

# Call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) Coastal Shipping Resilience Fund

**By:** Ministry of Transport

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**EOI released:** 11 June 2025

**Deadline for Questions:** 7 August 2025

**Deadline for Applications:** 21 August 2025

Ministry of Transport  
[www.transport.govt.nz](http://www.transport.govt.nz)  
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# The opportunity

## What we need

The Ministry seeks applications for Crown grant funding to support investment in projects that will enhance the resilience of the coastal shipping sector for freight. We understand resilience in these circumstances to refer to the sector's ability to anticipate, minimise, absorb, respond to, adapt to, and recover from disruptive events.

Proposals should demonstrate that they will contribute to a coastal shipping sector that is more resilient to natural hazards, climate change and the potential for mode shift in times of disruption. Investment will be prioritised towards assets, facilities, systems or other projects which are expected to have a useful life well-beyond the funding period. Projects need not necessarily include physical infrastructure; investments in environmental sustainability, workforce development and technological integration are also possible, provided they can be maintained without ongoing Crown support.

## What we don't want

- Projects in other areas of the maritime sector that do not support freight movements, e.g. recreational users or fishing.
- Projects that require ongoing operational funding support beyond the three-year funding period. The fund is time limited, and the Government expects to invest in enduring projects that will provide benefits to the coastal shipping sector, and the wider public, well into the future.

## What's important to us?

Disruption in the coastal shipping sector could adversely affect New Zealand's supply chain, economic performance and disaster response/recovery efforts. Investment in the coastal shipping sector could make it more resilient to natural hazards and climate change risks, ensuring this mode of transport continues to play an important role in a multi-modal freight system. The Government is inviting applications for funding from the Coastal Shipping Resilience Fund, and it is important that applicants clearly demonstrate the benefits of the proposed investment, and explain why Crown funding is required to deliver the project. Proposals for co-investment, where the applicant intends to invest alongside the Crown, will be prioritised.

## Why should you apply?

The coastal shipping sector fulfils a critical role in New Zealand's freight system. It provides a safe and low emission mode for transporting large, heavy cargo such as shipping containers, cement and aggregate. There is potential to increase the use of coastal shipping as an alternative low emission mode to other freight transport. Coastal shipping has also demonstrated an ability to support communities in the aftermath of disruption from natural hazards, e.g. shipping from Tairāwhiti following Cyclone Gabrielle.

Investment in the coastal shipping sector could make it more resilient, ensuring this mode of transport continues to play an important role in a multi-modal freight system. The Government is making available a limited pool of funding to enhance the resilience of the sector and invest in improvements that would not otherwise be made.

## A bit about us

The Ministry's role is to be "The Government's System Lead on Transport". As the government's principal adviser on transport policy, the Ministry advises government on all issues relating to transport and the regulatory framework that supports it.

We also advise the government on the funding and governance of the transport Crown entities. Transport has implications for social, environmental, and economic issues, and so we have an important role in wider government discussions where these relationships are most pronounced.

At the heart of our purpose is people. Transport touches people's lives in many ways and directly affects our wellbeing. It provides people with access to social and economic opportunities and plays a critical role in supporting the productivity of our economy. Our vision is for a transport system that improves wellbeing and liveability.

# SECTION 1: Key Information

## 1.1 Context

- a. This Expression of Interest (EOI) is an invitation to apply for funding from the Coastal Shipping Resilience Fund.
- b. This EOI is being used to seek investment proposals for projects that will enhance the resilience of freight connections in the coastal shipping sector.

## 1.2 Our timeline

Here is our timeline for this EOI process:

Deadline for Questions from Applicants:	7 August 2025
Deadline for Responses from Ministry of Transport:	14 August 2025
Deadline for Applications:	21 August 2025

The Ministry will submit recommendations to Joint Ministers for approval in September and applicants will be notified of the outcome once Ministers have made investment decisions.

## 1.3 How to contact us

- a. Interested applicants are encouraged to inform the Ministry of their intention to submit an application and are welcome to discuss proposals with the Ministry before developing an application.
- b. Our Point of Contact:
  - Name: Rory Sedgley
  - Title/role: Principal Adviser, Maritime & Freight
  - Email address: [maritime@transport.govt.nz](mailto:maritime@transport.govt.nz)

## 1.4 Developing and submitting your expression of interest

- a. This is not a tender process, it is an opportunity to make the case for why part of the funding available for coastal shipping resilience should be made available to your organisation.
- b. Take time to read and understand the EOI. In particular:
  - i. understand our Requirements. These are in Section 2 of this document
  - ii. understand how your expression of interest will be evaluated. See our Evaluation Approach in Section 3 of this document.
- c. If you have any questions, contact our Point of Contact before the Deadline for Questions (see 1.2 above).
- d. Use the EOI Response Form at <https://www.transport.govt.nz/area-of-interest/maritime-transport/coastal-shipping-resilience-fund> to submit your Application.
- e. Check you have provided all the necessary information in the correct format and order.
- f. Complete and sign the declaration at the end of the Response Form.
- g. Submit your Response Form before the Deadline.

## **1.5 Address for submitting your expression of interest**

Submit your expression of interest by email to: [maritime@transport.govt.nz](mailto:maritime@transport.govt.nz) by 21 August 2025.

**We will not accept late applications, or applications sent by post or delivered to our office.**

## **1.6 Later changes to the EOI or EOI process**

- a. After publishing the EOI, if we need to change anything or provide additional information we will inform anybody who has expressed an interest in applying by email.

