisations are funded for industry trainees who have lost their job, on their books, from 6 weeks to 12 weeks, to enable more time to place such trainees with new employers.</p> <p>Last year's Budget provides for new investment to accelerate the introduction of the Youth Guarantee. Details are not yet approved by Cabinet but will be announced in the next two months.</p> <p>Support for summer employment for students is being funded through Budget 2009 (\$4 million in 2009/10).</p> <p>Transfer of previous tertiary education under-spends to fund additional places to meet enrolment in the 2009 academic year is occurring, including additional funding for Te Wananga o Aotearoa to develop additional trades initiatives for Maori.</p>

	<p>Increased promotion of international education to attract more international students is being funded through Budget 2009 (\$2 million in 2009/10).</p> <p>Introducing a training requirement as part of government procurement processes is being worked on.</p>
<p><b>4. Improve matching of supply and demand for training:</b> Improve identification and matching of clearly identifiable job opportunities in the short and medium term by industry groups to direct future education and training priorities.</p>	<p>The SkillsInsight Tool was launched on the Department of Labour website. This is a collection of tools and reports that aim to provide clear and concise occupational labour market information from both official and non-governmental sources. They include skills information for the most detailed occupation groups possible to provide accurate, up-to-date data on skills supply and demand.</p> <p>The Department of Labour has to date produced eleven targeted employment and skills reports in the following industries: accommodation, cafes and restaurants; agriculture, forestry and fishing; construction; education; finance and insurance; government administration and defence; health and community services; manufacturing; property and business services; retail trade and wholesale trade. These reports help inform and direct sector workforce planning activities.</p>
<p><b>5. Redundancy and transition support programme:</b> Improve support for people about to be made redundant or who are unemployed to help them transition to new work opportunities and training including: particular focus on those most vulnerable, income assistance, collaboration, enhanced industry partnerships, auditing, integrating and streamlining, improving information and access to services</p>	<p>MSD has worked closely with employers to ensure redundancy support was offered as early as possible to affected employees and new employment opportunities have been found wherever possible.</p> <p>MSD is also working in partnership with Trade Me Jobs to provide Work and Income clients with direct notice of vacancies. From August 2009 selected employers have been able to use a job matching tool to identify suitable jobseekers.</p> <p>The ReStart package was introduced (before the Job Summit) to provide support to low to moderate income families with children, and people with high housing costs, who were made redundant from full-time work.</p>
<p><b>6. Enhanced utilisation of iwi assets:</b> Creating new employment in the primary production sector by bringing Maori land and water based assets into higher value export focused productive use. This may involve accessing existing business support, legislative/regulatory review and active facilitation of intra-Maori partnerships. Investing in projects that support Maori kinship -based infrastructure, including iwi-led housing projects, innovative approaches to existing state housing stock, and marae development.</p>	<p>The Government continues to work on many areas of Maori economic development, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enacting the Maori Trustee Amendment Act in May 2009.</li> <li>• scoping a review of Regulatory Barriers to Utilising Maori Land.</li> <li>• finalising proposals for improving Systems for Valuation and Rating of Maori Land.</li> <li>• working with Housing New Zealand Corporation and Te Kohanga National Trust on infrastructure in Maori communities.</li> <li>• establishing Maori Trade Training with more than 800 training places</li> <li>• delivering business resiliency workshops through Te Puni Kokiri's Maori Business Facilitation Service</li> <li>• undertaking work through the Maori Economic Taskforce in seven key areas: tribal asset</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finalising proposals for improving Systems for Valuation and Rating of Maori Land.</li> <li>• working with Housing New Zealand Corporation and Te Kohanga National Trust on infrastructure in Maori communities.</li> <li>• establishing Maori Trade Training with more than 800 training places</li> <li>• delivering business resiliency workshops through Te Puni Kokiri's Maori Business Facilitation Service</li> <li>• undertaking work through the Maori Economic Taskforce in seven key areas: tribal asset development, the primary sector, education and training, small to medium enterprises, social and community development, investment and enterprise, and economic growth and infrastructure.</li> </ul>
