



# INNOVATIVE NZ

## Investing in Antarctic Science

### Overview

This funding will increase investment in the Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF) to provide stable funding for underpinning, longer-term Antarctic science critical to maximising scientific and strategic benefits for New Zealand. The goals of the platform are to:

- improve scientific understanding of pressing issues such as climate change and ecosystem resilience,
- safeguard the strategic benefits of New Zealand’s scientific activity in Antarctica, and
- optimise the value and impact of Antarctic science and Antarctic-related expenditure.



(\$m)	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Total
Existing Funding	-	-	-	-	-
New Funding	-	7.0	7.0	7.0	21.0
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>

### FAQs

#### What is the new money for?

The funding will support Antarctic science, including both science that is conducted in Antarctica and science about Antarctica that is conducted elsewhere, such as research using existing Antarctic data.

The funding will be managed as a SSIF platform. A platform is a combination of people, facilities, information and knowledge that provide a particular, ongoing science and innovation capability for New Zealand. See the SSIF Investment Plan 2017-2024 for high level investment signals (<http://www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/science-innovation/investment-funding/how-we-invest/strategic-science-investment-fund/document-image-library/ssif-investment-plan.pdf>). Each platform host will have a platform plan that is negotiated with MBIE.



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### **Who will get it?**

MBIE will run a process in 2017 to identify the best platform host. A negotiated partnership between MBIE and the platform host will ensure the platform delivers what it needs to.

### **How will it be accessed?**

Once the platform is set up, the platform host will run a fair and transparent process to allocate the funding to specific scientific projects. This process will be developed once the successful host has been selected.

### **How does this fit with the National Statement of Science Investment?**

The NSSI pillars of excellence and impact apply to all science funded through the platform. Antarctic science is highly internationally collaborative, so the platform will contribute directly to the NSSI goal to improve New Zealand's reputation as a high-quality R&D destination.

### **Why this initiative? What impact is expected?**

A strong, internationally connected and respected Antarctic science programme is of particular scientific and strategic importance to New Zealand. A stable funding environment will enable strategic planning of what science is done and the logistics required to support it.

### **Scientific benefits**

- Improved understanding of Antarctica's role in New Zealand and global climate and weather can lead to more accurate predictions, models and planning for events or long term changes.
- Understanding of how ecosystems that are relatively unmodified by humans function can be applied to other ecosystems to inform restoration, resilience, planning and decision-making.
- New Zealand can keep pace scientifically with other countries and continue to make timely, meaningful contributions to Antarctic science.

### **Foreign policy and reputational benefits**

- New Zealand can maintain relationships with other key countries in order to remain influential in Antarctic Treaty System.
- New Zealand can meet the new science needs arising from our key role in establishing the new marine protected area in the Ross Sea.

### **Optimised government expenditure**

- Stable funding enables strategic planning for logistics several years in advance, which will allow optimal use of logistics funding and the ability to leverage overseas funding opportunities.

### **What is the role of Antarctica New Zealand?**

Antarctica New Zealand manages the logistics required to support science conducted in Antarctica. Antarctica New Zealand will be closely involved in the design processes for the new platform, along with other relevant organisations.