



Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee

EGI Min (15) 17/2

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Minute of Decision

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A New Zealand Data Futures Partnership

Portfolios: Finance / Statistics

On 29 July 2015, the Cabinet Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee (EGI):

Background

- 1 **noted** that in 2014, the New Zealand Data Futures Forum engaged with stakeholders across the data-use environment and produced a suite of papers exploring the opportunities and risks of the data revolution and proposing principles and actions to enable New Zealand to safely harness the power of data;
- 2 **noted** that in February 2015, EGI endorsed the principles of value, trust, inclusion and control proposed by the Data Futures Forum, and directed Statistics New Zealand to:
 - 2.1 prepare a business case for an independent Data Council that will lead and promote a high-value, trusted data-use environment;
 - 2.2 develop options for championing and progressing catalyst data-use projects to innovate, solve real world problems and build strategic data assets for New Zealand;

[EGI Min (15) 1/2]

A Data Futures Partnership

- 3 **noted** that feedback from data practitioners and experts from across sectors indicated that collective and cross-sector effort was needed to build a data-use environment based on the principles of value, trust, inclusion and control, and that, rather than a council, a partnership approach would be most effective at getting catalyst data-use projects underway, and building a high-value, high-trust data-use environment;
- 4 **noted** that the work of the Data Futures Partnership will complement and inform other initiatives led by government agencies, including:
 - 4.1 **Redacted***
 - 4.2 the Open Government Information and Data Programme;
 - 4.3 greater data sharing in the social sector to underpin decision making and enhance front-line services;

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- 5 **noted** that trust is a key foundation for data-use and innovation, which can create value for all New Zealand through supporting better decisions and innovation by public and private organisations;
- 6 **noted** that, while there are many players within the current data-use environment in New Zealand, no organisation is charged with taking a system-wide view or balancing the four principles of value, inclusion, trust and control;

Actions for establishment

- 7 **agreed** to establish a small, agile and independent Working Group charged with building an influential, cross-sectoral Data Futures Partnership that will perform the following activities:
- 7.1 progress catalyst data-use projects;
- 7.2 champion data-use innovation;
- 7.3 promote an inclusive social licence;
- 7.4 identify key problems facing the data-use system;
- 7.5 find solutions to systemic problems limiting trusted data-use;
- 8 **invited** the Minister of Finance, the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Statistics (the Ministers), in consultation with the Minister for Land Information and the Minister of Internal Affairs, to develop a Terms of Reference for the Working Group, and to recommend appointments to the core Working Group in accordance with Cabinet’s requirements and the State Services Commission’s guidance;
- 9 **directed** Statistics New Zealand to provide secretariat support for the Working Group and Partnership;

Funding and accountability

- 10 **noted** that the base resourcing required to set up and drive the Data Futures Partnership is set out in the following table on budgeted expenses and funding sought by source:

\$ million	2015/16 part year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 & outyears	Total
Total expenses	1.447	Redacted*			
Funding from 2015 Budget contingency	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	4.000
Additional resources required on top of current tagged contingency	0.447	Redacted*			

- 11 **agreed** to establish the following new appropriation within Vote Statistics:

Vote	Appropriation Minister	Title	Type	Scope
Statistics	Minister of Statistics	Data Futures Partnership	Departmental Output Expense	This appropriation is limited to enabling the activities of the Data Futures Partnership.

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- 12 **approved** the following changes to appropriations to give effect to the policy decision in paragraph 7 above, with a corresponding impact on the operating balance:

	\$m – increase/(decrease)				
Vote Statistics Minister of Statistics	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 & outyears
Departmental Output Expense: Data Futures Partnership (funded by revenue Crown)	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000

- 13 **agreed** that the change to appropriations for 2015/16 above be included in the 2015/16 Supplementary Estimates and that, in the interim, the increase be met from Imprest Supply;

- 14 **agreed** that the expenses incurred under paragraph 12 above be a charge against the Data Futures Partnership tagged contingency, established as part of Budget 2015;

- 15 **noted** that:

15.1 Data Futures lead agencies have agreed in principle to contribute a further \$0.447 million (club funding) for 2015/16 only, with fiscally neutral transfers to be confirmed through the 2015/16 October Baseline Update;

15.2 **Redacted***

- 16 **invited** the Ministers, in consultation with the Minister for Land Information and the Minister of Internal Affairs, to report to EGI:

16.1 on progress with the Partnership against first stage indicators of success, within six months of the establishment of the Working Group;

16.2 with an in-depth review on progress and the success of the initiative, **Redacted***, within two years of the establishment of the Working Group;

Communications

- 17 **noted** that the Ministers will announce the establishment of a Data Futures Partnership, signal the process for appointing members of the Working Group, and proactively release the paper under EGI (15) 158, with any appropriate redactions.

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