<b>7. Government systems:</b> Ensure that government services to Maori deliver effective results.	<p>This is an ongoing priority for the Government.</p> <p>The Government is currently considering whanau ora and expects to make announcements in the Budget.</p> <p>Te Puni Kōkiri has led an initiative to focus the wider state sector on improving the effectiveness of expenditure on Māori.</p>
<b>8. Urgently develop and implement new sources of bond funding:</b> Aggregate local government debt to gain access to debt funding at lower than current interest rates. Also, prioritise New Zealand investment plan across central/local government, that ensures a job creation focus, incentives for expenditure, quality spend that best positions New Zealand for medium to long term and avoids competition for capacity and capability.	<p>The Government has been working with Local Government New Zealand on a proposal for a single debt issuer for local government.</p> <p>A number of local authorities have contributed money to fund the next stage of work on detailed design and stakeholder engagement, due for completion by around the middle of May 2010.</p> <p>The Government has issued a 2021 long bond. Market consultation is currently underway with a view to issuing further long-dated bonds, including inflation linked debt.</p>
<b>9. Reduce regulatory compliance costs and impediments:</b> Adopt a permissive approach to increase the range of permitted activities in e.g. building and housing, food safety. Enable local government to determine appropriate level of consultation. Seek a moratorium on drinking water and air quality standards. Improve practice in council processing of regulatory consents.	<p>The Government's regulatory review programme was launched in early 2009 and is progressing well, with some reviews complete or nearing completion (eg. Food Act, Holidays Act, electricity institutional arrangements).</p> <p>The Regulatory Improvement Bill is progressing and the Government is committed to an annual Regulatory Reform Bill to make it quicker and easier to remove or simplify unnecessary, ineffective or excessively costly requirements in primary legislation.</p> <p>The Regulatory Responsibility Taskforce has reported back and the Government is considering its report.</p>

<p><b>10. Big projects fast track:</b> Establish a taskforce(s) to report directly to a relevant minister to anticipate and actively manage approval and regulatory processes for major and/or complex processes.</p>	<p>The Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act 2009 introduced several changes aimed directly at 'major' projects including a requirement that a final decision must be made by the board within 9 months of the date of notification. There are limited rights of appeal.</p>
<p><b>11. Rule-making freeze:</b> Cabinet directive issued to government agencies/regulators to stop all rule and regulation making or extension, unless specifically approved by the minister. Reduce all enforcement activity to focus on minimum acceptable standards (rather than 'nice to haves') and the overall immediate interest for New Zealand.</p>	<p>The Government's Statement on Regulation: Better Regulation, Less Regulation was released on 17 August 2009, which includes a commitment to introduce new regulation only when satisfied that it is required, reasonable, and robust and to review existing regulation in order to identify and remove requirements that are unnecessary, ineffective or excessively costly.</p> <p>The statement is supported by a number of measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• that ministers are required to certify that new regulation is consistent with the Government Statement on Regulation.</li> <li>• that departments are required to provide annual regulatory plans of all known and anticipated proposals to introduce, repeal or review legislation or regulation.</li> <li>• that departments are required to certify Regulatory Impact Statements and provide assurance that all policy options have been analysed and major risks and uncertainties identified</li> <li>• that departments are required to put in place systems for continually and systematically scanning existing regulation to identify possible areas for reform or further review.</li> </ul>
<p><b>12. Boosting tourist traffic co-fund:</b> Establish a government/private co-funded \$60 million fund to support initiatives to increase visitor numbers targeting 1% global market share, through short and long haul promotional activity, domestic tourism promotion and targeted infrastructure development.</p>	<p>In November 2009 new funding of \$20 million was announced for new marketing campaigns in key tourism markets. \$5 million of that was to carry out joint venture work with the private sector and Regional Tourism Organisations.</p>
<p><b>13. Accelerate energy, environmental and water initiatives for employment and productivity improvements</b></p>	<p>The Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart home insulation programme was announced in the 2009 Budget. This provided for \$323 million of funding to enable more than 180,000 NZ homes to have access to grants for insulation and clean heating over the next four years. It is estimate that this programme will create around 2,000 jobs.</p> <p>Changes were made to the Government's Electricity Governance Policy Statement to accelerate a programme of smaller-scale grid investments. These will also result in new jobs.</p>
