



Briefing: International Visitor Levy – Proposed investment projects 2024

To	Minister of Conservation	Date submitted	20 February 2024
Risk Assessment	Low	Priority	High
Reference	24-B-0043	DocCM	DOC-7554042
Security Level	In Confidence		

Action sought	Agree to fund the package of proposed projects from the IVL	Timeframe	27 February 2024
Attachments	Attachment A – Information on proposed projects Attachment B – Assessment of projects against IVL eligibility criteria		

Contacts	
Name and position	Cell phone
Ruth Isaac, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Regulatory Services	s.9(2)(a)
James Johnson, Manager, Budget and Funding Policy Team	

Executive summary – Whakarāpopoto ā kaiwhakahaere

1. We seek your agreement to fund a package of seven high-priority conservation projects with an approximate cost of \$25 million over five years using the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (IVL). There is \$26 million currently available within the fund for conservation projects. The package includes projects to:
 - undertake foundational work for the eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island / Maukahuka
 - s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - redevelop and maintain the track at Cathedral Cove – this would enable the track to reopen by the end of 2024
 - s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - increase efforts to keep Aotearoa free of sea spurge.
2. These projects have been identified from existing or planned high-priority projects which will not be able to proceed without additional funding. They are already costed and largely ready to be implemented once funding is approved. We expect them to deliver significant benefits for conservation and respond to visitor pressures in key areas.
3. An additional four projects have been identified as possible priorities for funding but were left off our recommended priority list due to the limited funding currently available in the IVL. While we have assessed these to be of lesser priority, you could select these in place of those in the recommended funding package.

We recommend that you ... (Ngā tohutohu)

			Decision
a)	Agree to the following projects being funded by the IVL:		
	Undertake foundational work for the eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island (Maukahuka)	\$3.65m	Yes / No
	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes / No
	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes / No
	Redevelop and maintain the track at Cathedral Cove	\$5m	Yes / No
	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes / No
	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Yes / No
	Increase efforts to keep Aotearoa free of sea spurge	\$1.28m	Yes / No

b)	Note that the following four projects were also identified as potential priorities but assessed as being lower priority and will not receive IVL funding in this funding round unless you indicate a preference for one/several in place of project(s) listed above:		
	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
	Enhance existing iconic short walks and day hikes	\$6m	
c)	Note that we will allocate funding for projects you approve once a detailed business case and implementation plan has been approved by the Director-General of Conservation		



Date: 20/02/2024

Ruth Isaac
Deputy Director-General
Policy and Regulatory Services
For Director-General of Conservation

Date: / /

Hon Tama Potaka
Minister of Conservation

Purpose – Te aronga

1. To seek your agreement to fund seven high-priority projects using the International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy (**IVL**), which align with the IVL Investment Plan 2023.

Background and context – Te horopaki

2. The IVL was introduced in 2019 to respond to large-scale annual growth in international visitors and ensures visitors to New Zealand contribute financially to the sustainability of our environment, infrastructure and tourism offerings. The IVL is set at \$35 and is paid by international visitors to New Zealand. Some groups of people are exempt from paying the IVL, including Australian citizens and permanent residents, diplomats and some citizens of Pacific Island nations.
3. Forecasts from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (**MBIE**) estimate that between January 2024 and December 2026, nearly 7 million visitors will pay the IVL. Based on the current rate of \$35, this is estimated to generate over \$240 million (or around \$80 million per annum).
4. Revenue collected through the IVL is split between conservation and tourism projects. As of the end of January 2024, there is \$26 million in the Conservation portion of the fund. The IVL Investment Plan was agreed in July 2023 and focuses spending on priorities that are likely to have the greatest impact addressing issues and challenges that tourism and conservation faces¹.

Review of the IVL rate

5. Under the Immigration Act 2009, MBIE must conduct a review of the IVL rate, in consultation with us, and is exploring an increase of \$15 or \$35 per person (this would raise the rate to \$50 or \$70). We will jointly brief you in late February 2024 on beginning consultation for an IVL rate increase.
6. On 2 February 2024 you received advice which sought agreement from IVL Ministers (the Ministers of Conservation, Tourism and Finance) to allocate \$8 million of funding to progress the delivery of two tourism 100-point Economic Plan projects (MBIE briefing 2324-1488 refers).

Conservation portion of the IVL

7. For conservation, the IVL will invest in projects that achieve the following priorities, under two conservation pillars:
 - Pillar 1: protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity
 - understanding threats to biodiversity and how to manage them
 - delivering interventions to protect indigenous species
 - delivering landscape scale ecosystem management
 - delivering nature-based solutions to the impacts of climate change.
 - Pillar 2: responding to visitor pressures on conservation and the environment
 - understanding visitor impacts and how to manage them
 - enhancing cultural heritage and protecting the natural environment from visitor impacts
 - delivering system level responses to visitor pressures

¹ [International Visitor Conservation and Tourism Levy — Investment Plan 2023 \(mbie.govt.nz\)](https://www.mbie.govt.nz/international-visitor-conservation-and-tourism-levy-investment-plan-2023)

- transitioning to a low emissions and resilient heritage and visitor system.
8. Since 2019, the IVL has funded 19 conservation projects, with a total cost of \$46.5 million. IVL funding for conservation projects was most recently agreed by the previous Minister of Conservation on 27 September 2023 and included funding for:
 - Lake Waikaremoana Great Walk reopening, reimagining and Te Urewera pest control plan (\$1.7 million)
 - Tongariro Alpine Crossing Sustainable Management Project (\$1.8 million)
 - National Wilding Conifer Control Programme (\$8.1 million)
 - Biodiversity Investment Approach Project (\$2.2 million).
 9. Timebound funding for the wilding conifer programme (for 2023/24) is coming to an end meaning that the scale of this work will be substantially reduced in future years unless a new source of funds is found.
 10. In November 2023 we advised you of the projected costs to progress with the proposed Waiau-toa/Molesworth Great Walk (23-B-0463 refers). It was suggested that this could be funded by the IVL.
 11. We estimate that it would cost between **s.9(2)(b)(ii)** to build this new Great Walk, with ongoing costs **s.9(2)(b)(ii)**. On your instruction we are exploring options for enhancing the visitor experience at Waiau-Toa/Molesworth and we will be reporting back in March 2024. IVL funding could still be used to support these options.

The IVL Investment Plan contains eligibility criteria

12. The seven projects have been assessed as being aligned with the eligibility criteria from the IVL Investment Plan. The projects:
 - align with one or more of the IVL investment priorities
 - will have significant impact at places which attract or are affected by international visitors or tourism
 - would not be able to progress due to lack of funding without the IVL
 - have considered whole of life costs and sources of funding have been identified if ongoing funding is required
 - are not, or able to be, fully cost-recovered by users
 - will have quantifiable outputs
 - have considered how they will give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
13. We have then internally assessed which projects to recommend using following criteria:
 - consistency with our strategic direction
 - cost effectiveness
 - ability to implement and project readiness
 - level of external support.
14. These criteria ensure projects have a link back to the source and purpose of the IVL fund. A key feature of the fund is that it can fluctuate over time and, in assessing and selecting projects to recommend for funding, that we explicitly consider the risk of creating ongoing cost pressures.
15. The criteria ensure that ongoing costs of funding projects is considered and addressed in the project planning phase. This helps to prevent funding cliffs, or increased erosion

of our baseline by adding new assets without ongoing funding to maintain them or account for depreciation.

Based on the eligibility criteria we recommend seven projects for investment

16. We recommend that you agree to fund seven projects that have been identified from existing or planned high-priority projects with established funding needs. As existing or planned projects, they are already costed and are largely ready to begin implementation once funding is approved.
17. You have delegated decision making authority for projects that have whole-of-life costs less than \$10 million. Projects over \$10 million need to be agreed by all IVL ministers. All seven of the projects fall within your delegated decision-making powers.
18. Table one below summarises the seven projects. Full descriptions can be found in **Attachment A**. The eligibility criteria are applied to the proposed projects in **Attachment B**.

