



IN-CONFIDENCE

Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2018-20 - Finalisation

Date: 15 November 2018
Report No: SSC2018/985
Contact: Catherine Williams, Deputy Commissioner, Integrity, Ethics & Standards
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	Action Sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister of State Services	Agree to the SSC submitting the OGP National Action Plan 2018-20 to the OGP Secretariat without further recourse to Cabinet	

Enclosures: - Draft Open Government Partnership National Action Plan 2018-20
- Summary of Public Comments on draft Plan 2018-20 and Responses

Executive Summary

The period for public comment on the draft Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2018-20 (the Plan) has closed.

Twenty-four replies to our request for comments were received from members of the public and civil society organisations. The OGP Secretariat also commented on the draft. The process has generated constructive, useful feedback and we have made changes to the Plan to improve robustness and clarity of the draft commitments and milestones. Lead agencies suggested these changes in response to the comments.

Minister's Office Comments

Comments:	
Date returned to SSC:	

Recommended Action

We recommend that you:

- a) **note** the contents of this report
- b) **agree** to the SSC submitting the OGP National Action Plan 2018-20 to the OGP Secretariat without further recourse to Cabinet

Agree/disagree

- c) **agree** to publication of the Plan on the OGP NZ website as soon as practical

Agree/disagree

- d) **note** we will provide you with a final publication copy prior to publication date and will liaise with your Office on the timing and details of publication

- e) **agree** that we release this briefing in full once it has been considered by you.

Agree/disagree.



Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister of State Services

SSC Report: OGP National Action Plan 2018-20 - Finalisation

Purpose of Report

- 1 This paper reports on the results of the public comment phase for the draft OGP National Action Plan 2018-20 (the Plan) and asks you to agree to the SSC publishing the completed Plan and submitting it to OGP International. An updated draft Plan is attached.

Analysis

- 2 Cabinet authorised the publication of the draft Plan for public comment [DEV-18-MIN-0197 refers]. The draft Plan was published on the SSC website on 20 September and was open for public comment until 17 October 2018.
- 3 The release for public comment was supported by e-mail messages to approximately 800 people on our OGP email list and over 4,000 people on social media. Reminders have also been posted from time to time.

Comments from the public

- 4 Twenty-four replies to our request for comments were received from members of the public and civil society organisations. The comments were referred to the lead agencies for their consideration. A summary of the comments and agencies' responses is attached.
- 5 This final public engagement has been valuable and constructive. Several comments provided positive feedback on the draft Plan, and/or acknowledged improvements in the public engagement approach to develop the Plan. There were suggestions for amended or new commitments. Other comments focused on improvement to government services but were not directly relevant to the draft Plan or open government generally.
- 6 We do not recommend making material changes to the Plan in light of these comments, but do recommend several amendments that strengthen and clarify aspects of the commitments.
- 7 We do not recommend adding new commitments that have not been through the full public engagement process; they may be relevant for future National Action Plans or agencies' wider work.

Comments from the OGP Secretariat

- 8 We also provided the draft plan to the OGP Secretariat (in accordance with its processes) for its feedback. Overall the Secretariat's comments were complimentary and made a number of suggestions to improve the Plan, in particular to:
 - provide greater clarity about the problem each commitment addresses and the linkage between the commitment milestones and the problem being addressed
 - consider the timing/phasing of milestones
 - provide greater clarity about how civil society will be engaged (if that is the case) in the implementation of each commitment
 - consider how we will verify that commitments that involve 'exploring', 'promoting' or 'engaging' have done so.

- 9 The Secretariat asked us to note that its review of the draft Plan “is not an endorsement of the scope or ambition of ...the action plan, which will be separately assessed” by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM) researcher.

Responses to all comments

- 10 We have discussed these comments and suggestions with the relevant lead agencies. As a result:
- amendments have been made to make the Plan more robust and clarify aspects of the commitments
 - the many comments that provided useful suggestions to agencies about the implementation of commitments, including suggestions for civil society engagement during implementation, have been noted by lead agencies
 - agencies will, in their quarterly reporting, describe the processes they intend to use to engage civil society and to verify that engagement and its results.
- 11 In addition, the Plan has been updated to describe this final public engagement and the process to finalise the Plan.
- 12 The Expert Advisory Panel has considered the comments and supports the suggested changes to the Plan.

Ministerial Foreword

- 13 The Ministerial Foreword in the draft Plan reflects general open government matters as they relate to the Government's overall priorities.

Next Steps

- 14 The current draft of the Plan does not differ materially from that previously considered by Cabinet. We recommend that you authorise us to publish the Plan and submit it to the OGP Secretariat without further recourse to Cabinet.
- 15 We will prepare the Plan for publication and provide a copy to you before it is released on the OGP NZ website and sent to the OGP Secretariat. We will publish on the OGP NZ website the comments received on the draft Plan, the summary of comments and the response to them.
- 16 OGP International will also load the Plan on its website.
- 17 We will work with your Office to publicise the release the Plan in concert with its publication and transmission to the OGP Secretariat.