<p><b>14. Streamline regulatory approval processes for major projects:</b> Accelerate transmission grid investment by increasing threshold for Electricity Commission consideration of electricity projects to</p>	<p>The Government policy statement has been amended to raise the threshold for regulatory assessment of transmission proposals.</p> <p>The details of heavier truck loading are currently being considered by the Government.</p>

<p>\$50 million. Allow longer wheel-based trucks and heavier loading. Establish taskforces reporting to a minister for vetting major infrastructure investment proposals and ensuring regulatory processes are quickly and consistently completed.</p>	<p>The Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Act 2009 introduced several changes aimed directly at major projects.</p> <p>Phase II of the Resource Management Reforms are also looking at making improvements which will benefit major projects.</p> <p>In addition, the National Infrastructure Advisory Board and National Infrastructure Unit have been established. Part of their focus is to consider whether there are issues constraining optimal infrastructure development, help investigate ways to ensure the regulatory environment is conducive to infrastructure development (where appropriate) in a timely fashion, and ensure that New Zealand's infrastructure plans will deliver appropriate infrastructure to enable New Zealand's future growth.</p>
<p><b>15. Access to working capital delivered via an extension of the Export Credit Office:</b> Extend the Export Credit Office to also apply to domestic firms that need cash flow funding for completion of confirmed contract orders.</p>	<p>In February 2009 the Government expanded the Export Credit Office's mandate to allow it to provide short-term (less than 360 days) trade credit insurance for exporters.</p> <p>In June 2009 the Government increased trade credit support for exporters by \$100 million.</p> <p>With the abatement of the financial crisis and the return of more normal credit conditions, the Government is no longer considering the extension of the NZ Export Credit Office's guarantee scheme to domestic firms.</p>
<p><b>16. Level the playing field to NZ firms for local and central government procurement:</b> Revise procurement guidelines to ensure they do not bias against local providers by stipulating a specified firm size or track record.</p>	<p>In June 2009 the Government announced a reform of government procurement practice and policies.</p> <p>Substantial cost savings will be delivered with the establishment of Centres of Expertise within lead agencies to negotiate all-of-government contracts in common-spend areas.</p> <p>At the same time, work will be undertaken to cut red tape in procurement processes, improve capabilities of procurers, and enhance opportunities for businesses to win government contracts.</p>
<p><b>17. Super-charged debt market:</b> Possibilities include streamlining reporting and disclosure requirements, long term bond issues, involvement by a wider range of organisations such as local government.</p>	<p>In August 2009 the Government introduced new securities regulations to improve the quality of disclosure to investors, improve flexibility for issuers, and reduce compliance costs.</p> <p>The Government has also responded to the recommendations of the Capital Market Development Taskforce.</p> <p>A review of the Securities Act is ongoing.</p>

<b>18. Government/bank equity investment fund:</b> Develop an equity growth fund to allow large institutional investors access to quality investments in the SME sector that are currently unavailable to them.	<p>Banks and the Government agreed not to proceed as it was thought that the focus should be on developing market based solutions.</p> <p>The New Zealand Super Fund has announced an allocation to a private equity fund to invest in mid-sized private NZ companies.</p>
<b>19. Commitment by banks to providing capital to NZ firms:</b>	<p>The banks issued a statement of commitment.</p> <p>ASB created a special \$1 billion loan fund for New Zealand businesses to borrow at below market rates if they can show that their new initiative will create employment or prevent people losing their jobs.</p> <p>More normal credit conditions have returned.</p>
<b>20. Banks to significantly invest in financial literacy:</b> Investing in educational initiatives to improve the financial literacy of their customers with a focus on SME businesses.	<p>This is an ongoing programme by the banks.</p>
<b>Other Employment supporting initiatives</b>	
Cycleway	<p>\$50m of Government funding was allocated over three years for the New Zealand Cycleway Project. 20 projects have been selected for detailed consideration and work has commenced on four – the Waikato River Trail, Mountains to the Sea, St James, and the Central North Island Rail Trail.</p>
Extension to Mayors' Task Force for Jobs remit	<p>In August 2009 a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Mayors Taskforce to tackle common issues around youth unemployment.</p>