

Coastal Shipping

Supporting resilient and sustainable freight connections for a thriving economy.





Coastal shipping is a small but important part of the New Zealand freight system. By investing in coastal shipping to make it a more viable alternative for moving freight we can strengthen and diversify our domestic supply chain.

Why are we investing in coastal shipping?

The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2021 (GPS) introduced coastal shipping as a new activity class with the goal of improving freight connections in New Zealand.

We are working to make coastal shipping sector as efficient, competitive and sustainable as possible to support a productive economy.

We want to embed mode neutrality and choice in how freight is moved. Moving more freight by ship will drive down emissions, and also reduce the number of trucks on the roads, which will improve safety and reduce congestion.

What kinds of projects will be funded?

This investment aims to help put coastal shipping on a level playing field with other freight modes and enhance the sustainability and competitiveness of the domestic coastal shipping sector. We want to partner with industry to understand the challenges facing coastal shipping and work together to address them.

We have created four focus areas that will help guide applications. These were intentionally kept general to encourage innovation. The focus areas are:

- Enhancing domestic shipping services, with new services, increased frequencies and additional ships for new or existing container and bulk services.
- Reducing shipping emissions, proposals could include testing emerging technologies.
- Improving efficiency with upgrades to rail or road links to and from ports.
- Upgrading maritime infrastructure including shore power connections at ports, small new regional ports, and expanding existing ports.

Evaluation criteria will include applicant's ability to co-invest and leverage any investment, applicability of the Coastal Shipping Activity Class as the most suitable fund, national industry benefit and certainty of delivery prior to June 2024.

Who can apply for funding?

Applications for this funding can be received from either approved organisations or suppliers. All proposals will be evaluated on the same basis.

The Minister of Transport has provided direction for Waka Kotahi to receive proposals directly from suppliers without the requirement for the activities to be included in Regional Land Transport Plans.

How to apply

Waka Kotahi will run an open market Request for Proposal (RFP) process through the New Zealand Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS).

Successful applicants from the shortlist phase will be supported to confirm the details of their proposal. The proposal development stage will see Waka Kotahi working collaboratively with project partners.

The proposed process will allow Waka Kotahi to ensure investments align to the activity class outcomes, focus on the areas of greatest benefit and are well developed.



Find out more:

For more information about the funding and how to apply, including industry guidance, visit

www.nzta.govt.nz/coastal-shipping