Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF)
Indicators for Outcomes Report
June 2026

The RIF is a $1.2 billion government fund launched in July 2024 to strengthen regional economic growth and resilience across New Zealand. To ensure transparency, accountability, and effective impact measurement, Cabinet approved a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework in December 2024. This framework sets out 11 key outcomes for the fund, along with multiple indicators to assess whether the fund is achieving the outcomes and to what extent.

The Indicators for Outcomes Report tracks progress against the indicators. For each outcome, it shows:
- the baseline value
- the latest available value
- whether the change is moving in the desired direction.

Data for the indicators comes from multiple sources with varying update schedules. Values will be refreshed as new data becomes available.

CHANGE LEGEND
Change in desired direction
No change
Change not in desired direction

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Definitions

This report uses the Infometrics regional groupings 'Provincial' and 'Rural' for some indicators.

The regional groupings are made up of groups of territorial authorities based on that area's characteristics. We use these groupings as they exclude metro areas and better reflect outcomes in the regions.

The groupings are:

Provincial
Ashburton District, Central Otago District, Far North District, Gisborne District, Hastings District, Horowhenua District, Invercargill City, Kaipara District, Kāpiti Coast District, Manawatū District, Marlborough District, Masterton District, Matamata-Piako District, Napier City, Nelson City, New Plymouth District, Rotorua District, Selwyn District, South Taranaki District, South Waikato District, Southland District, Tasman District, Taupō District, Thames-Coromandel District, Timaru District, Waikato District, Waimakariri District, Waipa District, Waitaki District, Wanganui District, Western Bay of Plenty District, Whakatāne District.

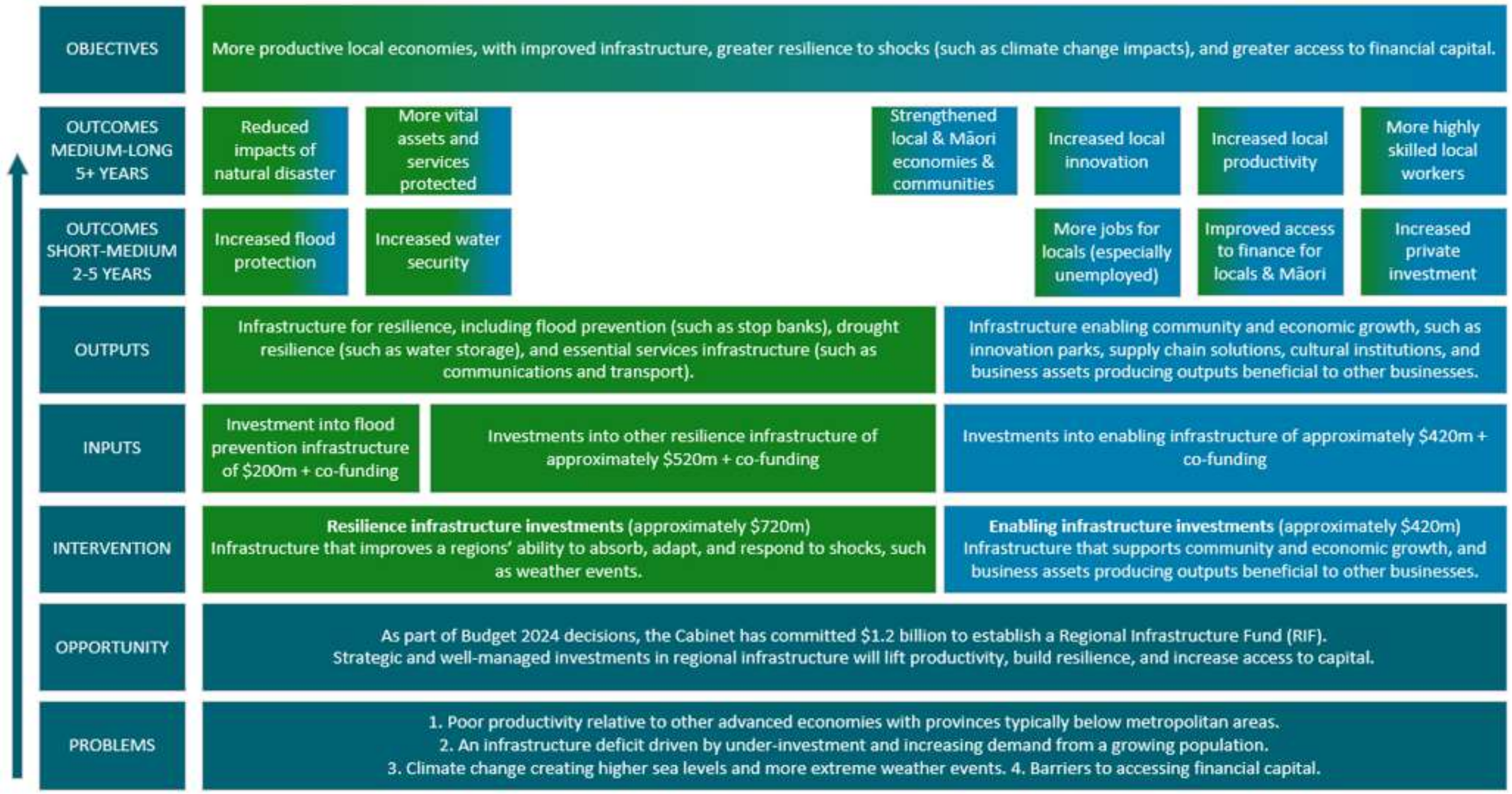
Rural
Buller District, Carterton District, Central Hawke's Bay District, Clutha District, Gore District, Grey District, Hauraki District, Hurunui District, Kaikōura District, Kawerau District, Mackenzie District, Ōpōtiki District, Otorohanga District, Rangitikei District, Ruapehu District, South Wairarapa District, Stratford District, Tararua District, Waimate District, Wairoa District, Waitomo District, Westland District.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Kānoa
Regional Economic Development & Investment Unit

