Te Uru Kahika Regional and Unitary Councils Aotearoa

By email

10 November 2025

Hon Shane Jones
Minister for Regional Development
shane.jones@parliament.govt.nz

Tēnā koe e te Minita Shane Jones,

Crown co-investment in future flood risk management projects

Our sincere thanks for the support you have provided to enable Crown co-investment toward flood risk management infrastructure projects. Your decisions over the last four years have been important in enabling Regional and Unitary Councils ('Regional Councils') to significantly improve New Zealand's resilience against flood risks.

We also appreciated receiving the tranche two announcements you made on 16 October, as the latest statement of support. We are grateful for your leadership and decision-making on this critically important matter.

Thanks too for the meeting on 17 June 2025 at which you asked us to identify projects falling within a total threshold value of circa $330m, with the expectation of receiving a Crown contribution of $200m.

This work has now been progressed and I attach a list of the 30 highest priority projects that have been identified by Regional Councils along with another 33 projects that could be considered.

Our intention is to continue working with Kānoa officials, NZIER and Regional Councils to supply you with additional information about these 30 projects, as well as others on our list. This information will add strong cost-benefit, employment and productivity information to assist with your further consideration of the proposal.

When we have finished our cost-benefit and related work, amended recommendations may need to be forwarded to you about our highest priority projects. We will work with your officials in Kānoa on this and send you this updated information, together with a business case, later in November 2025.

It is important to note that when we compiled the latest list of projects for Tranche 3, regional councils readily identified 73 flood risk mitigation projects costing over $900m. This means there are 33 projects identified that will be un-funded.

Over the next five months we will prepare a business case for a 30-year pipeline of co-investment drawing on our 'Before the Deluge' business case and our Infrastructure Commission submission. We will send this updated business case to you no later than 31 March 2026. This business case will include the 33 projects that are not being funded through Tranche 3.

We look forward to maintaining our strong partnership with you and your officials as we advance these initiatives.

Please do not hesitate to get in contact if there are any further details or supporting information you may require.

Ngā mihi nui

COUNCILLOR DARAN PONTER
CHAIR, GREATER WELLINGTON REGIONAL COUNCIL
ON BEHALF OF CHAIRS AND MAYORS OF REGIONAL AND UNITARY COUNCILS OF NZ