Table one: Proposed projects for investment

Investment Plan priorities	Project purpose/description	Total IVL funding (up to 5 years) including 15 per cent overheads
Protecting and restoring biodiversity	Undertake foundational work for the eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island (Maukahuka).	\$3.65m
Protecting and restoring biodiversity; Responding to visitor pressures	s.9(2)(f)(iv)	
Protecting and restoring biodiversity		
Responding to visitor pressures	Redevelop and maintain the track at Cathedral Cove.	\$5.0m
Protecting and restoring biodiversity	s.9(2)(f)(iv)	
Responding to visitor pressures		
Protecting and restoring biodiversity	Increase efforts to keep Aotearoa free of sea spurge.	\$1.28m
	Total	\$25.21m

Alternative options for investment

19. In addition, there are a further four projects which we identified that could be funded through the IVL, but would exceed the funding currently available in the pool. You could choose to replace projects in the recommended package of projects with one or a number of these, providing the total cost is within the \$26 million available in the fund.

Table two: additional projects for investment

Investment Plan priorities	Project	Total IVL funding (up to 5 years) including 15 per cent overheads
Protecting and restoring biodiversity	s.9(2)(f)(iv)	
Protecting and restoring biodiversity		
Protecting and restoring biodiversity		
Responding to visitor pressures	Enhance existing iconic short walks and day hikes.	\$6.0m

Remaining funds in the IVL fund

20. If you approve the seven proposed projects there will be less than \$1 million left in the IVL fund. The fund will grow as the IVL continues to generate revenue.
21. Progressing with the seven projects will delay the possibility of using IVL funds for other priorities in the short-term. If you agree to progress funding the seven projects, forecasting suggests that there will be an additional \$20 million available for use by the end of June 2024.

Risk assessment – Aronga tūraru

22. We consider proceeding with the proposed investments to be low risk. The projects all fit with the Investment Plan priorities and meet the eligibility criteria.
23. The risk of not proceeding is set out in greater detail for each project in **Attachment A**.

Treaty principles (section 4) – Ngā mātāpono Tiriti (section 4)

24. Projects funded through the conservation portion of the IVL must demonstrate how they have considered the Treaty principles. Analysis is provided in more detail in **Attachment B**.
25. Many of the projects considered have established partnerships with mana whenua in design or delivery, respond to aspirations of Treaty partners, or enable information sharing to better inform future shared priorities. Undertaking these projects is consistent with our section 4 obligations under the Conservation Act 1987.

Consultation – Kōrero whakawhiti


26. We have informed MBIE of the seven proposed projects, in line with the approach outlined in the IVL Investment Plan.


Next steps – Ngā tāwhaitanga

27. Should you approve funding for the seven projects, we will prepare further detailed internal business cases so the funding can be allocated and the projects can progress. We will seek your agreement to future projects funded through the IVL early in 2025, s.9(2)(f)(iv)

ENDS

Attachment A - Information on proposed projects

Project	Undertake foundational work for the eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island (Maukahuka)
Purpose	<p>To undertake readiness activities so mammalian predators can be eradicated from Auckland Island.</p> <p>Eradicating pests from Auckland Island is the final step in over 30 years of investment, research, restoration, and innovation in restoring the subantarctic world heritage area.</p>  <p><i>Pig rooting on main Auckland Island versus fields of megaherbs on nearby pest free Enderby Island.</i></p>
IVL funding sought and timeframe	\$3.65m over next two years to undertake readiness activities.
Investment plan priority	<p>Pillar 1: Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Delivering interventions to protect indigenous species.</p> <p>Delivering landscape scale ecosystem management.</p>
Context	<p>It is expected that this readiness work will be followed by 8 years of project delivery (\$49.57m, including 15% DOC overheads of \$1.7m). This is just under 66% of the total project cost with the remainder to be funded via donations.</p> <p>Feasibility is complete and proven, detailed costing and phasing complete, Operational Plans drafted. Ready to proceed as soon as funding is secured.</p> <p>6 min film about the project</p>
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of core project team (6 FTE in first year, increasing to 13 total in year 2) enabling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Establishment of project management and governance. ○ Capacity to work with donors and partners. ○ Procurement and readiness for infrastructure programme. ○ Completion of required tool development. ○ Operational planning for pig eradication. • Registration of new feral cat bait.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New bait bucket (designed and tested) for reliable and accurate sowing of rodent bait at low densities. • Improved trail camera capability using AI to automatically analyse images and improvement to increase durability and battery life in the field. • Baseline monitoring on the island.
Benefits	<p>Of readiness work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Position project ready for implementation. • Capitalise on previous investment in feasibility (\$3.6m) and existing staff knowledge. • Provide external investor confidence. • Improved baseline datasets of native species. <p>Of full project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering interventions to protect indigenous species (>500 species, including 100+ endemic). For 16 species, conservation of the populations of these taxa on the Auckland Islands is essential for the persistence of the taxon nationally. • Delivering landscape scale ecosystem management (46,000ha, uncommon ecosystems including seabird input, peat, tussock, megaherbs). • Creation of protected breeding sites for 38 species of native bird, including nine unique to the island. • Rapidly recover 280+ species of native insects, 95+ of which are found only on the island. • Recover almost 200 species of native plants. • Improve the island's resilience to the effects of climate change. • The legacy of the project will be enduring, with no ongoing cost or intervention needed to maintain its pest-free status.
External partners	There are ongoing discussions with international philanthropists to co-fund the longer term project.
Risks of not going ahead	<p>Continued risk of irreversible biodiversity loss – adding to the tally of 32 bird species already lost from the island.</p> 

Catastrophic risk to neighbouring pest free Adams Island, one of the largest pristine islands in the world. It is at risk of incursion by all three pests. Narrowest gap between stepping stone island is just 77m.

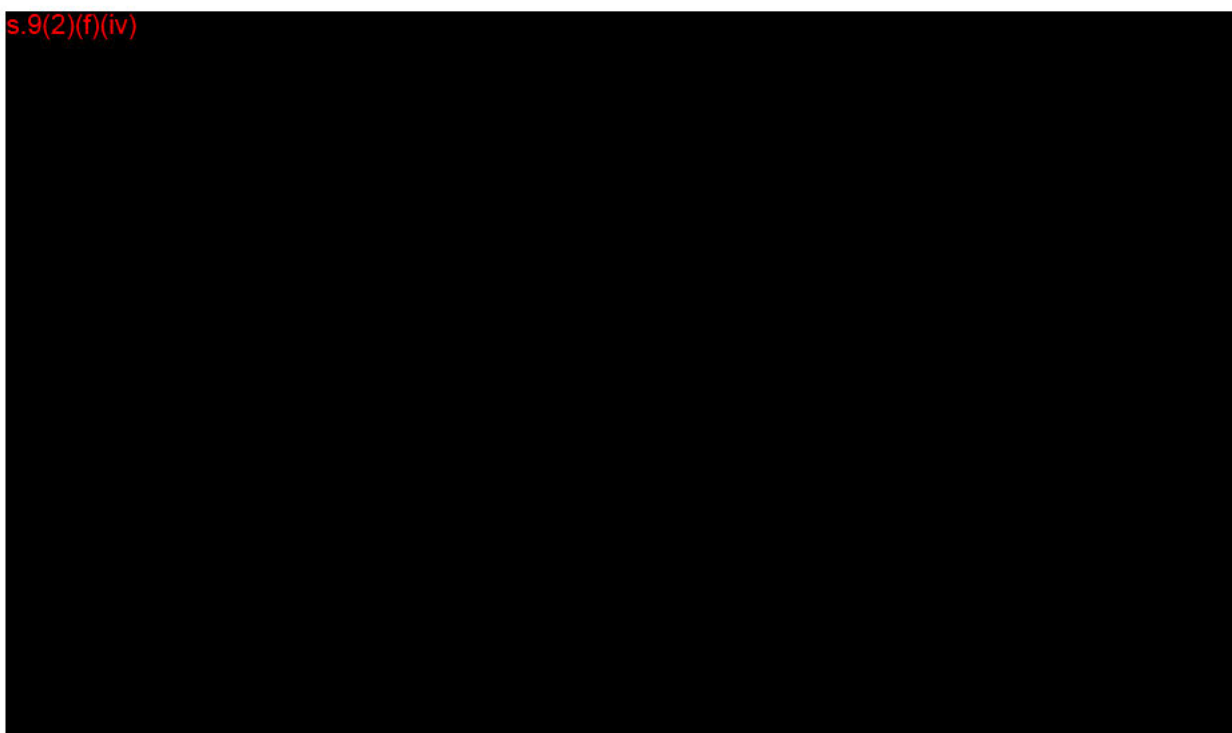
Images: (top) cat scavenging mollymawk fledgling, Auckland Island, (below) pig in white capped mollymawk colony, Auckland Island (Credit Paul Sagar)