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

RIF Intervention Logic



MBIE. (2024). *Regional Infrastructure Fund monitoring and evaluation framework* . MBIE. Page 9.

The Regional Infrastructure Fund intervenes by co-funding resilience and enabling infrastructure projects that would be unlikely to proceed without government support.

By investing in infrastructure that improves regional productivity, connectivity, water security, flood resilience, and access to capital, the RIF aims to strengthen local and Māori economies, increase private investment and employment opportunities, and improve regions' resilience to future shocks.

These outcomes are expected to contribute to the long-term objective of more productive regional economies with better infrastructure and greater resilience.

An accessible text version of the intervention logic is provided in Annex A.

Narratives used in this report

In this report narratives are used for each outcome to accompany the indicators. The narratives provide an interpretive assessment of what the current results mean for each outcome. The assessment distinguishes between indicators that are closely linked to RIF activity, such as contracted investment values, project completion reports, and recipient employment reporting, and broader regional indicators, such as GDP, business counts, insurance availability, productivity, and Jobseeker Support numbers. Broader indicators are important for monitoring longer-term change, but they are influenced by many factors beyond the RIF. Key terms used in the narratives are explained in the tables below.

Assessment language

Term	Meaning
On track	Current indicators suggest the RIF is positioned to contribute to the outcome.
Delivering	RIF activity is already showing measurable contribution to the outcome.
Starting	Early evidence is present, but the evidence base is still limited.
Not yet delivering	Investment or activity is in place, but outcome evidence has not yet emerged on current measures.
Too early to tell	Cannot yet assess the degree of delivery, because projects are still early, data is lagged, or the measure is broad and externally influenced.

Evidence confidence

Confidence	Meaning
High	Direct RIF administrative data supports the assessment.
Medium	Direct RIF administrative data exists, but outcome delivery evidence is partial.
Low	Mostly broad, lagged, or externally influenced; limited direct evidence.

Outcome 1: Increased flood protection

Why this outcome matters
Increased flood protection is a short-to-medium term impact that will result in medium-to-long-term outcomes reducing the impacts of natural disaster (floods) and protecting more vital assets and services. It will also contribute directly to some of the fund's ultimate objectives of overall improved regional infrastructure and greater resilience to shocks. Delivering on this outcome will also have short-term positive employment impacts during the construction phase and will indirectly protect employment and production in the regions served by the increased flood protection during flood events.

What the indicators show
Increased flood protection has shown a positive increase on the baseline for all its indicators, meaning **this outcome is on track to deliver and is delivering increased flood protection**. The indicators show strong early delivery. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$606m** (66 percent of total contracted) across **87** investments. Completed works are already providing protection for **14** structures, **11km** of road and rail, **3,584ha** of pastoral, horticultural, catchment area land and wetlands, and **473ha** of residential, commercial and industrial land.

Current assessment: On track and delivering measurable flood protection.

Evidence confidence: High

OUTCOME 1 (SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM 1-5 YEARS)

Increased flood protection

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
1.1 Residential, commercial, and industrial land protected.	Area (ha.) of residential, commercial, and industrial land protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	473	June 2026	473	ha.
1.2 Pastoral, horticultural, catchment area land, and wetlands protected.	Area (ha.) of pastoral, horticultural, catchment area land, and wetlands protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	3,584	June 2026	3,584	ha.
1.3 Road and rail protected.	Length (kms) of rural/urban (local) roads, highways, and railways protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	11	June 2026	11	kms
1.4 Structures protected.	Number of structures protected by new or upgraded flood resilience infrastructure (including bridges, hospitals, schools, marae, halls, power pylons, substations, telecommunication towers, airports)	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (data from projects completed)	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	14	June 2026	14	n structures
1.5 Value of contracted RIF investments that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$606m	June 2026	$606m	$
1.6 Number of RIF investments that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	87	June 2026	87	n investments

The baselines for indicators 1.1 to 1.4 have been set at zero as of July 2024, which corresponds to the start of the RIF. The baseline setting does not indicate the absence of pre-existing flood protection measures. It reflects that these indicators are designed to capture the incremental flood protection attributable exclusively to RIF investments, as opposed to protection already in place prior to the RIF's inception.

Outcome 2: Increased water security

Why this outcome matters

Increased water security is a short-to-medium term impact that will result in medium-to-long-term outcomes reducing the impacts of natural disaster (such as drought, through maintaining access to water). It will contribute to some of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies (by enabling water storage and improved land productivity through irrigation) and greater resilience to shocks. This outcome will also have short-term positive employment impacts during the construction phase and may increase private and Māori investment in land production (due to greater irrigation possibilities), which would strengthen local and Māori economies.

