



OIA22-0900

P.J. Golden
fyi-request-21295-dd433c20@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear P.J. Golden

Thank you for your email of 29 November 2022 requesting information relating to the Trust Alliance NZ (TANZ) application to the Integrated Farm Planning (IFP) Accelerator fund for the delivery of a digital wallet project. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

Your request was transferred to the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for reply by the office of Hon Damien O'Connor, Minister of Agriculture on 1 December 2022.

You requested the following:

Trust Alliance NZ has been allocated almost \$900,000 to create a digital wallet for farmers and growers, to improve the efficiency of sharing their verified farm information with regulators, regional councils, and processors. Trust Alliance NZ itself has little information regarding their portfolio on their website or social media so the request is for information on how this allocation decision for a digital wallet provider was made. Examples include:

- a) materials provided by Trust Alliance NZ or TrackBack Limited*
- b) evaluations of Trust Alliance NZ or TrackBack Limited by the Minister or MPI*
- c) timelines or details of delivery of a digital wallet by Trust Alliance NZ or TrackBack Limited*
- d) alternative companies or organisations considered for the delivery of a digital wallet.*

The Integrated Farm Planning (IFP) Accelerator Fund invests in initiatives that help farmers, growers, and whenua Māori owners adopt an integrated approach to their farm planning.

Integrated farm planning involves different aspects of existing, farm management, planning and reporting responsibilities. It allows farmers and growers to make the most efficient use of their data. It also helps them respond to future changes, such as new regulations or evolving market requirements.

Taking this whole-farm approach to planning will streamline compliance and reduce duplication. It also provides a structured approach for food and fibre producers to better identify risks and opportunities that help lift performance and meet their business goals.

The IPF fund opened on the 14 April 2022 and closed for the first phase on the 25 May 2022, the second phase closed on the 31 August 2022. The fund received a total of 70 applications. MPI appointed a five-member panel to assess the applications and the panel recommended 37 of them for funding. The TANZ application concerning the delivery of a digital wallet project was one of the 37 projects recommended for funding. No other digital wallet proposals were received.

An evaluation of TANZ Ltd was undertaken by MPI as part of our due diligence check on all IFP Accelerator Fund applications received. Assessments of all applications were by an independent panel against specific criteria. Copies of these evaluations and assessments are withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.
- Section 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied.

Further information about the IFP Accelerator Fund and the projects that successfully applied for phase 1 and phase 2 funding is available on our website: www.mpi.govt.nz/funding-rural-support/farming-funds-and-programmes/integrated-farm-planning-work-programme/integrated-farm-planning-accelerator-fund/.

Please find attached as Appendix One a copy of TANZ's IFP Accelerator Fund application form which includes details about the project and information on timelines. Some information has been withheld pursuant to the following sections of the OIA:

- Section 9(2)(a) - *to protect the privacy of natural persons.*
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) - *to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who is the subject of the information.*
- Section 9(2)(j) - *to enable a Minister of the Crown or any department or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, negotiations, (including commercial and industrial negotiations).*

MPI is satisfied that in the circumstances of this case, the withholding of the information is not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable in the public interest to make the information available.

In response to your request for information about TrackBack Ltd, MPI has not received an application from TrackBack Ltd, nor is Trust Alliance NZ working with TrackBack NZ on the project.

I trust the information provided is of assistance. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise these with the Ministry for Primary Industries at Official.InformationAct@mpi.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Contact details are: Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143 or at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely



Steve Pehno
Director, Investment Programmes