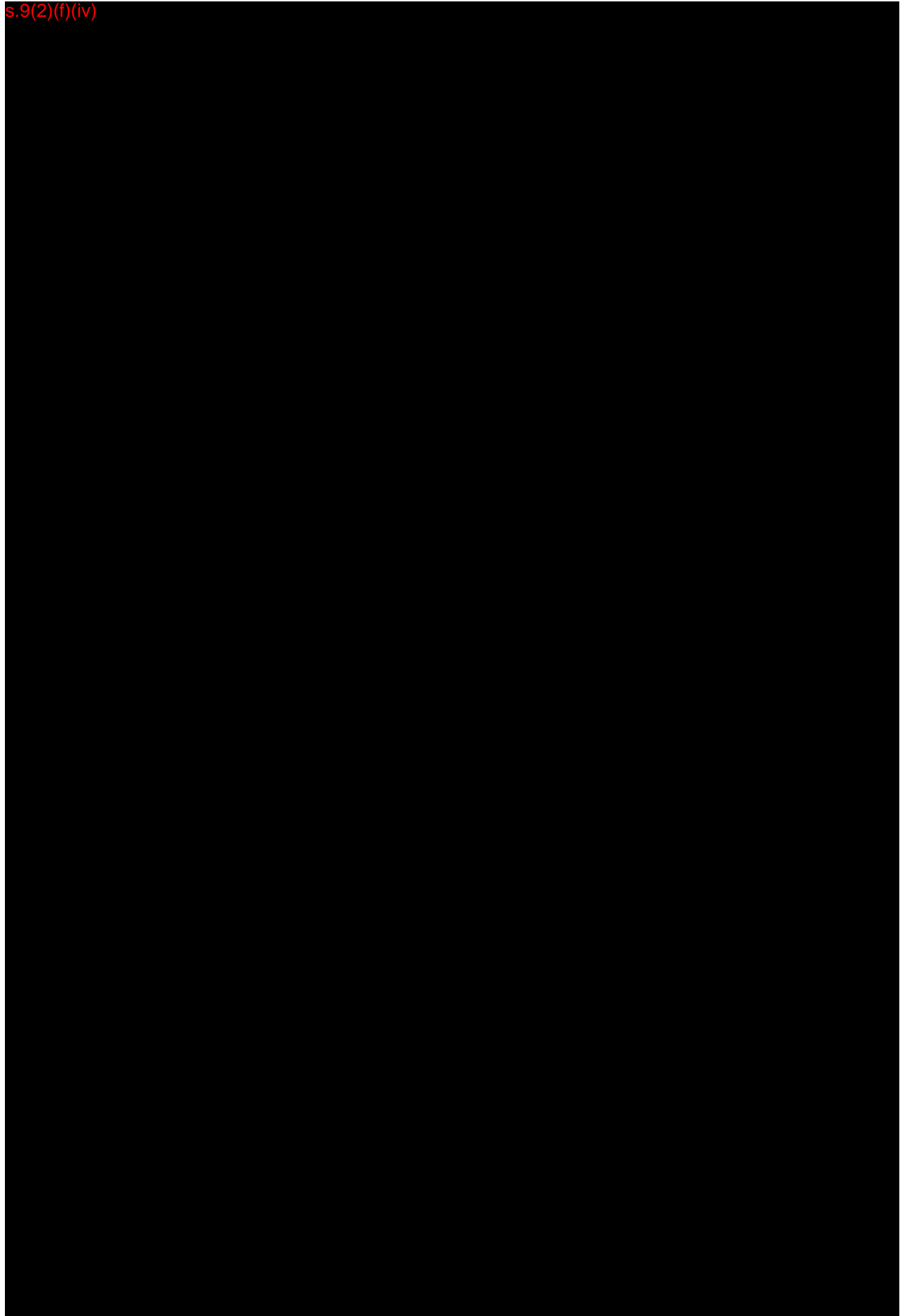


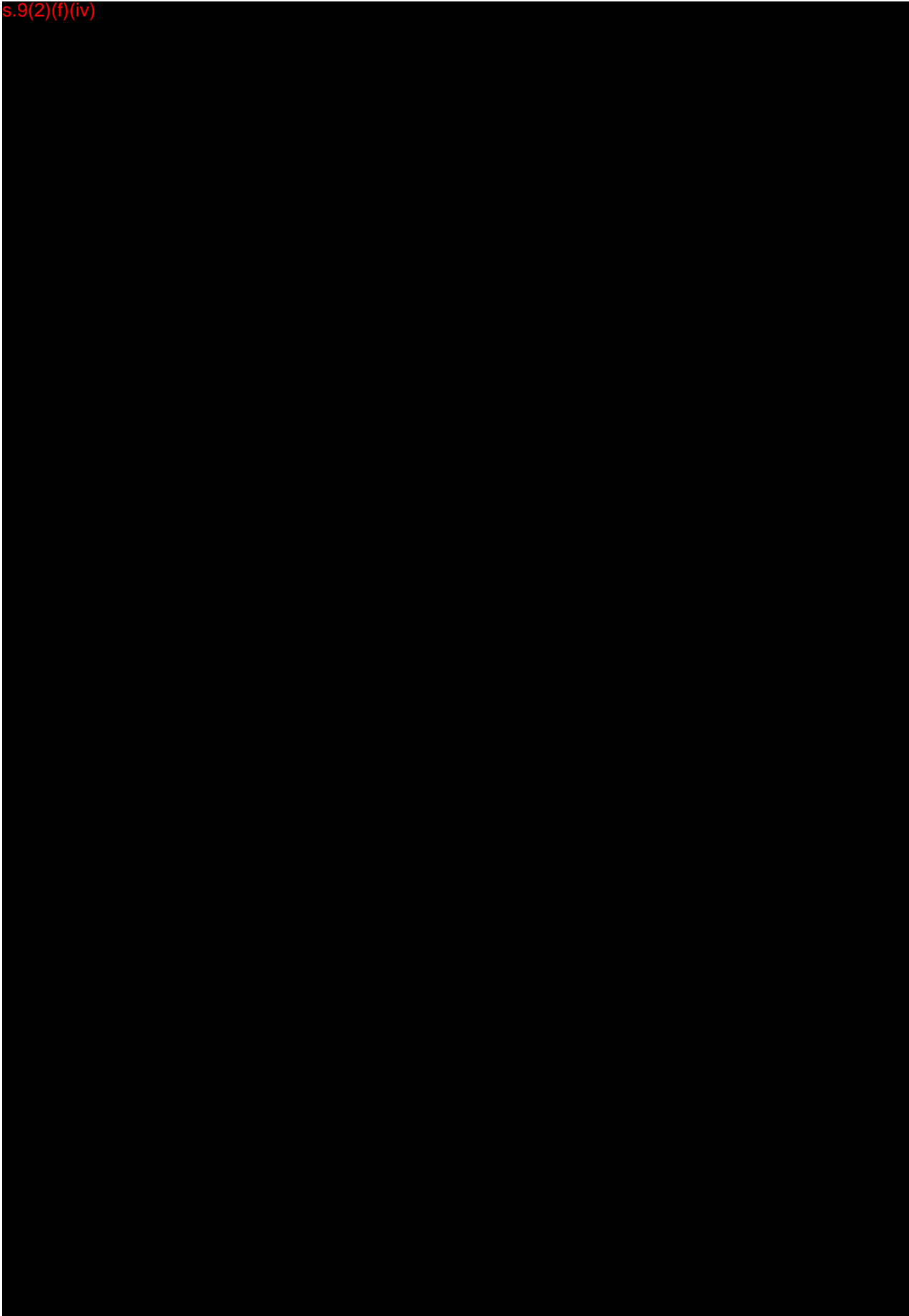
Comments Different operating models for the project will be considered to optimise management of capital assets and support services such as IT, HR and financial management.