What the indicators show

Increased water security has shown a positive increase on the baseline for the value of contracted RIF investments with this outcome, which totalled **$333m** (36 percent of total contracted) over **21** investments as at June 2026. For the broader, indirect measures - irrigation volumes have increased since June 2024, but total consented water storage volumes have decreased. Direct measures show investments underway are expanding the water network by **37km** and increasing water storage capacity by **8.2m cubic metres**. No RIF water storage projects have yet been completed, which means **this outcome is on track to deliver but not yet delivering increased water security**.

Current assessment: On track to deliver but not yet delivering.

Evidence confidence: Medium

OUTCOME 2 (SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM 1-5 YEARS)

Increased water security

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
2.1 Irrigation volumes increase.	Volume of irrigation (cubic metres) reported by Regional Councils (excluding Auckland)	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Increase over baseline	5.7b	June 2024	6.0b	June 2026	0.35b	cubic metres
2.2 Water storage volumes increase (indirect impact).	Volume of consented water storage (cubic metres) reported by Regional Councils (excluding Auckland)	Land, Air, Water Aotearoa (LAWA)	Increase over baseline	3.3b	June 2024	3.1b	June 2026	-0.24b	cubic metres
2.3 Water distribution network expands.	Expands water network, increasing access, enabling irrigation and productive land use	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	37km	June 2026	37km	kms
2.4 Water storage volumes increase (direct impact).	Expands water storage capacity, improving agricultural resilience	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	8.2m	June 2026	8.2m	cubic metres
2.5 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$333m	June 2026	$333m	$
2.6 Number of RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	21	June 2026	21	n investments

Outcome 3: More jobs for locals (especially job seekers)

Why this outcome matters
More jobs for locals (especially for job seekers) is a short-to-medium term impact that could result in medium-to-long-term outcomes of more highly skilled local workers, increased local productivity and strengthened local and Māori economies and communities. If it does, it will also contribute to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies. Employment during construction is likely to be the most immediate effect for many RIF projects. Some projects may also support post-construction employment, particularly where infrastructure enables new or expanded production.

What the indicators show
The indicators show that RIF projects are employing local and Māori workers, but with limited impact on Jobseeker Support recipients, meaning **this outcome is largely on track to deliver and delivering more jobs for locals**. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$854m** (93 percent of total contracted) across **109** investments. Recipient reporting showed **302** annual FTEs directly employed by RIF-funded projects, with regional multiplier estimates of **3,772** direct, indirect and induced FTEs. Of monthly employees on RIF projects, **76%** were local, **20%** were Māori, and **0.6%** were previously receiving Jobseeker Support. Broader labour-market indicators are mixed: filled jobs in regions excluding Auckland increased, but Jobseeker Support numbers in regions outside the main centres also increased.

Current assessment: Largely on track and delivering more jobs for locals, but with limited impact on Jobseeker Support recipients.

Evidence confidence: Medium-High

OUTCOME 3 (SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM 1-5 YEARS)

More jobs for locals (especially job seekers)

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
3.1 Increase in filled jobs in regions the RIF has invested in.	Employment in filled jobs in regions (excl. Auckland)	Stats NZ employment indicators	Increase over baseline	1.54m	July 2024	1.55m	June 2026	5,655	n filled jobs
3.2 Reduction in MSD Jobseeker Support numbers.	Number of MSD Working Age Population (18-64) receiving Jobseeker Support in TAs excl. Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington/Lower Hutt/Upper Hutt	MSD Quarterly Reporting – Benefit Fact Sheets	Decrease under baseline	99.4k	June 2024	107.0k	June 2026	7,683	n people
3.3 Number of Annual FTEs employed by RIF funded projects.	Number of Annual FTEs employed by RIF funded projects	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	302	June 2026	302	FTEs
3.4 Regional multipliers estimates of FTEs sustained by RIF investments.	Estimated FTEs from regional multipliers include direct, indirect, and induced FTEs	Kānoa economic impact estimates using regional multipliers	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	3,772	June 2026	3,772	FTEs
3.5 Proportion of employees on RIF funded projects who are local.	Proportion of monthly employees local to the region	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	> 70%	0%	July 2024	76%	June 2026	76%	%
3.6 Proportion of employees on RIF funded projects employed directly off Jobseeker support.	Proportion of employees previously on Jobseeker Support	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline	0%	July 2024	0.6%	June 2026	0.6%	%
3.7 Proportion of employees on RIF funded projects who are Māori.	Proportion of monthly employees who are Māori	Kānoa RIF Monthly Recipient Reporting	Increase over baseline	0%	July 2024	20%	June 2026	20%	%
3.8 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$854m	June 2026	$854m	$
3.9 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	109	June 2026	109	n investments

Once completed, many RIF projects are expected to offer further employment opportunities in areas such as agriculture, horticulture, and processing. However, the RIF can only have a limited impact on indicators 3.1 and 3.2 overall, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 4: Improved access to finance for locals and Māori

Why this outcome matters
Improved access to finance for locals and Māori is a short-to-medium term impact that could result in medium-to-long-term outcomes of strengthened local and Māori economies and communities, increased local innovation and local productivity and more highly skilled local workers. If it does, it will also contribute to some of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies and greater access to financial capital. Delivering on this outcome could also have positive employment impacts if it results in more local and Māori investment in productive activities.

