



**Building a better working world**

## Independent Limited Assurance Report to the Directors and Management of Bank of New Zealand

### Assurance conclusion

Based on our limited assurance procedures performed and the evidence we have obtained, nothing came to our attention that causes us to believe that Bank of New Zealand's ('BNZ') Sustainable Finance Figures as at 30 September 2024 do not meet, in all material respects, the requirements of the Criteria defined below.

### Scope

Ernst & Young Limited ('EY') has performed a limited assurance engagement, as defined by International Standards on Assurance Engagements, to report on BNZ's Sustainable Finance Figures (as explained below) disclosed within BNZ's Climate Statement 2024 (the 'Report') on page 47, for the year ended 30 September 2024.

### Criteria applied by BNZ

In preparing the Subject Matter, BNZ applied the following Criteria:

Subject Matter	Criteria
BNZ's Sustainable Finance Figures for the year ended 30 September 2024, specifically the following values:  Facilitated transactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NZ\$ 3.294bn of international bonds</li> </ul> New finance or refinanced transactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NZ\$0.251bn of green loans</li> <li>NZ\$ 0.020bn of social loans</li> <li>NZ\$ 0.088bn of sustainability-linked loans</li> <li>NZ\$ 0.339bn of eligible sector finance</li> </ul>	BNZ's Sustainable Finance Framework

BNZ's Sustainable Finance Framework (the 'Criteria') is specifically designed for reporting BNZ's Sustainable Finance Figures and as a result, the Subject Matter information may not be suitable for another purpose.

Other than as described in the preceding paragraph, which sets out the Subject Matter and Criteria of our engagement, we did not perform assurance procedures on the remaining information included in the Report and accordingly we do not express a conclusion on this information.

### Management Responsibility

BNZ's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for ensuring that the Subject Matter meets the requirements of the Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant to the preparation of the subject matter, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### EY's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a limited assurance conclusion on the whether the Subject Matter meets, in all material respects, the requirements of the Criteria based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained.

Our engagement was conducted in accordance with the International Standard for Assurance Engagements (New Zealand): *Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* ('ISAE (NZ) 3000'). The standard requires that we plan and perform this engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the Subject Matter meets, in all material respects, the requirements of the Criteria. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusion.

Other than in our capacity as independent assurance practitioner we have no relationship with, or interest in BNZ. Partners and employees of our firm may deal with BNZ on normal terms within the ordinary course of trading activities of the business of the BNZ.

### Our Independence and Quality Management

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International*



## Building a better working world

*Independence Standards* (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies Professional and Ethical Standard 3 *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, which requires the firm to design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

### Description of procedures performed

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than, for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the report and related information and applying analytical and other relevant procedures.

Our procedures included:

- ▶ Conducting interviews with personnel to understand the business and reporting process, including the processes for collecting, collating and reporting the subject matter during the reporting period
- ▶ Requesting documentation supporting assertions made in the Subject Matter.
- ▶ Checking that the sustainable finance eligibility criteria have been correctly applied in accordance with the methodologies outlined in the Criteria
- ▶ Testing on a sample basis the value of sustainable finance transactions

- ▶ Testing on a sample basis, underlying source information to check the accuracy of the data
- ▶ Seeking management representation on key assertions

We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

### Inherent limitations

Because of the inherent limitations of an assurance engagement, together with the internal control structure it is possible that fraud, error, or non application of the Criteria may occur and not be detected.

A limited assurance engagement related to the Criteria as at 30 September 2024 does not provide assurance on whether application of the Criteria will continue in the future or whether the Criteria will be revised at a future date.

### Use of our Assurance Report

We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this assurance report to any persons other than Management and the Directors of BNZ, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

*Ernst & Young Limited*

Ernst & Young Limited  
Auckland, New Zealand  
9 December 2022