Financial year ending June	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Five year total
Total operating funding, \$m	\$1.47m	\$2.18m				\$3.65m
Total capital funding, \$m						
Total capital and operating funding, \$m	\$1.47m	\$2.18m				\$3.65m

s.9(2)(f)(iv)





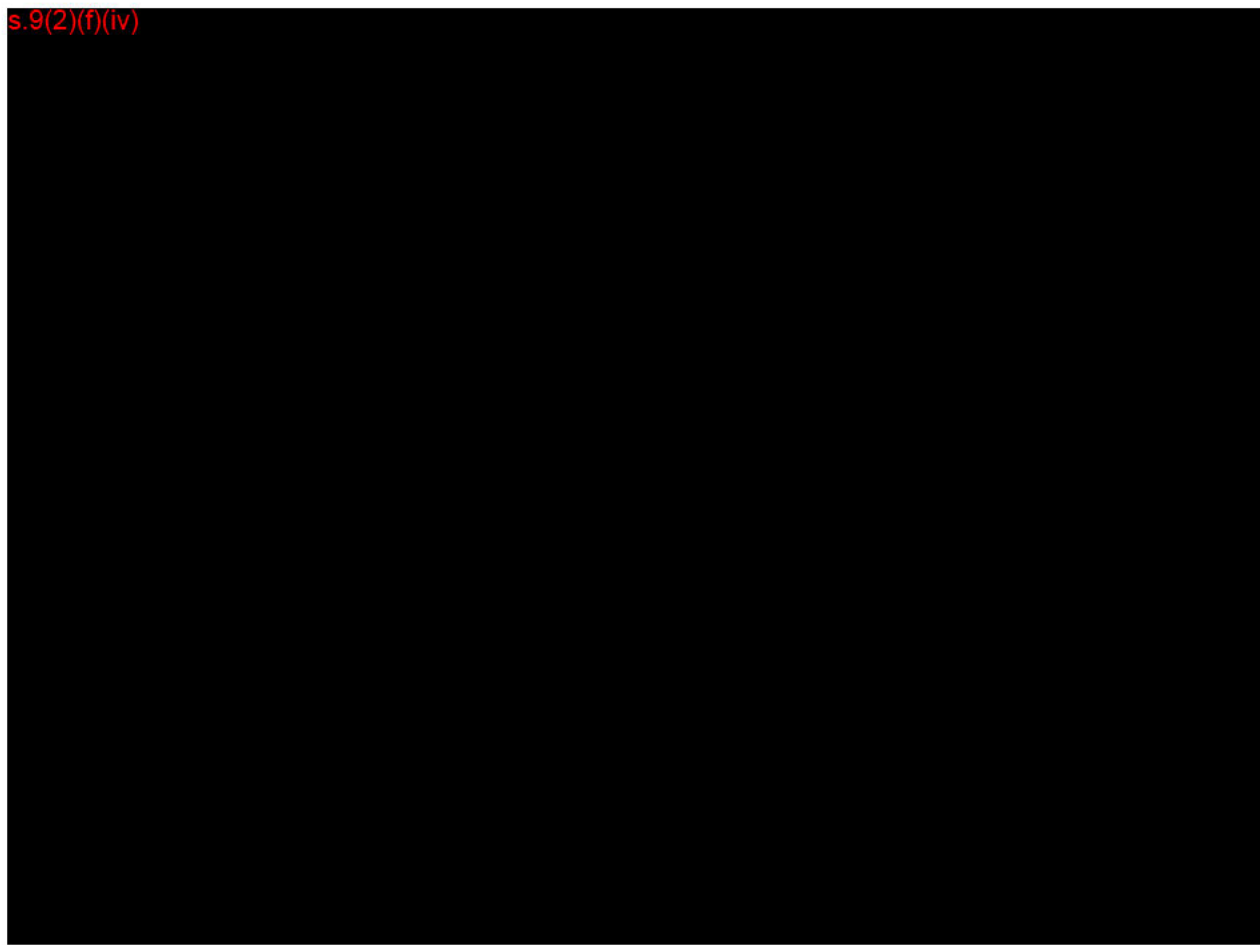


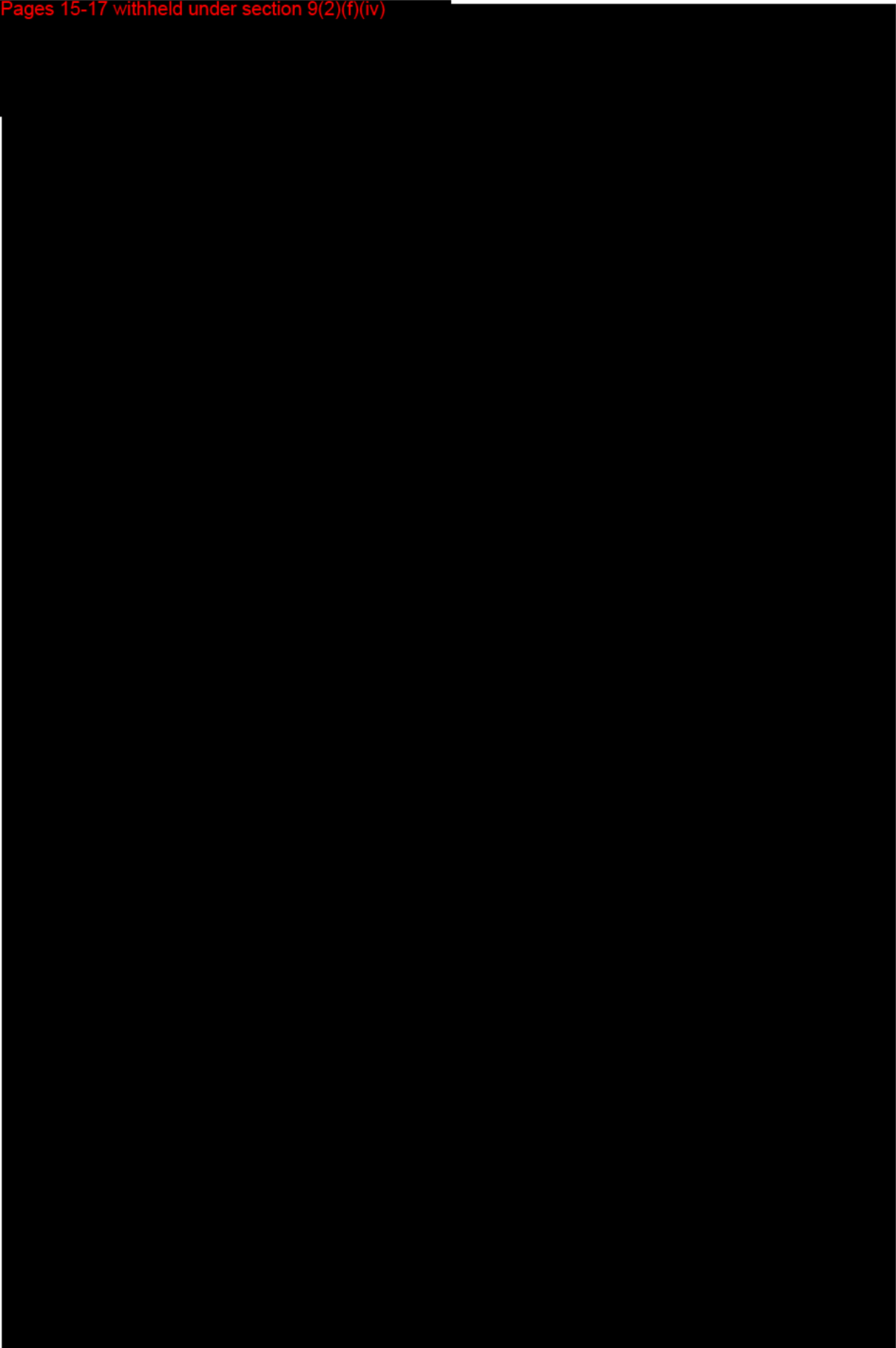
Project	Redevelop and maintain the track at Cathedral Cove
Purpose	To enable the planning, build and reopening of an overland track to Cathedral Cove. This will enable it to reopen by the end of 2024.
IVL funding sought and timeframe	\$5m over five years
Investment plan priority	Pillar 2: Responding to visitor pressures on conservation and the environment. Understanding visitor impacts and how to manage them. Delivering system level responses to visitor pressures.
Context	In 2023, the Cathedral Cove walking track was significantly damaged by successive significant weather events. It was closed by DOC in February 2023 under emergency management conditions; the track has not been reopened since. The current visitor safety risks at Cathedral Cove are higher than tolerated compared to other popular DOC-managed sites used by local and international visitors. Further geotechnical monitoring is underway to determine whether the land has stabilised enough to build an overland track to Cathedral Cove – further land movement and rockfalls have occurred since the storms that may limit options for rebuilding. This information will be assessed alongside visitor safety, iwi values, heritage considerations, land and infrastructure resilience to further storms, visitor management and experience, and financial cost of rebuilding and expected length of life, cost recovery, legal considerations. Closure of the track has caused economic impact to the community dealing with several damaged infrastructure sites including roads. This has led to ministerial interest in the determination of being able to re-open land access to Cathedral Cove and subsequent installation.
Activities	Rebuild - Once preferred option is chosen - implementation and construction. Maintenance - Monitoring, engagement, ongoing safety compliance, technical advice and planning required for options for Cathedral cove experience
Benefits	Reduction in visitor risk Improved connection to iwi heritage and values Increased visitor satisfaction Improved connection to nature and recreation Improved resilience to climate change impacts Improved visitor management Increased contribution to regional GDP
External partners	Ngāti Hei Neighbouring landowner Concessionaries Local communities