What the indicators show
Improved access to finance for locals and Māori has shown a positive increase on the baseline for all its indicators, but only two projects with this outcome were completed as of June 2026. **This outcome is on track to deliver and starting to deliver improved access to finance for locals and Māori**. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$327m** (36 percent of total contracted) across **26** projects. Co-funding represented **43%** of total contracted RIF deal value, above the 30% benchmark . **Two** completed projects had provided direct project-completion evidence that the recipient was more able to access private finance following RIF funding.

Current assessment: On track and starting to deliver.

Evidence confidence: Medium

OUTCOME 4 (SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM 1-5 YEARS)

Improved access to finance for locals & Māori

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
4.1 Firms and Māori businesses and organisations invested in are more able to access additional finance from private providers.	Firms and Māori businesses and organisations invested in indicate they are more able to access additional financial from private providers	Kānoa administrative data - project completion reports	More organisations able to access private finance following RIF funding	0	July 2024	2	June 2026	2	n investments
4.2 Value of co-funding for RIF funded projects.	Proportion of co-funding to total contracted RIF deal value	Kānoa administrative data - application, assessment, and reporting	Proportion of co-funding to total RIF deal value of at least 30%	0%	July 2024	43%	June 2026	43%	%
4.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$327m	June 2026	$327m	$
4.4 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	26	June 2026	26	n investments

Outcome 5: Increased private investment in local economies

Why this outcome matters
Increased private investment in local economies is a short-to-medium term impact that could result in medium-to-long-term outcomes of strengthened local and Māori economies and communities, increased local innovation and local productivity and more highly skilled local workers. If it does, it will also contribute to some of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies and greater access to financial capital. Delivering on this outcome could also have positive employment impacts.

What the indicators show
Increased private investment in local economies has shown a positive increase on the baseline for all its indicators, meaning that **this outcome is largely on track to deliver and is delivering more private investment in local economies**. However, useful indicators of this outcome are limited. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$855m** (93 percent of total contracted) across **105** projects. The broader indicator of business counts in regions (excluding Auckland) increased by **9,828** businesses from the baseline. This increase is consistent with a more active regional investment environment, but it cannot be attributed directly to the RIF because it is influenced by wider economic conditions.

Current assessment: On track and delivering evidence of investment activity, with broader private-investment effects still difficult to attribute.

Evidence confidence: Medium

OUTCOME 5 (SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM 1-5 YEARS)

Increased private investment in local economies

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
5.1 More private investment in areas serviced by the infrastructure RIF creates.	Number of geographic units (businesses) in regions (excludes Auckland)	Stats NZ Infoshare	Increase over baseline	406k	July 2024	416k	June 2026	9,828	Geographic units (n businesses)
5.2 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$855m	June 2026	$855m	$
5.3 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	105	June 2026	105	n investments

For indicator 5.1, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 6: Reduced impacts of natural disaster

Why this outcome matters

Reduced impacts of natural disaster is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute to some of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies, improved infrastructure, and greater resilience to shocks.

What the indicators show

Reduced impacts of natural disaster has shown a positive increase on the baseline for indicators that track direct RIF investments. This is not the case for broader indicators of progress that are, in any respect, not likely to be highly impacted by the RIF in the short-term. **This outcome is largely on track to deliver but it is too early to tell how well it is delivering**.

As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$838m** (92 percent of total contracted) across **105** projects. Investment in enhancing resilient regional transport networks (which can help reduce impacts of natural disasater) totalled **$52.5m**. An increase in insurance availability may indicate that the impacts of natural disaster are being reduced, and this did increase **5 percentage points** over the baseline value. However, the average of the cheapest insurance premiums available online increased **$47** over the baseline. Both these indicators though will be reflecting very little impact from the RIF at this early stage. One indicator, the impacts of actual natural disasters (potential flood events primarily) in areas with completed RIF resilient infrastructure, is yet to be measured.

Current assessment: On track, but too early to tell whether it is delivering reduced disaster impacts.

Evidence confidence: Low-Medium

OUTCOME 6 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

Reduced impacts of natural disaster

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
6.1 In the event of an actual natural disaster the RIF infrastructure resilience investments perform as expected.	RIF infrastructure resilience investments perform as expected during an actual natural disaster (including reducing what otherwise would have been spent on disaster recovery)	Multiple sources	Performance as expected	TBC		TBC		TBC	TBC
6.2 Regional insurance premium increases slow or decrease after RIF infrastructure resilience projects complete construction.	Insurance affordability - average cheapest premium available online for all regions	Treasury-Finity insurance price monitoring data	No rises each quarter	$1,839	April 2024	$1,886	October 2025	$47	$
6.3 Insurance retreat in areas where the RIF invests in resilience infrastructure is slowed or reversed after these projects complete construction.	Percentage of properties (with high flood risk profiles) where insurance can be bought online from multiple underwriters (3+)	Treasury-Finity insurance price monitoring data	No decline each quarter	79%	April 2024	84%	October 2025	5pp (percentage points)	%
6.4 Investments in enhancing resilient regional transport networks (land, sea or air).	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in resilient regional transport networks (land, sea or air)	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: rail, road, airports or aviation sectors	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$52.5m	June 2026	$52.5m	$
6.5 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$838m	June 2026	$838m	$
6.6 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	105	June 2026	105	n investments

For indicators 6.2 and 6.3, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 7: More vital assets and services protected

Why this outcome matters
More vital assets and services protected is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute directly to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of greater resilience to shocks. Delivering on this outcome will also protect employment and future investment in regions.

