

[REDACTED]  
17 February 2022

Kia ora [REDACTED]

**Re: Official Information Act request – GIDI criteria and panel names**

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2022 in which you requested information about the Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry (GIDI) Fund administered by EECA. Specifically, you requested:

*A copy of the criteria that was used to decide who should receive the GIDI fund round one and round two project approvals.*

*A list of the names and roles of the people who made the decisions for rounds one and two of the GIDI fund.*

The key documents for GIDI Round 3 are currently available online and can be found here: [Apply for the Government Investment in Decarbonising Industry \(GIDI\) Fund | EECA](#).

The Round 3 Request for Proposal (RFP) document ([GIDI Fund - Round 3 RFP Document](#)) outlines the criteria for how projects are approved. All the criteria in the Round 3 RFP are materially the same as those for Rounds 1 and 2, but these RFPs have also been attached for your reference and were publicly available for each round.

Section 1 of the Round 3 RFP document outlines what EECA is looking for in projects, including the Investment Principles, the Funding Principles, and eligibility for what projects can and cannot be funded. Section 1.7 outlines that an Assessment Panel evaluates eligible proposals against the defined criteria and makes funding recommendations to the decision makers.

Section 3 states the assessment criteria that the Panel evaluates all eligible proposals against. These were developed in full recognition of the purpose for which the funding was appropriated ie Covid economic recovery. The evaluation criteria is:

Criteria	Weighting	Key question(s)
Value for money carbon abatement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the total carbon abatement in terms of tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent on a per annum basis and over the life of the Project?</li> <li>• What is the value of the Government's co-investment in the Project in terms of \$/t CO<sub>2</sub> reduced?</li> </ul>
Economic stimulus driving domestic employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the total amount of money directly injected into the New Zealand economy from this Project per dollar of public funding?</li> <li>• To what extent does this Project directly support domestic employment in terms of its contribution to New Zealand based full time employee (FTE) equivalent?</li> <li>• What level of the total project cost is invested within New Zealand's economy with New Zealand manufacturers and service providers?</li> <li>• What amount of the total incremental project cost will be directed offshore (e.g. imported equipment and services)?</li> <li>• What regions of New Zealand most benefit from this investment?</li> <li>• What are the details of FTE equivalent generated by the project?</li> </ul>
Ability to deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To what extent does the Applicant have the funding, expertise, resources, relationships and commitment necessary to deliver the initiative?</li> <li>• What is the Applicant's track record of delivering comparable Projects?</li> <li>• Has the Applicant provided a comprehensive Project plan, with acceptable milestones and realistic timelines that will see the Project delivered before 31 October 2023?</li> <li>• Has the Applicant credibly identified Project risks and barriers to success and how they will be addressed?</li> </ul>

Criteria	Weighting	Key question(s)
Speed of Spending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How fast will the investment be injected into New Zealand's economy?</li> <li>• Specifically, where have your Project timelines been accelerated, (for example bringing the start date forward significantly i.e. a number of years; or measures to accelerate the Project delivery) as a result of this Government funding support?</li> <li>• What are the Project management strategies and mitigations you will deploy to ensure the Project remains on track and potential delays are mitigated? (Ensure that they are specific to your Project.)</li> </ul>
Integrated and optimised approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the Applicant demonstrated an appropriate level of analysis to determine the best solution has been identified?</li> <li>• Does the Project ensure that demand side opportunities such as energy efficiency or process optimisation, have been taken into account in contributing to carbon abatement outcomes?</li> <li>• What feasibility studies or options analysis have been undertaken to determine the proposed Project is the best solution identified?</li> </ul>
Level of innovation and co-benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10%</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How innovative and ambitious is the Project compared to any equivalent business as usual activities the Applicant would normally be undertaking?</li> <li>• What is the replication potential of this Project in terms of market emissions reduction potential? Is the Project applicable to multiple businesses using similar ideas or technologies?</li> <li>• To what extent will this Project assist in the diffusion of this innovation in the wider market?</li> <li>• Are there co-benefits such as support of biomass supply activity, market development, or broader transition effects?</li> </ul>

After assessing each application, the Panel then prepared a report recommending the Projects to be supported within the funding envelope available for each Round.

Section 3.7 outlines the decision making process based on the recommendations from the Panel assessors. Decisions were/are made by the following people according to the funding amount being approved under specific delegated authority:

- The EECA Chief Executive (Andrew Caseley), has authority to approve projects up to \$2 million in Government contribution.
- The EECA Board has authority to approve projects from \$2 million up to \$3.5 million in Government contribution.
  - For Round 1 projects the EECA Board consisted of:
    - Ms Elena Trout (Chair)
    - Ms Catherine Taylor (Deputy Chair)
    - Mr David Coull
    - Ms Karen Sherry
    - Mr Norman Smith
    - Dr Linda Wright
  - For Round 2 the EECA Board consisted of:<sup>1</sup>
    - Ms Elena Trout (Chair)
    - Ms Catherine Taylor (Deputy Chair)
    - Mr Albert Brantley
    - Ms Loretta Lovell
    - Ms Karen Sherry
    - Mr Norman Smith
- The Minister of Energy and Resources approves all funding decisions where the Government contribution is greater than \$3.5 million.

Decisions, as previously stated, are made on recommendations from the Assessment Panel. The Assessment Panel comprises a Chair (being a Group Manager of EECA), up to three suitably qualified additional staff members of EECA and two staff members from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). MBIE appoints the MBIE staff members and the EECA Chief Executive appoints the Chair and remaining Panel voting members from EECA staff. All appointed panel members are senior agency representatives with relevant qualifications and related experience in their relevant fields of grant funding, process heat, engineering, energy investment and procurement.

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<sup>1</sup> Dr Linda Wright was an apology for the relevant Board meeting.

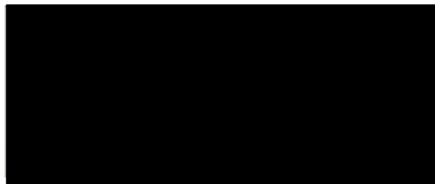
The roles of the panel members were:

- General Manager – Strategy, Insights and Regulation at EECA
- Lead Advisor – Evidence, Insights and Innovation at EECA
- Manager – Commercial and Property at EECA
- Senior Policy Advisor – Energy Markets Policy at MBIE
- Manager – Transitions Strategy at MBIE

Both the Assessment Panel and EECA Board operate in accordance with relevant public sector procedures, including conflicts of interest.

You have the right, by way of complaint to the Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority's response to your information request. You can do this by email to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by writing to the Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Caseley  
**Chief Executive**