Risks of not going ahead	Cathedral Cove not being able to be reopened in some capacity will hold a s.9(2)(g)(ii) Economic impact of reduced visitor numbers to the area. Iwi relationship.
Comments	It is essential that the reopening is done safely for the visitors and in line with iwi values.

Financial year ending June	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Five year total
Total operating funding, \$m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$1m
Total capital funding, \$m	\$4m					\$4m
Total capital and operating funding, \$m	\$4.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$0.2m	\$5m

s.9(2)(f)(iv)





Project	Keeping Aotearoa Free of Sea spurge
Purpose	To prevent sea spurge, an aggressive, transformative coastal weed, from becoming widely established in Aotearoa New Zealand.
IVL funding sought and timeframe	Total funding: \$1.28m over four years
Investment plan priority	Pillar 1: Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity. Delivering interventions to protect indigenous species.
Context	<p>Sea spurge (<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>) is a highly invasive weed of coastal ecosystems (sand dunes, rocky/shingle beaches, estuaries, and pasture). It can quickly form large monocultures (150,000 to 180,000 plants per hectare), displacing native vegetation, changing natural erosion patterns, and transforming habitat for native fauna and flora. Sea spurge releases a toxic sap when damaged, this sap can cause rashes and eye damage when in contact with skin and eyes. It is expected that without management sea spurge could dominate thousands of kilometres of NZ's coastlines (from Northland to Rakiura/Stewart Island).</p> <p>Sea spurge disperses from Australia (where it is also highly invasive) to New Zealand via ocean currents. It is at the start of the invasion process in NZ, with approximately 17 low density infestations along our western coastlines (from Karamea, Westland to Dargaville, Northland). Early detection and removal of plants has resulted in local eradication, but this requires sufficient, sustained funding and effort. The most cost-effective time to control an invasive species like sea spurge is at the start of the invasion process.</p>  <p>Figure 1: Sea spurge (reddish stems) taking over a dune ecosystem in Australia. It is expected that sea spurge will show similar spread across NZ if not controlled.</p>
Activities	The following activities will be part of the management programme:

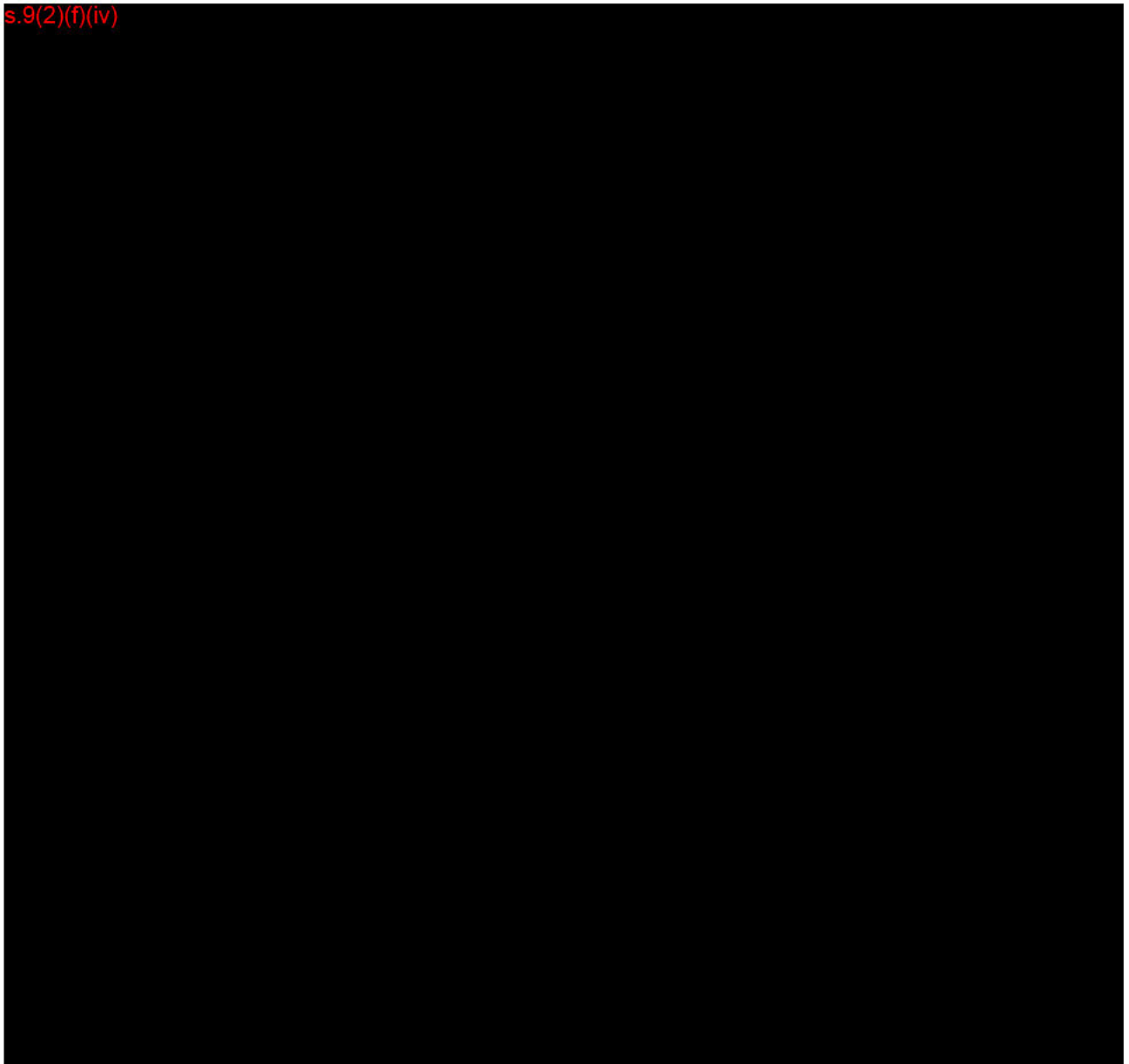
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best practice management (control) of infestation sites. • Search and destroy activities 15km either side of the coastline where sea spurge has been found. Current management model in lower North Island is DOC working with iwi affiliated contractors to search their rohe for sea spurge. • Surveillance for sea spurge in high priority coastal areas; including rare and threatened coastal ecosystems and iconic coastal sites such as Farewell Spit and Te Pahi sand dunes. If new infestations are found, surveillance funding can be redirected to management. • Communication and education with iwi and coastal care groups to improve NZ's passive surveillance network.
Benefits	<p>Protection of approximately 164 DOC-managed sites as representative of ecosystems that occur on or along coastlines, and could otherwise be impacted by sea spurge to various levels.</p> <p>Protection of rare and threatened coastal ecosystems i.e. Active sand dunes, dune deflation hollows, stable sand dunes, coastal turfs, marine mammal influenced sites, coastal cliffs, shelly barrier beaches, stony beach ridges, estuaries, lagoons and shingle beaches.</p> <p>Protection of habitat of native flora (e.g. pīngao) and fauna (e.g. seals, ground nesting birds such as godwits, penguins, and invertebrates such as <i>Brullea antarctica</i> - an endemic dune specialist beetle).</p> <p>Reduction in risks to human/animal health from sea spurge. Sea spurge has toxic sap that is released when the plant is damaged, this irritates skin and damages eyes with contact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoidance of health impacts to native fauna (e.g. seals, penguins) that would interact with sea spurge in their habitat. • Maintained safe access to coastal systems for recreation (tourism) and cultural activities. <p>DOC aligning work with Biosecurity New Zealand's: Aotearoa New Zealand Sea spurge Management Strategy 2023-2033 (currently in draft).</p>
External partners	Ministry for Primary Industries, Regional Councils, Sea spurge steering group, impacted iwi, coastal care groups.
Risks of not going ahead	<p>Continuation of an ad hoc funding model will result in sea spurge not being controlled effectively. This will result in it spreading throughout our coastal ecosystems, impacting native flora, fauna, ecosystems and landscape values.</p> <p>s.9(2)(g)(i) the recommendations of the PCE and Environment select committee, including to “fund an effective function for newly emerging risks, including resourcing iwi and hapū to contribute to the scanning for and co-ordinated management of emerging native ecosystem weeds.”</p>
Comments	