What the indicators show
More vital assets and services protected has shown a positive increase on the baseline for nearly all its indicators, even though it is early in the delivery of the fund, meaning that **this outcome is on track to deliver and already delivering protection to more vital assets and services**. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$756m** (83% of total contracted) across **102** projects. Project completion reports indicated that **6** RIF projects had contributed to vital assets and services becoming more resilient**.** Flood-protection data also showed **14** structures considered vital assets being protected. RIF investment categorised to food security totalled **$38.2m** and investment categorised to energy security totalled **$100.9m,** both indicating additional ways that investments have contributed to this outcome. Investment in digital connectivity was **$0** at this reporting point.

Current assessment: On track and already delivering some measurable protection of vital assets and services.

Evidence confidence: High

OUTCOME 7 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

More vital assets and services protected

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
7.1 Number of vital assets and services protected increases.	Count of vital assets and services protected	Kānoa administrative data - RIF flood resilience structure and protection data (from projects completed)	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	14	June 2026	14	n structures
7.2 Resilience of vital assets and services increases.	Vital assets and services are more resilient according to RIF project completion reports	Kānoa administrative data – project completion reports	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	6	June 2026	6	n investments
7.3 Investments in food security.	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in food security	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: agriculture/horticulture sector	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$38.2m	June 2026	$38.2m	$
7.4 Investments in energy security.	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in energy security	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by resilience infrastructure allocation: energy sector	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$100.9m	June 2026	$100.9m	$
7.5 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$756m	June 2026	$756m	$
7.6 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	102	June 2026	102	n investments

Outcome 8: Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Why this outcome matters
Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute directly to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies. Delivering on this outcome would also likely have positive and ongoing employment impacts for Māori and locals, and broader investment in regions.

What the indicators show
There are many indicators for this outcome, as the outcome is broad and there are many measures that could indicate progress on it. On many of the broad economic indicators of the intended outcome, the change is negative (except for a small increase in rural GDP). For the broad economic indicators (like GDP for industries or Māori employment), the RIF will be only a minor input, and most RIF investments have not progressed enough to have impacted on them, especially as the data for the GDP-related indicators are for an annual change to year-ending March 2025 (the RIF opened for applications from 1 July 2024).

Direct RIF administrative data shows investment activity aligned to this outcome. As at June 2026 the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$776m** (85% of total contracted) across **105** projects. RIF investment included **$28.3m** in whenua Māori land entities, **$44.6m** in food production, and **$5.1m** in arts and recreation. Regional multiplier estimates indicate **$366m** in regional GDP impacts.

Taking all the indicators into account, **this outcome is on track to deliver strengthened local and Māori economies and communities, but it is too early to tell to what degree**. The broader measures are influenced by many other factors that together have far more sway than the RIF.

Current assessment: On track, but too early to tell the degree of delivery.

Evidence confidence: Medium

OUTCOME 8 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
8.1a Provincial economies grow during and post the period of investment.	Change in GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$106.7b	March 2024	$106.4b	March 2025	-$313.9m	$
8.1b Rural economies grow during and post the period of investment.	Change in GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$18.02b	March 2024	$18.1b	March 2025	$74.0m	$
8.2 The Māori economy grows during and post project completion.	Change in Māori economy GDP nationally	MBIE & BERL Te Ōhanga Māori	Increase over baseline	$32b	2023	$32b	2023	$0	$
8.3a Growth in new and emerging industries (incl. aquaculture, agritech, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, technology and innovation) in provincial areas.	Change in new and emerging industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$25.83b	March 2024	$25.81b	March 2025	-$22.0m	$
8.3b Growth in new and emerging industries (incl. aquaculture, agritech, advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, technology and innovation) in rural areas.	Change in new and emerging industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$3.7b	March 2024	$3.66b	March 2025	-$30.6m	$

For indicators 8.1a to 8.3b, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

OUTCOME 8 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities (contd.)

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
8.4a Arts and recreation services sectors of provincial economies grow post completion of investments that fit this outcome.	Change in arts and recreation services industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$900.5m	March 2024	$871.8m	March 2025	-$28.7m	$
8.4b Arts and recreation services sectors of rural economies grow post completion of investments that fit this outcome.	Change in arts and recreation services industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$157m	March 2024	$154m	March 2025	-$3.3m	$
8.5a Construction industry of provincial economies grows during the period of investment.	Change in construction industry GDP in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$8.4b	March 2024	$7.7b	March 2025	-$685.4m	$
8.5b Construction industry of rural economies grows during the period of investment.	Change in construction industry GDP in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$1.2b	March 2024	$1.1b	March 2025	-$88.6m	$
8.6 More Māori employed in provincial and rural areas.	Māori employment in filled jobs	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	176k	March 2024	173k	March 2025	-2,916	n people
8.7 Regional multipliers estimates of regional GDP created by RIF investments.	Estimated added GDP from regional multipliers includes direct, indirect, and induced GDP impacts of RIF investment outputs	Kānoa economic impact estimates using regional multipliers	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$366m	June 2026	$366m	$
8.8 Value of investment in cultural institutions, such as marae, museums, and performing arts centres.	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in the arts and recreation sector	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: arts and recreation sector	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$5.1m	June 2026	$5.1m	$
8.9 Value of investment in food production.	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in the agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$44.6m	June 2026	$44.6m	$
8.10 Value of investment in whenua Māori land entities.	Value of total investments (funding and co-funding) in whenua Māori land entities	Kānoa administrative data – reporting by enabling infrastructure allocation: agriculture / horticulture, aquaculture and fishing sectors; and Māori entity	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$28.3m	June 2026	$28.3m	$
8.11 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$776m	June 2026	$776m	$
8.12 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	105	June 2026	105	n investments

