

PIJF Emergency Resilience Funding

March 2023

The Public Interest Journalism Fund (PIJF) had seven funding recipients impacted by cyclone Gabrielle in February 2023. All found they were disrupted in delivering critical public interest journalism (PIJ) during and in the immediate wake of the disaster, due to a lack of emergency infrastructure including power and communications. To ensure PIJF recipients can maintain delivery of PIJ as contracted, and as vitally needed by impacted regional audiences, the PIJF will allow an exceptional request for additional one-off funding to cover fixed costs including capital costs that support emergency resilience.

Recipients will be invited to apply for additional one-off funding on the provision of a detailed list of equipment and/or staffing requirements that ensure they can deliver to the contractual requirements of their PIJ funding, both throughout the duration of their contracts and in future reasonably foreseen civil defence emergencies. Approval of such additional funding will be at the discretion of NZ On Air and **applications will close on Friday 7 April 2023.**

Capital expenditure has generally not been funded by the PIJF to ensure the funding was focused on its three pillars: roles, projects and industry development. However, this type of funding was considered in the design of the PIJF and the Cabinet paper does allow for the PIJF to provide 'necessary infrastructure support'.

While the Fund has closed its final general contestable round, a limited amount of funding has been returned from PIJF projects coming in under budget so some of these funds will be re-directed to assist PIJF recipients on the above basis.

Criteria

This funding would be offered as additional funding to PIJF recipients whose ability to provide PIJ was critically compromised during the recent weather emergency. It will be provided to those that can demonstrate costs associated with improving or rebuilding infrastructure or services that support delivery of PIJ. A funding cap will be established to ensure an equitable approach to funding distribution across recipients once the level of need is clear.