Financial year ending June	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Five year total
Total operating funding, \$m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m		\$1.28m
Total capital funding, \$m						
Total capital and operating funding, \$m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m	\$0.32m		\$1.28m

s.9(2)(f)(iv)







Project	Enhance existing iconic short walks and day hikes
Purpose	Track enhancement and remediation of DOC's branded Short Walks and Day Hikes as the network is grown to approximately 45 tracks over the next three years. This is to ensure the quality of the experience on our most iconic tracks aligns with visitor expectations. There will be some minor upgrades on several tracks because of capex work orders being deferred.
IVL funding sought and timeframe	Total funding of \$6m over three years
Investment plan priority	Pillar 2: Responding to visitor pressures on conservation and the environment. Enhancing cultural heritage and protecting the natural environment from visitor impacts. Delivering system level responses to visitor pressures.
Context	The SWDH brand is a track network consisting of 16 Short Walks and 5 Day Hikes. Within the brand are DOC's most iconic tracks and

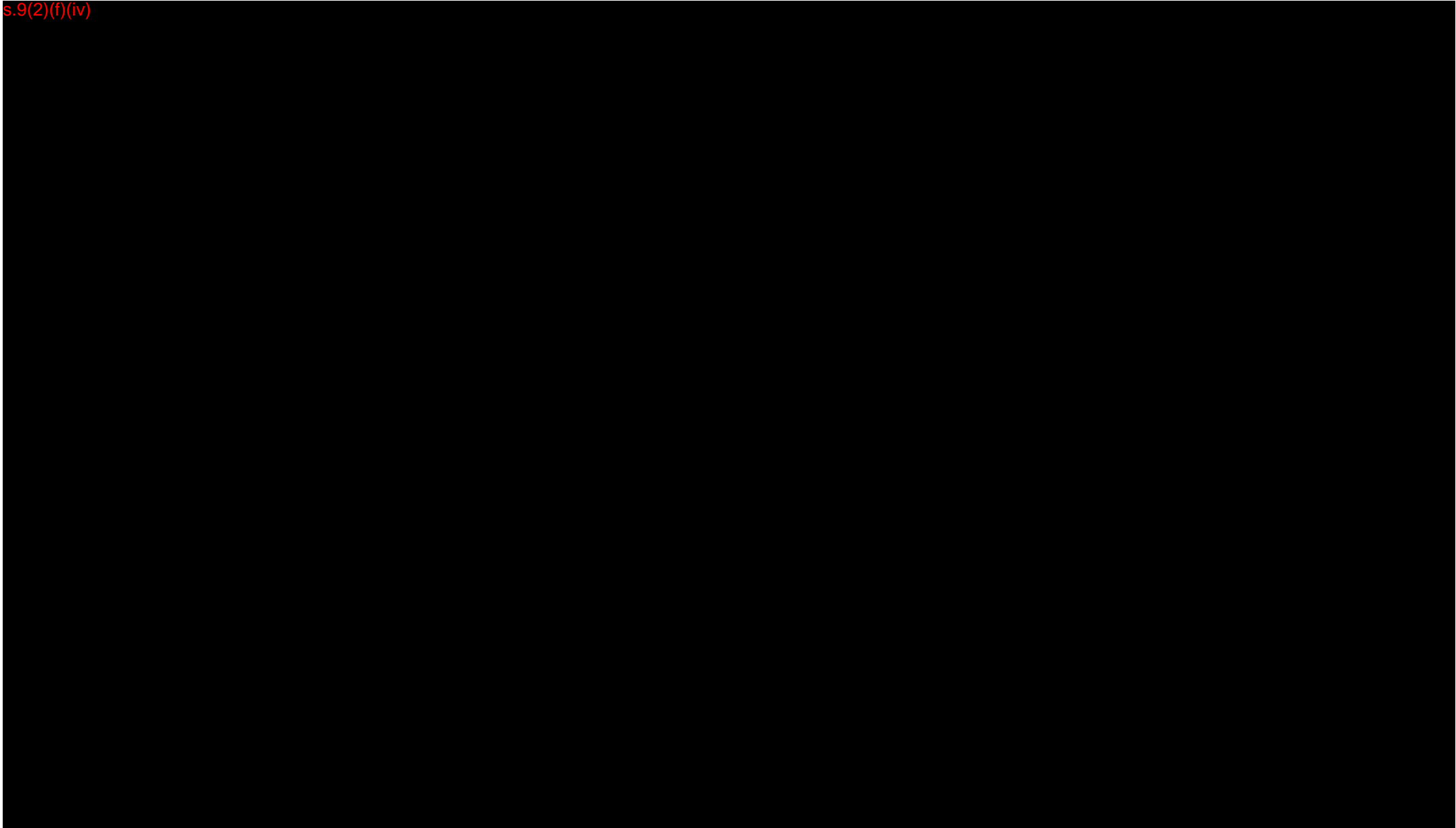
	<p>experiences e.g. Hooker Valley track, Blue Pools. DOC is in the process of growing the network to appropriately 45 to ensure our most iconic and popular walking experiences are well managed and kept to the appropriate standard.</p> <p>Track remediation for the network is a necessary response to the increase in international visitors seeking out these walks, and an increase in the number of significant extreme weather events impacting the track network. The objective is to maintain this network of up to 45 tracks at their existing standard. The additional maintenance work will make the existing and future track network more resilient to increasing visitor impacts, especially during peak summer season (November – March), and future weather events.</p> <p>We also need to ensure Districts have adequate Opex to sustain services during the peak summer season. More funding is required to undertake basic tasks such as toilet cleaning on these popular walks.</p> <p>In recent years, the required maintenance work has not been fully funded as visitor safety tasks have taken a priority.</p>
Activities	<p>Short Walking experience (under three hours)</p> <p>Day Hike (Over three hours)</p>
Benefits	<p>The additional maintenance work will make track network more resilient to increasing visitor impacts, especially during peak summer season (Nov – Mar), and future weather events. Also, ensure basic service are sustained during the peak summer season (start of November to the end of March)</p>
External partners	<p>Iwi, hapu, and whānau can play a central role in planning and managing these walks. A strong, clear voice from iwi and te taiao is provided within the SWDH work we deliver on the ground.</p>
Risks of not going ahead	<p>The overall services and standards of SWDH network will decline as deferred maintenance work increases due to the impacts of increased visitor numbers.</p> <p>Tracks will be out of action for longer and more costly to restore when impacted by severe weather events.</p> <p>Voice of iwi at our most iconic places is at risk of slow decline.</p>
Comments	<p>The SWDH brand will be expanded from 21 to 45 walks over the next 3-5 years (subject to investment).</p> <p>Opex funding will target peak summer season tourism pressures to ensure services are sustained e.g. toilet cleaning, rubbish removal, potholes in carparks. The balance will target deferred maintenance, so tracks are more resilient to increasing tourism pressures and weather events. Some may be utilised to install a greater level of product management and reporting. This is secondary to any track remedial or enhancement work.</p> <p>Capex will address existing deferred maintenance where the work is recorded as an assets. For example, the replacement of old signage, faded interpretation panels, broken water culverts, and partial track resurfacing. The objective is to maintain existing standards. The capex will be utilised for both existing and proposed branded tracks.</p>

