

Job Summit - Top Twenty	What's happened
<p>1. Retain and Upskill - the nine day fortnight: 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>Job support scheme introduced for firms with more than 100 employees in March, and extended to cover firms with more than 50 employees in April.</p>
<p>2. Intra-national migration achieved: Creation of a seasonal work marketplace that will remove barriers (information, infrastructure, qualifications/skills) between employers and seasonal workers.</p>	<p>Key seasonal industry leaders met and gave broad support. The leaders group resolved to work together to develop and scope further work. Government agencies are working to build reliable seasonal labour market data to support industry planning. Primary sector parties have agreed to introduce seasonal work trials across the various industries in Nelson, Southland and Hawkes Bay. The geographic and industry extent of these trials will be determined by each region</p>
<p>3. Keeping people in education and creating jobs through education and training: 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>Extension 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>The 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>Data shows that apprenticeships and related training places are holding up. Work is progressing on targeted initiatives to support apprentices if the situation deteriorates, led by the Department of Labour.</p> <p>Introducing a training requirement as part of government procurement processes is being worked on by MED.</p>
<p>4. Improve matching of supply and demand for training: 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>SkillsInsight Tool launched on Department of Labour website.</p> <p>The Department of Labour has to date produced three targeted skills reports on Building Construction, Manufacturing and Retail Trade.</p> <p>Information on training programmes and courses has been made available through Work and Income offices.</p>
<p>5. Redundancy and transition support programme: 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 is working with employers to ensure redundancy support is offered as early as possible to affected employees and new employment opportunities are found wherever possible. This focuses on identifying as many suitable employment opportunities as possible and matching to current and prospective clients.</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 selected employers will be able to use a job-matching tool to identify suitable jobseekers.</p> <p>ReStart package implemented to provide short-term support to low to moderate income families with children and people with high housing costs who have been made redundant from full-time work.</p>

<p>6. Enhanced utilisation of iwi assets: 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.</p> <p>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>Enactment of the Māori Trustee Amendment Act in May 2009. Scoping a review of Regulatory Barriers to Utilising Māori Land. Finalising proposals for improving Systems for Valuation and Rating of Māori Land. Marae survey out with 600 marae around the country which will gather information on marae infrastructure requirements. Work with Housing New Zealand Corporation and Te Kōhanga National Trust on infrastructure in Māori communities. Establishment of Māori Trade Training with more than 800 training places for Māori Te Puni Kōkiri's Māori Business Facilitation Service has organised and delivered business resiliency workshops. Over 130 Māori businesses have participated from Auckland, Hawkes Bay, Waikato, Tairāwhiti, Whakatāne Rotorua and Tauranga. Work being undertaken by the Māori 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.</p>
<p>7. Government systems: Ensure that government services to Maori deliver effective results.</p>	<p>Officials working with the Minister of Māori Affairs on monitoring options and will report in due course.</p>
<p>8. Urgently develop and implement new sources of bond funding: 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>	<p>Working with Local Government New Zealand on possibility of single debt issuer for Local Government Government has issued a 2021 long bond.</p>
<p>9. Reduce regulatory compliance costs and impediments: 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>	<p>Launched programme of regulatory reviews - (details on Treasury's website http://www.treasury.govt.nz/economy/regulation/programme) Introduced Regulatory Improvement Bill. Set up Regulatory Responsibility Bill Task Force, reporting back in September Work to reduce regulatory compliance costs and impediments is spread across a number of portfolios and agencies, notably Ministry for the Environment (Resource Management Act), the Department of Building and Housing and (the Building Act), and the Ministry of Health (drinking water standards). The Department of Internal Affairs is advising the Minister of Local Government on options for improving the consultation and accountability framework in the Local Government Act 2002. Local Government New Zealand is coordinating a sector/central government group to consider and disseminate best practice in regulatory consents. The group has completed a stocktake of good practice examples and is drafting the framework for its August report to the Minister of Local Government.</p>
<p>10. Big projects fast track: 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 Ministerial Taskforce approach is one of the options being explored as a part of the work on streamlining regulatory approvals (item 14)</p>
<p>11. Rule-making freeze: 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>Working on range of proposals to improve regulatory quality with a paper due in Cabinet shortly</p>
<p>12. Boosting tourist traffic co-fund: Establish a government/private co-funded \$60</p>	<p>Options still being explored with a report due in September.. How they would be funded</p>

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.	and how partnerships with regional tourism organisations would be established is yet to be resolved.
13. Accelerate energy, environmental and water initiatives for employment and productivity improvements	Warm up New Zealand: Heat Smart (Home insulation programme) announced as part of the Budget - \$323m of Crown funding to enable more than 180,000 NZ homes to have access to grants for insulation and clean heating over the next four years. Government Electricity Governance Policy Statement changes to accelerate a programme of small grid investments. Home rating scheme being advanced by industry in conjunction with EECA and DBH.
14. Streamline regulatory approval processes for major projects: Accelerate transmission grid investment by increasing threshold for Electricity Commission consideration of electricity projects to \$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.	Officials evaluating successful overseas models for streamlining regulatory approval processes and assessing impediments currently being experienced by proponents of large projects in NZ. Government Electricity Governance Policy Statement changes to accelerate a programme of small grid investments. New infrastructure unit will give additional impetus to the resolution of infrastructure projects.
15. Access to working capital delivered via an extension of the Export Credit Office: Extend the Export Credit Office to also apply to domestic firms that need cash flow funding for completion of confirmed contract orders.	Under consideration, with a second report to the Ministers of Finance and Economic Development to be ready by the end of June. The Government has expanded the Export Credit Office's mandate to allow it to provide short-term trade credit insurance for exporters; and NZECO is working with private sector providers on ways to reinsure their risks so that they can continue to provide New Zealand exporters with support.
16. Level the playing field to NZ firms for local and central government procurement: Revise procurement guidelines to ensure they do not bias against local providers by stipulating a specified firm size or track record.	Rapidly reform government procurement processes to improve access by SMEs (including skill requirements in government contracting): revise procurement guidelines to ensure they do not bias against SMEs; increase information flows from agencies to industry; reduce the complexities and compliance costs of tendering by SMEs; and raise the capability of government procurors. The broader reform programme and action plan were announced by the Minister of Commerce on 11 June.
17. Super-charged debt market: Possibilities include streamlining reporting and disclosure requirements, long term bond issues, involvement by a wider range of organisations such as local government.	Securities Act amendments introducing simplified disclosure regime currently before the House. Other initiatives to supercharge the debt market are still being actively explored with key stakeholders, including working with NZX on a proposal to streamline the debt process but maintain investor protection.
18. Government/bank equity investment fund: Develop an equity growth fund to allow large institutional investors access to quality investments in the SME sector that are currently unavailable to them.	Banks and the Government agreed not to proceed as it was thought that the focus should be on developing market based solutions. The New Zealand Super Fund has announced an allocation to a private equity fund to invest in mid-sized private NZ companies.
19. Commitment by banks to providing capital to NZ firms: Banks and Government co-fund partnership for preferred equity, financed by bank and government equity, leveraged with debt funding.	Banks have issued a statement of commitment
20. Banks to significantly invest in financial literacy: Investing in educational initiatives to improve the financial literacy of their customers with a focus on SME businesses.	Ongoing programme from banks

Other Employment supporting initiatives

Cycleway	\$50m of Government funding allocated over next three years.
Retail deposit guarantee	In place
Wholesale funding guarantee	Fees reviewed and reduced.
Extension to Mayors' Task Force for Jobs remit	Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Mayors Taskforce to tackle common issues around youth unemployment. Mayors and the Government are also working on a Joint Action Plan.