For indicators 8.4a to 8.6, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 9: Increased local innovation

Why this outcome matters
Increased local innovation is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies. Delivering on this outcome would also likely have positive impacts on local and Māori economies and communities, local productivity and highly skilled local workers.

What the indicators show
Increased local innovation has shown a positive increase on the baseline of its two direct investment indicators, but two other indicators are still at baseline levels, and one broad measure of performance has lifted slightly. This suggests that **this outcome is on track to deliver on increased local innovation, but it is too early to tell to what degree**.

As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$566m** (62% of total contracted) across **39** projects. The number of investments related to more innovative food production or increased local innovation is still at baseline. The number of businesses in the regions (excluding Auckland) has increased by **9.8k**, suggesting some increase in broader regional investment and innovation. This is not a direct measure and cannot be attributed solely to the RIF.

Current assessment: On track, but too early to tell the degree of delivery.

Evidence confidence: Low-Medium

OUTCOME 9 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

Increased local innovation

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
9.1 Increase in local innovation (new firms, products and production) that leverages or benefits from RIF funded local infrastructure.	Number of geographic units (businesses) in regions (excludes Auckland)	Stats NZ Infoshare	Increase over baseline	406k	July 2024	416k	June 2026	9,828	Geographic units (n businesses)
9.2 Increase in firms with new or improved products or production methods from RIF investments that fit this outcome.	Number of investments that align with the outcome to increase local innovation	Kānoa administrative data – project completion reports	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	0	June 2026	0	n organisations
9.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$566m	June 2026	$566m	$
9.4 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	39	June 2026	39	n investments

For indicator 9.1, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as this measure is affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 10: Increased local productivity

Why this outcome matters
Increased local productivity is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies. Delivering on this outcome would also likely have positive impacts on highly skilled local workers and local and Māori economies and communities.

What the indicators show
Increased local productivity has shown a positive increase on the baseline of most indicators. However, figures for one broader measure of impact are not yet available and the broadest measures of the outcome indicate that local productivity in provincial areas has fallen slightly while in rural areas it has risen slightly to March 2025. This suggests that **this outcome is on track to deliver increased local productivity, but it is too early to tell to what degree**.

As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$525m** (57% of total contracted) across **39** projects. A broad productivity-related measure shows small business average year-on-year productivity growth has increased by **4.2** percentage points between 2024 and 2026. Up-to-date data on the Māori economy are not yet available. The broadest available measures showed small and mixed movements: GDP per capita in rural areas increased slightly to March 2025, while GDP per capita in provincial areas decreased slightly. However, this is very early in the delivery of the RIF (it launched in July 2024).

Current assessment: On track, but too early to tell whether it is delivering increased productivity.

Evidence confidence: Low-Medium

OUTCOME 10 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

Increased local productivity

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
10.1a Higher levels of GDP per employee (or per capita) in provincial areas.	Change in GDP per capita in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$64.7k	March 2024	$64.2k	March 2025	-$533	$
10.1b Higher levels of GDP per employee (or per capita) in rural areas.	Change in GDP per capita in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	$67.9k	March 2024	$68.0k	March 2025	$102	$
10.2 Higher levels of Māori economy GDP.	Change in Māori economy GDP	MBIE & BERL Te Ōhanga Māori	Increase over baseline	$32b	2023	$32b	2023	$0	$
10.3 Increase in small business average productivity.	Change in small business average productivity - business sales per hour growth (national) - year on year	Xero Small Business Insights Labour Productivity	Higher average productivity change post RIF investments	4.7%	July 2024	8.9%	March 2026	4.2pp	%
10.4 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$525m	June 2026	$525m	$
10.5 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	39	June 2026	39	n investments

For indicators 10.1a to 10.3, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Outcome 11: More highly-skilled local workers

Why this outcome matters

More highly-skilled local workers is a medium-to-long term impact that will contribute to one of the fund's ultimate objectives of more productive local economies. Delivering on this outcome would also likely have positive impacts on local productivity, local innovation and local and Māori economies and communities.

What the indicators show

More highly-skilled local workers has shown a positive but not large increase on nearly all its indicators, which means **this outcome is on track to deliver and is starting to deliver more highly skilled workers**. As at June 2026, the value of contracted RIF investments fitting this outcome totalled **$577m** (63 percent of total contracted) across **39** projects. Broader measures showed modest increases in the highly-skilled share of employment to March 2025: **0.4** percentage points in provincial areas and **0.2** percentage points in rural areas.

Current assessment: On track and starting to deliver.

