

IMPROVED PUBLIC SECTOR EFFICIENCY

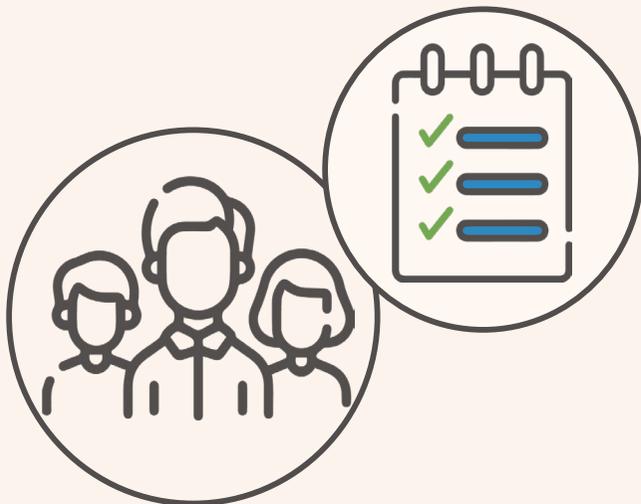
Improving the performance of our public sector will free up resources to be directed to other priorities, increasing the standard of living.

Due to the challenges faced by a small, remote nation, the public sector of the Cook Islands plays a proportionally larger role in the economy than that of a larger nation with more economic diversity. This is especially true in the Pa Enua, where the smaller populations and limited links to the wider world mean private sector activity is very limited.

The large role played by the public sector makes improving the efficiency of that sector even more important. There are a number of paths for this improvement to take, with various ministries and public sector bodies working more closely together likely to yield more immediate gains. The EDS outlined a number of longer-term approaches to improving public sector efficiency, such as a public expenditure review and

agency core functions review. This work may identify areas where work is unnecessarily duplicated across government, or where improvements in processes could lead to improved efficiency, amongst other areas.

Greater efficiency in the public sector will allow for resources to be redirected to addressing other priorities, and providing support in manners which are not currently possible.



Economic Development Strategy Actions related to this focus area:

| No. | Action | Lead Agency | Details | Indicative timing |
|------|---|-------------|---|-------------------|
| 2.7 | PEFA review | MFEM | Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability review by the IMF | 2021 |
| 2.9 | Public expenditure review | MFEM | Review the performance and expenditure of all agencies every four years | 2022 |
| 2.10 | Agency core functions review | OPSC | Review of core functions to improve efficiency | 2022 |
| 3.15 | Public sector life-long learning policy | OPSC | Review and develop policy to deliver training and development opportunities for public sector employees | 2022 |