Financial year ending June	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Five-year total
Total operating funding, \$m	\$0.65m	\$0.7m	\$0.65m			\$2m
Total capital funding, \$m	\$2m	\$2m				\$4m
Total capital and operating funding, \$m	\$2.65m	\$2.7m	\$0.65m			\$6m

Attachment B - Assessment of projects against IVL eligibility criteria

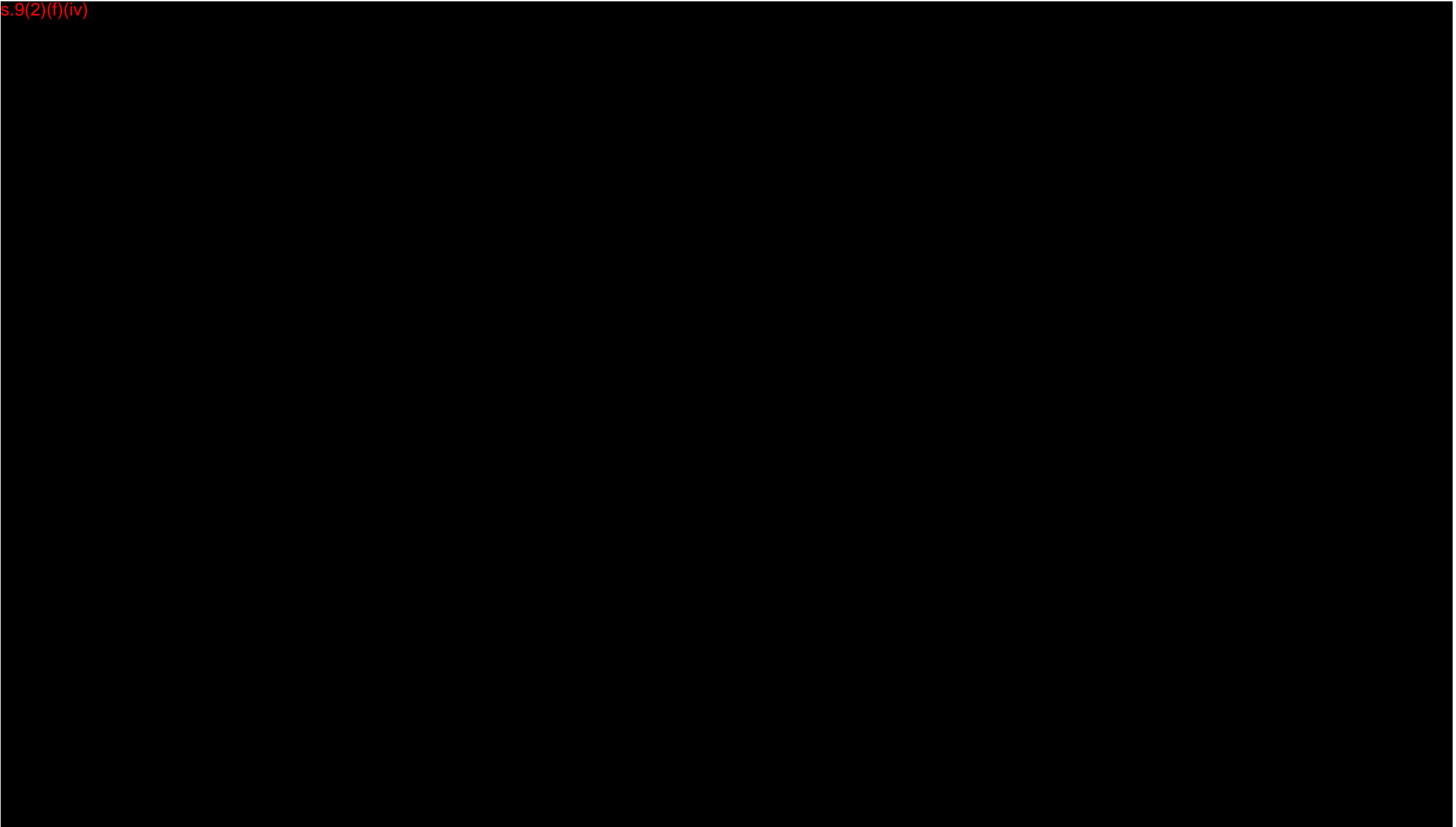
	The project aligns with one or more of the IVL investment priorities	The project will have significant impact at places which attract or are affected by international visitors or tourism	The project would not be able to progress due to lack of funding without the IVL	The project has considered whole of life costs, and sources of funding have been identified if ongoing funding is required	The project is not, or able to be, fully cost-recovered by users	There will be quantifiable outputs from the project	The project has considered how it will give effect to the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
<p>Undertake foundational work for the eradication of pigs, cats and mice from Auckland Island (Maukahuka)</p>	<p>Pillar 1: Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity.</p> <p>Delivering interventions to protect indigenous species, delivering landscape scale ecosystem management</p>	<p>Elite and valued destination for tourism via cruise operators.</p> <p>Disproportionately high number of visitors to ratepayers.</p>	<p>There are no allocated funds, B22 will not fund this project.</p> <p>Good levels of philanthropic interest but all are contingent on DOC commitment to at least 50% of the project eg Island Ocean Connection Challenge will fund \$1 for every \$2 of domestic investment.</p>	<p>Total life of project is 10 years (2 years of readiness followed immediately by 8 years of implementation)</p> <p>No ongoing costs beyond standard biosecurity procedures which are already in place.</p> <p>Most assets will be uninstalled and disposed of at the end of the project. Minimal assets will remain on island and their maintenance will be transferred to Murihiku.</p>	<p>Project is not able to be cost recovered.</p>	<p>Investment in readiness years will buy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team ready to begin Infrastructure program • New cat and pig baits registered for use in New Zealand • Low sow bait bucket designed and tested and available in NZ • AI and trail camera developments available across DOC and PF 	<p>Strong established relationship with Ngai Tahu ki Murihiku including involvement and support.</p>

