



**CABINET FEES FRAMEWORK REQUEST – MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO LAND USES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOBILISATION OF WOODY DEBRIS AND SEDIMENT IN TAIRĀWHITI/GISBORNE DISTRICT AND WAIROA DISTRICT**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>8 March 2023</b>		
<b>To:</b>	<b>Hon Andrew Little, Minister for the Public Service</b>		
<b>Action Sought:</b>	<b>Sign and send</b> the attached letter to the Minister for the Environment	<b>Due Date</b>	13 March 2023
<b>Report No:</b>	<b>2023-0051</b>		
<b>Contact:</b>	<b>Robert Anderson, Director, System and Agency Performance</b>		
<b>Encl:</b>	Yes	<b>Priority:</b>	High
<b>Security Level:</b>	<b>IN CONFIDENCE</b>		

## Executive Summary


1. On 20 February 2023, Cabinet agreed to establish a Ministerial Inquiry into Tairāwhiti/Gisborne and Wairoa Land Use [CAB 23-Min 0045 refers]. The Cabinet Economic Development Committee has agreed to appoint three individuals to the panel, including a Chair.
2. Under the Cabinet Fees Framework (the Framework), Ministerial Inquiries are classified as Group 1 bodies. There are no fee ranges for Group 1 bodies, and all fees must be treated as technical exceptions and referred to the Minister for the Public Service for consideration as exception.
3. Hon David Parker, Minister for the Environment (the Minister), is seeking your agreement to the fees to be paid to members of the Ministerial Inquiry into Land Uses Associated with the Mobilisation of Woody Debris and Sediment in Tairāwhiti/Gisborne District and Wairoa District (the Inquiry).
4. The Inquiry will commence immediately and report its findings and recommendations by 30 April 2023. The Minister proposes to pay daily fees of \$1,600 for the Chair and \$1,200 for members.
5. We recommend you agree to the Minister’s proposal.

## Recommended Action

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We recommend that you:

- a **agree** to the proposal to pay a fee of \$1,600 per day to the Inquiry Chair  
**Agree**/disagree.
- b **agree** to the proposal to pay a fee of \$1,200 per day to the Inquiry members  
**Agree**/disagree.
- c **sign** the attached letter to the Minister for the Environment
- d **agree** that Te Kawa Mataaho release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you  
**Agree**/disagree.



Hon Andrew Little

**Minister for the Public Service**

9/3/23

## **CABINET FEES FRAMEWORK REQUEST: MINISTERIAL INQUIRY INTO LAND USES ASSOCIATED WITH THE MOBILISATION OF WOODY DEBRIS AND SEDIMENT IN TAIRĀWHITI/GISBORNE DISTRICT AND WAIROA DISTRICT**

### **Context**

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6. On 20 February 2023, Cabinet agreed to establish a Ministerial Inquiry into Tairāwhiti/Gisborne and Wairoa Land Use [CAB 23-MIN-0045 refers]. The Cabinet Economic Development Committee has agreed to appoint three individuals to the panel, including a Chair. The Inquiry will commence immediately and report its findings and recommendations by 30 April 2023.
7. Under the Cabinet Fees Framework (the Framework), Ministerial Inquiries are classified as Group 1 bodies. There are no fee ranges for Group 1 bodies, and all fees must be treated as technical exceptions to the Framework, and referred to the Minister for the Public Service for consideration as an exception.
8. Under the Framework, fees for bodies such as inquires can be agreed between the responsible Minister and yourself, where the rationale for the proposed fees is strong and the daily fees payable do not exceed the daily fee payable to a High Court Judge (\$2,165).

### **Minister's proposal**

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9. Inquiry members are former Cabinet minister and Gisborne resident, Hon Hekia Parata (Chair), former regional council chief executive Bill Bayfield, and forestry engineer Matthew McCloy.
10. The Minister proposes to pay daily fees of \$1,600 for the Chair and \$1,200 for members.
11. Officials advise that Inquiry members need to have the following skills, knowledge and experience:
  - a. land use and forestry
  - b. local and regional government policy, and regulatory functions and settings
  - c. knowledge of the environment, economy, and communities of Tairāwhiti/Gisborne and Wairoa District
  - d. ability to take into consideration the views of hapū/iwi and other parties
  - e. demonstrated ability to work intensively, and to complete the Inquiry in a short timeframe.
12. On 21 September 2022, Cabinet agreed to an increase of ten percent to the fee ranges payable under the Framework, to assist with the attraction and retention of Crown board members [APH-22-SUB-0195 refers].
13. The proposed fees are consistent:
  - with fees paid for the Chairs and members of Inquiries since 2018, as shown in Table One, when factoring in the potential ten percent fee increase agreed by Cabinet in 2022
  - with the level of daily fees payable to a High Court Judge since 2018.

Table One: Previous inquiry chair and member fees

Year	Inquiry	Chair fee	Member fees
April 2021	The Future of Local Government	\$1,400	\$975
June 2021	Use and allocation of Migrant Labour in the seafood sector	\$1,400	\$1,350
May 2019	Attack on the Christchurch Mosques – proposed	\$2,254 - Daily equivalent of Supreme Court Judge salary	\$1,350
July 2018	Historical Abuse in State Care and Care in Faith-based Institutions	\$1,400	\$1,350
August 2018	Earthquake Commission	\$1,400	n/a
July 2018	Historical Abuse in State Care	\$1,400	\$1,350
June 2018	Fuel Supply Security in New Zealand	\$1,400	\$975
April 2018	Operation Burnham	\$1,400	\$1,350
March 2018	Electricity Advisory Group	\$1,500	\$1,150

### Our advice

14. This Inquiry is a key priority for Government as part of its response to the recent weather events in the North Island. Taking into account this priority, the high calibre and skills required, the need to commence quickly, the short term of the Inquiry and consistency with fees paid for other inquiries, we recommend you agree to the Minister’s proposal, without referral to Cabinet’s Appointments and Honours Committee (APH).

### Risks

15. Given that the fee exception proposal is supported by a clear justification, that the proposed fees are lower than the daily fees payable for a High Court Judge, and are broadly consistent with fees payable for other inquiries, we do not consider that there are significant risks with you supporting this proposal.

### Next steps

16. It is recommended that you sign and send the attached letter to the Minister for the Environment, agreeing to provide support for the proposed fees for the Ministerial Inquiry, without referral to APH.
17. If you agree, Te Kawa Mataaho will release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.