

EDB DPP4 Workshop on innovation and non-traditional solutions: Agenda and discussion topics

The purpose of this workshop is to seek feedback from stakeholders on our early thinking on incentivising innovation and the use of non-traditional solutions within the DPP regime (and specifically on how the Innovation and Non-Traditional Solutions Allowance (INTSA) could be used).

This document sets out the agenda and the topics we would like to discuss with you. This agenda and the full slide pack are also available on our website.

Our emerging views reflect preliminary thinking of Commission staff only. It does not reflect Commission positions or in any way prevent the Commission from taking different positions on the relevant matters.

We are circulating this agenda and the full slide pack in advance to give stakeholders time to prepare for the workshop and decide who best should participate given the proposed content. Registrations remain open until the time the workshop commences on Monday, 4 March at 10.00am. Following the workshop, we invite written feedback on Commission staff emerging views until end of the day, Tuesday 19 March 2024.

10.00am – 10.05am	Welcome and introduction		
<p>Purpose: To welcome workshop participants, and to explain how the workshop will operate with discussion groups.</p> <p>Introduction focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening karakia • Introductions • Opening remarks • How we will run the discussion groups 			
10:05am – 10.25am	Role of innovation in the DPP regime, scope of the INTSA and where we are in the policy development		
<p>Purpose: To provide an overview of the role of innovation in the DPP regime, with specific focus on opportunity for innovation during DPP4. To outline the baseline thinking about how the INTSA fits within the wider DPP regime. To introduce some illustrative examples of what we could consider in the development of the INTSA scheme.</p> <p>Key topics covered in the slide pack</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution from the DPP3 Innovation Project Allowance (IPA) to the creation of the INTSA from DPP4 onwards • Stakeholder feedback on principles and characteristics presented in the DPP4 Issues paper • Illustrative examples –potential scope of an INTSA scheme • Next steps in the policy development <p>Staff emerging view: We consider there is an opportunity over the DPP4 period to support innovative projects and non-traditional solutions through the settings for the INTSA. We need to understand more about how stakeholders see the role of the INTSA so we can best meet the objectives for the allowance.</p>			
10.25-10:55am	Discussion session 1: Illustrative examples for potential INTSA scheme design		
<p>Purpose: To discuss the opportunity space for the policy design for the INTSA.</p> <p>Staff emerging view: The opportunity presented by the INTSA exists alongside EDBs’ other choices for how they initiate and fund innovation projects and non-traditional solutions. An INTSA would not be the only way innovative projects and non-traditional solutions could be funded. We have developed illustrative examples for potential scheme design. We are seeking feedback on these examples to assist in the policy development of an INTSA scheme.</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of projects – eg, How would EDBs want to use the INTSA in DPP4; would that be different in the DPP5 period? • Safeguards for consumers: eg, How can we design the INTSA so that it manages the risk burden for consumers? • Designing INTSA scheme accessibility: eg, How can we design a user-friendly INTSA scheme so EDBs can part-fund and deliver innovative projects and non-traditional solutions? 			

10:55-11:25am	Discussion session 2: Setting the characteristics
<p>Purpose: To seek feedback from stakeholders on the settings that could make an INTSA scheme workable for EDBs and promote the long-term benefit of consumers. To identify and discuss the inherent trade-offs that could arise in setting the characteristics.</p> <p>Staff emerging view: We have an opportunity to design an INTSA that supports EDBs to try innovative projects and non-traditional solutions. In considering different scheme options, we must consider the trade-offs between each characteristic; including approval timing; project type definitions; the share of expenditure; and what supporting evidence should be required. The combination of characteristics will form an overall risk allocation between EDBs and consumers.</p> <p>Discussion topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conditions – eg, Conditions EDBs must meet to fulfil INTSA scheme requirements; eg, project closure reports - sharing the learning from projects and the expected benefits for consumers • Project type definition – eg, Would it be better for the project type definition to be specific or general to allow greater accessibility? • Share of recoverable expenditure - eg, What share of potential project costs should be recoverable under an INTSA scheme? • Supporting evidence - eg, What type of supporting evidence should be required to ensure an INTSA is workable for EDBs, but protects consumers? 	
11:25am – 11:55am	Session 4: Open discussion and sharing of takeaways from the workshop
<p>Purpose: To allow time for stakeholders to share any feedback they have not yet had an opportunity to bring to the workshop discussions, or to seek clarification on any points of discussion. To allow time for Commission staff to reflect back the key points they have heard stakeholders make in the course of the workshop.</p> <p>Discussion focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other information or feedback stakeholders would like to share with Commission staff at this time. • Reflections from Commission staff on what has been discussed and how it will be factored into the policy development. 	
11.55am – 12.00pm	Next steps and workshop close
<p>Purpose: To thank workshop attendees for their participation and to explain next steps in our policy development process.</p> <p>Next steps and closing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder of the submissions period following the workshop, and how to make a submission • Other opportunities to provide input to the policy development of an INTSA scheme • Closing Karakia 	