Evidence confidence: Medium

OUTCOME 11 (MEDIUM TO LONG TERM 5+ YEARS)

More highly-skilled local workers

Indicator	Indicator description	Data source	Target	Baseline value	Baseline period	Latest value	Latest value period	Change	Unit
11.1a A greater proportion of employment in provincial areas is in higher skilled jobs.	Highly-skilled share of total employment in provincial areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	39.1%	March 2024	39.5%	March 2025	0.4pp	%
11.1b A greater proportion of employment in rural areas is in higher skilled jobs.	Highly-skilled share of total employment in rural areas	Infometrics Regional Economic Profiles	Increase over baseline	40.6%	March 2024	40.8%	March 2025	0.2pp	%
11.2 Types of jobs created by RIF investments (more high skilled jobs).	Occupation breakdown of RIF jobs directly created	Kānoa application form: applicant estimates of FTEs created by broad skill level	Proportion of skilled jobs is greater than low-skilled jobs	0	July 2024	TBC		TBC	%
11.3 Value of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Value of total RIF investments (funding and co-funding) that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	$0	July 2024	$577m	June 2026	$577m	$
11.4 Number of contracted RIF projects that fit this outcome.	Number of total RIF investments that fit this outcome	Kānoa administrative data – application, assessment, and reporting	Increase over baseline	0	July 2024	39	June 2026	39	n investments

For indicators 11.1a & b, the RIF can only have a limited impact, as these measures are affected by broader and more influential external factors. Consequently, even if the RIF has a positive impact, its effect may be insufficient to offset negative external factors.

Summary Assessment

Overall, to June 2026, **the RIF appears to be on track to deliver on all its outcomes** (although with minimal impact on job seekers).
It is already delivering on some indicators, with others too early to tell.

TABLE: RIF OUTCOMES SUMMARY ASSESSMENT ON INDICATORS

OUTCOMES	ON TRACK	DELIVERING	EVIDENCE CONFIDENCE
Short-to-Medium Term			
Increased flood protection	Yes	Yes	High
Increased water security	Yes	Not yet	Medium
More jobs for locals (especially job seekers)	Yes (minimal on job seekers)	Yes (minimal on job seekers)	Medium-High
Improved access to finance for locals and Māori	Yes	Starting	Medium
Increased private investment in local economies	Yes	Yes for investment activity; limited broader effects	Medium
Medium-to-Long Term			
Reduced impacts of natural disaster	Yes	Too early to tell	Low-Medium
More vital assets and services protected	Yes	Yes	High
Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities	Yes	Too early to tell	Medium
Increased local innovation	Yes	Too early to tell	Low-Medium
Increased local productivity	Yes	Too early to tell	Low-Medium
More highly-skilled local workers	Yes	Starting	Medium

Objectives
More productive local economies, with improved infrastructure, greater resilience to shocks (such as climate change impacts), and greater access to financial capital

Intervention Logic Key:
Outcomes that align to **Resilience** infrastructure investments
Outcomes that align to **Enabling** infrastructure investments

Annex A: Regional Infrastructure Fund Intervention Logic (Accessible Text Version)

Problems

1. Poor productivity relative to other advanced economies with provinces typically below metropolitan areas.
2. An infrastructure deficit driven by under-investment and increasing demand from a growing population.
3. Climate change creating higher sea levels and more extreme weather events.
4. Barriers to accessing financial capital.

Opportunity

As part of Budget 2024 decisions, the Cabinet has committed $1.2 billion to establish a Regional Infrastructure Fund (RIF).
Strategic and well-managed investments in regional infrastructure will lift productivity, build resilience, and increase access to capital.

Intervention

Resilience infrastructure investments (approximately $720m): Infrastructure that improves a region's ability to absorb, adapt, and respond to shocks, such as weather events.
Enabling infrastructure investments (approximately $420m): Infrastructure that supports community and economic growth, and business assets producing outputs beneficial to other businesses.

Inputs

Investment into flood prevention infrastructure of $200m + co-funding.
Investment into other resilience infrastructure of approximately $520m + co-funding.
Investment into enabling infrastructure of approximately $420m + co-funding.

Outputs

Infrastructure for resilience, including flood prevention (such as stop banks), drought resilience (such as water storage), and essential services infrastructure (such as communications and transport).
Infrastructure enabling community and economic growth, such as innovation parks, supply chain solutions, cultural institutions, and business assets producing outputs beneficial to other businesses.

Outcomes short to medium term (2-5 years)

Increased flood protection
Increased water security
More jobs for locals (especially unemployed)
Improved access to finance for locals and Māori
Increased private investment

Outcomes medium to long term (5+ years)

Reduced impacts of natural disaster
More vital assets and services protected
Strengthened local and Māori economies and communities
Increased local innovation
Increased local productivity
More highly skilled local workers

Objectives

More productive local economies, with improved infrastructure, greater resilience to shocks (such as climate change impacts), and greater access to financial capital.

Annex B: CAB outcomes alignment to outcomes framework

To achieve measurable outcomes and a concise intervention logic, the CAB outcomes and measures have been aligned with a concise set of RIF monitoring and evaluation framework objectives, outcomes, and indicators that are simple and meaningful to communicate, monitor, and measure.

