

MFAT Management Response to Evaluation of Business Link Pacific, 2017-2021

Evaluation: Evaluation of Business Link Pacific, 2017-2021

Link to evaluation <http://pam.mfat.net.nz/mp/document/309942/properties>

Date of Unit Manager acceptance of the final evaluation report 19/11/2021

Approval of the MFAT Management Response (where provided)

Name of Division Manager Divisional Manager, Development Economy and Prosperity

Date: 19/11/2021

Recommendation	Response and Action (Agree, Partially Agree, Reject)
1. Capitalise on the progress made and momentum gained by extending Business Link Pacific (BLP) to a second phase.	Agree. MFAT will develop an internal business case for a second phase of funding of BLP beyond 30 June 2021.
2. Focus on building the market for business advisory services, where BLP has a comparative advantage.	Partially agree. MFAT agrees that a separate BLP workstream targeting export development is not required in a potential second phase. However, BLP can continue to positively impact export trade indirectly through business advisory services and report without a discrete workstream or activity target.
3. Retain the market systems approach and expectation of co-payment.	Agree. BLP service delivery should continue to be flexible and responsive to business needs.
4. Develop a clearer picture of what a sustainable market for business advisory services looks like.	Agree. Clear success measures will be identified in a potential second phase.
5. Continue to look for opportunities to involve ICNRs and build local capacity.	Agree.
6. Improve the monitoring of the in-country geographic distribution of SME participants.	Agree. Monitoring could be extended to a broad range of vulnerable population groups, e.g. youth, people with disabilities, people with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sexual characteristics.
7. Continue to improve the communications element, with participants and stakeholders within partner governments.	Agree.