

MIN-4175: Advice on the Minister's meeting with Westland Mineral Sands regarding work to improve coastal and regional resilience

4 May 2023

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency has been asked by the Minister's Office to provide advice on a meeting request from Westland Mineral Sands for Hon Michael Wood.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Westland Mineral Sands (WMS) were one of four successful applicants for coastal shipping funding. Through the National Land Transport Programme (NLTP), we have invested \$7 million towards their proposal which has a total cost of circa \$65 million. Their proposal unlocks valuable mineral products that would otherwise be land-locked and difficult and expensive to release. The NLTP is co-investing in barges and some wider infrastructure to support their proposal.
- We considered the proposal was reliant on National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) funding to proceed, and that it would provide additional capacity in the coastal shipping sector providing additional vessels of a type that are not currently operating off the New Zealand coast.
- The holistic proposal from WMS draws funding from various sources, both provide and across Government [including through Crown Investment Partners (CIP)]. The holistic proposal includes the establishment of the Aotearoa Shipping Alliance, has strong links with Iwi groups, and delivers strong regional development and wider social outcomes.
- The holistic proposal is complex, and WMS have experienced some delays in the procurement and delivery of the new barges that the NLTF has co-invested in. However, they remain on track to be delivered and in service within the NLTP period.
- The work WMS are undertaking is challenging and complex and requires Government support to succeed. We would encourage a meeting with WMS, although it should be noted there do not appear to be any specific requests or requirements, the meeting would be an exchange of information and progress update.