CAB papers' purpose, intention, recognition, intial focus, and aims of RIF

1. "support regional economic growth through the RIF" : "single overarching purpose" of Appropriation [CAB-24-MIN-0214-P2]
2. "a lift in the productivity potential of the regions through the delivery of regional infrastructure initiatives" : "Intention statement" of Appropriation [CAB-MIN-0214-P3]
3. "New Zealand faces a significant infrastructure deficit, …driven in part by challenges for regional organisations and investors in accessing capital" : statement for RIF [CAB-24-MIN-0168.02-P2]
4. "Māori economic development and flood resilience" : "initial focus" of RIF [CAB-24-MIN-0168.02-P13]
5. "Lift productivity in regional economies by increasing the performance of businesses and catalysing the development of new or emerging industries" : first of the "high-level and long-term aims for the RIF" [CAB-24-MIN-0214-P28.1]
6. "Improve the ability for regional businesses and communities to absorb and recover from shocks and adapt to changing conditions" : second of the "high-level and long-term aims for the RIF" [CAB-24-MIN-0214-P28.2]

CAB outcomes and measures [CAB-24-MIN-0214]		Alignment to framework
Period	"The RIF will:	
S	1. invest in regional critical needs and opportunities	1 2
S	2. identify and respond to potential risks and impacts on regional communities	1 2 6 7
S	3. create more value from existing Crown investments and assets	10
S	4. create employment opportunities in developing infrastructure assets	3
S	5. improve access to finance for investors, notably for Māori.	4 5
M	7. minimise fiscal impacts of adverse events for communities and authorities	1 2 6 7
M	9. better prepare regions for climate change risks and impacts	1 2 6 7
M	8. Increased value of tax dollars invested and returns for Government and taxpayers	*evaluation - vfm
M	10. create sustainable employment and an upskilled workforce	3 11
M	11. improve outcomes for Māori through improved economic participation, crowding in of private finance (e.g. increasing capability of financial institutions to work with iwi and invest in whenua Māori).	4 5 8
L	12. improve outcomes for regional New Zealand through addressing of critical infrastructure deficits."	ALL

S - short-term 0-3 years
M - medium-term 3-10 years
L - long-term 10+ years

RIF monitoring and evaluation framework		Alignment to CAB outcomes
Period	Measurable outcomes for monitoring	
SM	1. Increased flood protection	1 2 6 7
SM	2. Increased water security	1 2 6 7
SM	3. More jobs for locals (especially unemployed)	4 9
SM	4. Improved access to finance for local firms & Māori	5 10
SM	5. Increased private investment	5 10
ML	6. Reduced impacts of natural disaster	1 2 6 7
ML	7. More vital assets and services protected	1 2 6 7
ML	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	10
ML	9. Increased local innovation	*CAB indicator
ML	10. Increased local productivity	3
ML	11. More highly-skilled local workers	9

SM - short-to-medium term 1-5 years
ML - medium-to-long term 5+ years

CAB outcomes and measures [CAB-24-MIN-0214]		Alignment to CAB outcome	RIF monitoring and evaluation framework	Alignment to framework - indicators
Period	"Indicators of progress include:		Concordance to framework - measurable outcomes	
S	measure of increased private capital investment in regions through co-funded RIF projects	1	5. Increased private investment	5.1
S	RIF funding allocated and majority of contracting completed by Kānoa – RD	1	RIF input/activity measure by all outcomes and at total fund level	All outcomes / PAM
S	RIF investment are directly relevant to regional priorities	1	RIF requirement criteria by all projects	Perf. Activity Measure
S	measured value of investment into resource security and resilience infrastructure	1	1. Increased flood protection	1.9 2.3 6.5 7.6
S	number of people employed on initial projects	4	3. More jobs for locals (especially unemployed)	3.2
S	value of investments in whenua Māori entities that are able to access funding that were previously unable to do so.	5	4. Improved access to finance for local firms & Māori	8.10
M	construction underway/completed on all infrastructure projects	6	RIF output performance measure by all projects and at fund level	Perf. Activity Measure
M	measured value of commercial and/or residential assets protected from investment into resilience structure e.g. floodbanks, drainage	7	1. Increased flood protection	1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6
M	increased innovation spending by entities and businesses invested in	6	9. Increased local innovation	9.2
M	enhanced utilisation and returns for Māori from their assets, increased whenua Māori productivity, including a shift to higher values (instead of high-volume) production	11	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	10.2
M	greater proportion of employment in higher wage ranges after investment.	9	11. More highly-skilled local workers	11.1 11.2
L	increased regional economic output post completion of construction	11 1	10. Increased local productivity	8.1
L	greater economic activity (such as faster growing GDP, revenue, improved labour productivity) in the sectors and/or focus areas in which the RIF has invested	11 1	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	8.2 8.3 8.4 8.5
L	growth in supply chain connections for regions, both national and international, including increase in products and services exported out of regions where there have been investments	11 1 2	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	
L	growth of new and emerging industries (e.g. aquaculture, renewable energy) in regions where there have been investments	11 1	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	8.3
L	growth in the Māori economy post-completion	11 12	8. Strengthened local & Māori economies & communities	8.2
L	reduced public spending on adverse events (e.g. severe weather events) in regions invested in."	6 12	6. Reduced impacts of natural disaster	6.1

MBIE. (2024). *Regional Infrastructure Fund monitoring and evaluation framework* . MBIE. Page 58-59.