s.9(2)(f)(iv)



	s.9(2)(f) [redacted] (iv) [redacted] [redacted]	s.9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]		s.9(2) [redacted] (f)(iv) [redacted]			
Redevelop and maintain the track at Cathedral Cove	<p>Pillar 2: Responding to visitor pressures on conservation and the environment.</p> <p>Understanding visitor impacts and how to manage them.</p> <p>Delivering system level responses to visitor pressures.</p>	<p>Very high visitor pressure site and 85% of visitors are international. Prior to covid and closure, this site was the 4th highest visited DOC site at its peak. Closure of site estimated to impact on regional GDP by \$3-4M in first year of closure.</p>	<p>\$1m Capital funding from Treasury this will expire this year with no roll over option, this will not be used.</p> <p>\$300k was funded from cyclone recovery for maintenance, this will be used this financial year. No further funding is available.</p>	<p>\$3m will allow for planning future options, building, and maintenance establishing the operation of a new service model in place.</p>	<p>This funding will provide the ability to consider mechanisms of cost recovery but is unlikely to be fully cost recovered by users. Cost recovery may not be possible under legal and statutory considerations.</p>	<p>Reduction in visitor risk.</p> <p>Improved connection to lwi heritage and values.</p> <p>Increase in visitor satisfaction.</p> <p>Improved connection to nature and recreation.</p> <p>Improved resilience to climate change impacts.</p> <p>Improvement in visitor management.</p> <p>Increase in contribution to regional GDP.</p>	<p>Ngāti Hei Overlay Classification Values and Protection Principles has been established for the Cathedral Cove Recreation Reserve through the Ngāti Hei Deed of Settlement.</p> <p>With the forthcoming settlement it is critical to take account of these values and principles for future site options before enactment, to prepare the relationship with mana whenua to enable implementation of the settlement.</p>

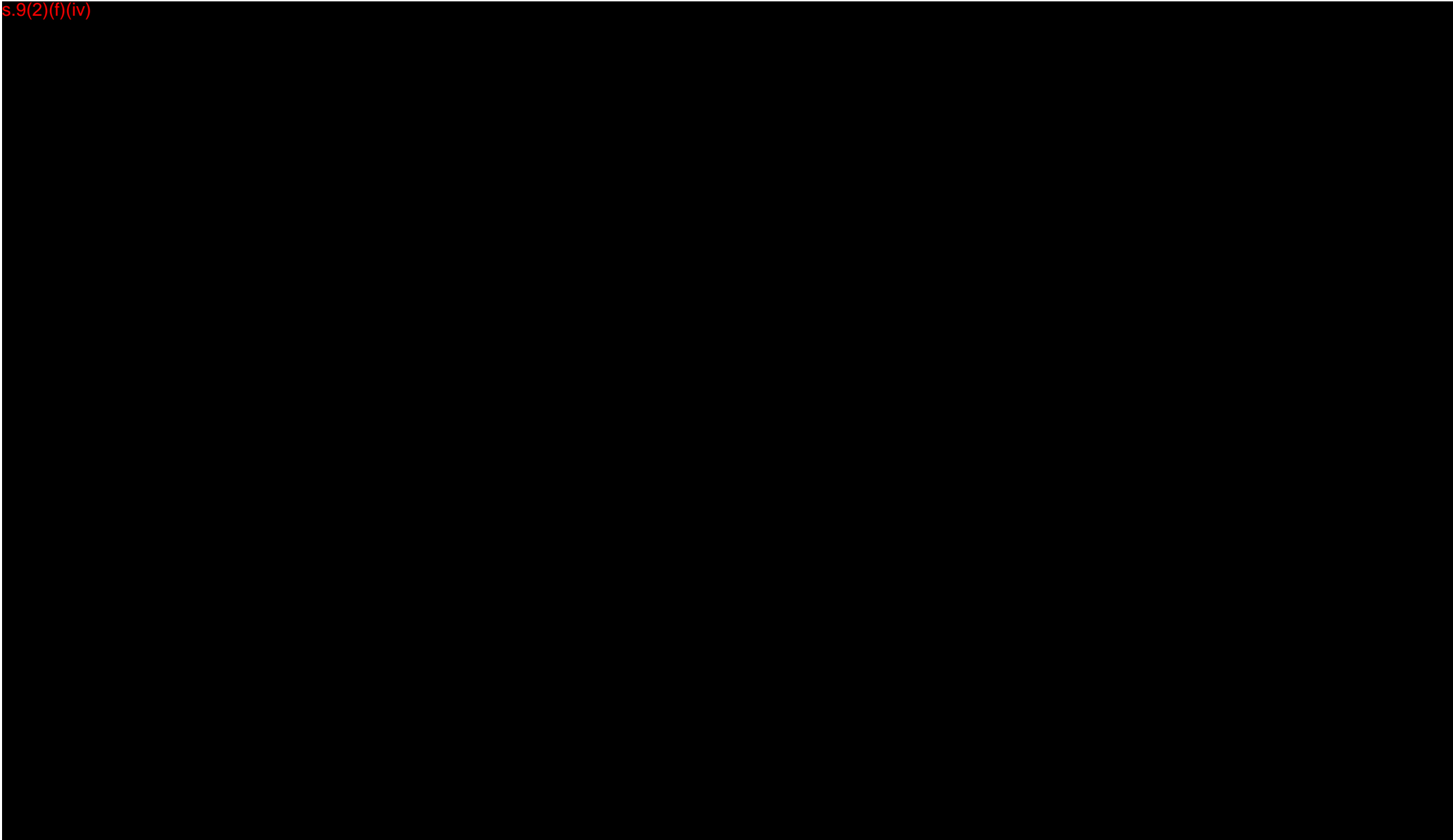
s.9(2)(f)(iv)



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Increase efforts to keep Aotearoa free of sea spurge	Pillar 1: Protecting and restoring indigenous biodiversity Delivering interventions to protect indigenous species.	Our coastal ecosystems and scenery are a large draw card for international tourists. If allowed to spread Sea spurge will alter many coastal ecosystems such as iconic dune systems at Te Pahi and Farewell spit. It will also limit safe access to coastal systems	Current sea spurge funding is ad hoc (DOC funding currently a cost pressure), with no long-term certainty. This makes it impossible to have a cohesive and effective management programme. This ad hoc approach will significantly increase the likelihood of sea spurge spreading uncontrolled along our coastlines.	Yes - All funding is opex, and regional councils will have sufficient time to incorporate sea spurge into their regional pest management plans. It is expected after 4 years current sea spurge infestations will be significantly smaller and cheaper to manage.	There are no cost-recovery options available from users of coastal environments	Yes. The funding will result in all known populations to be sufficiently managed. Outputs will decline in sea spurge populations at known infestation sites, surveillance of hundreds of kilometres of coastline. Iwi and coastal groups engagement.	When funding has been available DOC has employed local iwi-affiliated contractors to survey the coastline for sea spurge, empowering iwi in their role of kaitiaki within their rohe. DOC would like to continue this model for sea spurge management.

s.9(2)(f)(iv)

s.9(2)(f)(iv)



<p>Enhancing our iconic Short Walks Day Hikes</p>	<p>Pillar 2: Responding to visitor pressures on conservation and the environment.</p> <p>Enhancing cultural heritage and protecting the natural environment from visitor impacts.</p> <p>Delivering system level responses to visitor pressures.</p>	<p>Yes. This is investing in the most iconic walks on public conservation land and will generate GPD</p>	<p>This track network carries significant risk of slow decline and increased deferred maintenance costs without additional IVL investment.</p>	<p>Yes – this investment is already part of 4-year plans within Operations.</p>	<p>No cost recovery is possible in the short term.</p>	<p>There are existing processes in place to ensure funding reduces tourism pressure and can report on outcomes.</p>	<p>Yes – this a key outcome for the product set.</p>
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