# SECTION 2: Our Requirements

## 2.1 Background

[In GPS 2024](#), Cabinet agreed to allocate \$30 million over three years to fund activities that focus on enhancing the resilience of coastal shipping connections for freight. The Minister of Finance, Minister of Transport and Minister for Regional Development were authorised to approve the activities funded from the Coastal Shipping Resilience Fund. The Ministry of Transport was tasked with identifying projects suitable for investment from the fund.

This EOI process seeks applications for Crown grant funding to support investment in projects that will enhance the resilience of the coastal shipping sector. Projects could conceivably invest in ancillary sectors that support the coastal shipping sector, for example, energy and fuel, weather forecasting, navigation aids, or training seafarers. Whilst the Government expects to invest in enduring projects that will provide benefits beyond the funding period, and will not commit to providing continued operational funding, proposals need not be limited to physical infrastructure alone.

## 2.2 Key outcomes

This EOI relates to the possible provision of grant funding in projects that enhance the resilience of coastal shipping connections for freight. The outcomes that we want the projects to achieve are:

#1	New Zealand’s coastal shipping sector is better able to anticipate, minimise, absorb, respond to, adapt to, and recover from disruptive events.
#2	New Zealand’s coastal shipping sector is more resilient to natural hazards and climate change adaptation, and better prepared for mode shift in times of disruption.
#3	The investment proposal should deliver assets, facilities, systems or other benefits which are expected to have a useful life well-beyond the funding period

## 2.3 Funding term

We expect that delivery of your project will commence shortly after a funding agreement is executed, and funding will cease to be available on 30 June 2028.

## SECTION 3: Our Evaluation Approach

### 3.1 Evaluation model

We will not evaluate proposals based on price, but applicants should be conscious of the finite funding available and the Government's intention to support a small number of 'landmark' projects. Value for money is important to the Government, and Ministers will want to consider the overall affordability of the package of investments. The proposed non-price evaluation criteria are set out in the table below. The Ministry will apply weighted attributes to the criteria and will be supported in the evaluation process by NZTA, Kanoa, and an expert advisory panel composed of industry representatives.

Following the evaluation process, the Ministry will make recommendations to Ministers on which projects should be funded and to what level. The Ministers of Finance, Transport and Regional Development will make final investment decisions.

### 3.2 Pre-conditions

Each application must meet the following pre-conditions. The Ministry of Transport will not consider proposals for funding which fail to meet these conditions

#	Pre-conditions
1.	The applicant/s must be based in New Zealand.
2.	The proposed investment must primarily or exclusively benefit the movement of freight by coastal shipping

### 3.3 Evaluation criteria

The Ministry of Transport will evaluate applications which meet all pre-conditions according to the following criteria and weightings.

Criteria	Weighting
<b>1. Proposed solution delivers against investment objectives</b>  The applicant should clearly describe how the proposed investment delivers against the Government's objective of enhancing the resilience of the coastal shipping sector for freight. Applicants should identify a specific problem or challenge that their proposal would address and explain why funding from the Crown is necessary to deliver the project. If possible, applicants should describe how they identified their proposal as the preferred option to address the problem, and why alternatives were discounted. Applicants should demonstrate the value for money provided by the project, including how the enduring benefits of the investment will be realised by the coastal shipping sector and the wider public.	50%
<b>2. Ability of the applicant to deliver in timeframe</b>  The applicant must demonstrate they have, or will allocate, the resources required to create a well-supported, multi-disciplinary team that has the skills and expertise to implement the project in the desired timeframe. The applicant should demonstrate capability within their team to deliver projects of a similar type and scale.	30%
<b>3. Level and certainty of applicant providing co-investment</b>  The applicant should describe and provide evidence of the level and certainty of co-investment that it intends to contribute. This could be an 'in-kind' or ongoing contribution, for example where the Crown provides upfront capital, and the applicant assumes responsibility for project delivery, operating costs and maintenance etc. If no financial co-investment is proposed, the applicant should describe the public benefits that warrant Crown funding.	10%
<b>4. Commitment to delivery and project leadership</b>  The applicant must demonstrate commitment to the implementation of the project. The applicant should demonstrate senior leadership commitment across all levels with clear governance and decision-making roles described. The applicant should demonstrate that the local community, or those particularly affected by the project, support the proposal.	10%
<b>Total weightings</b>	<b>100%</b>



### 3.4 Scoring

Rating	Definition	Score
<b>EXCELLENT</b>	Applicant demonstrates exceptional ability, understanding, experience and skills. Response identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	<b>9-10</b>
<b>GOOD</b>	Applicant demonstrates above average ability, understanding, experience and skills. Response identifies minor additional benefits, with supporting evidence.	<b>7-8</b>
<b>ACCEPTABLE</b>	Applicant demonstrates the ability to meet the criteria, with supporting evidence.	<b>5-6</b>
<b>RESERVATIONS</b>	Satisfies a minimum of the criteria but not all. Reservations about the ability of the applicant to adequately meet the criteria. Little supporting evidence.	<b>3-4</b>
<b>SERIOUS RESERVATIONS</b>	Extremely limited or no supporting evidence to meet the criteria. Minimum effort made to meet the criteria.	<b>1-2</b>
<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>	Does not comply or meet the criteria at all. Insufficient information to demonstrate the criteria.	<b>0</b>

### 3.5 Due diligence

In relation to evaluated Respondents, we may:

- Reference check the Respondent and any named personnel.
- Make other checks against the Respondent e.g. a search of the Companies Office or NZBN, credit check.
- Request Respondents make a presentation