



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

He Ara Whakahihiko Capability Fund Webinar and Q&A

Wednesday 17 June 2026





MBIE Karakia

Tāwhia tō mana kia mau, kia māia

Ka huri taku aro ki te pae kahurangi,
kei reira te oranga mōku

Mā mahi tahi, ka ora, ka puāwai

Ā mātau mahi katoa, ka pono, ka tika

TIHEI MAURI ORA

TRANSLATION:

Retain and hold fast to your mana, be bold, be brave

We turn our attention to the future, that's where the opportunities lie

By working together we will flourish and achieve greatness

Taking responsibility to commit to doing things right

TIHEI MAURI ORA

MĀIA
BOLD & BRAVE

**PAE
KAHURANGI**
BUILD OUR FUTURE

MAHI TAHI
BETTER TOGETHER

**PONO
ME TE TIKA**
OWN IT




**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Housekeeping


Use the **Q&A FUNCTION** to ask questions as they come to you (not the chat function)

Questions will be read out and responded to after the presentation

A recording of the webinar (slides and transcript) will be available on our website by mid-July



Outline

- ❑ Overview of the Fund
 - ❑ Application and Assessment Process
 - ❑ Accessing Pītau
 - ❑ Advice to Applicants
- 

Overview of the Fund



The Fund's Aim | Te Whāinga o te Tahua

INCREASE UNDERSTANDING of how scientific research* can contribute to realising the potential of the Māori economy and deliver benefit for New Zealand, with a focus on promoting economic growth, implementation, impact and partnerships, and

STRENGTHEN CAPABILITY, CAPACITY, SKILLS and **NETWORKS** between Māori and the science, innovation and technology system.



Investment Schemes | Ngā Kaupapa Haumitanga

Ara Whaihua (Impact Pathways for Research)

Focuses on scientific research that is ready to be implemented, rather than exploratory. It invests in work programmes that focus primarily on **commercialisation** and **promoting economic growth** from science

Rangapū Rangahau (Research Partnerships)

Partnerships between research organisations and Māori to undertake SI&T relevant research focussing on economic outcomes, including environmental outcomes with clear economic benefits, aligned with the Science Investment Plan

Capability building fund

*Existing relationships are eligible but the proposal needs to **clearly go above business as usual and build new capability***



Funding Available | He aha te pūtea e wātea ana?



Approximately **\$8.6*** million per year is available to fund successful new projects in the 2027 HAWCF investment round



Ara Whaihua: projects of **1 year** at **\$100,000*** (**\$2.1 million allocation**)



Rangapū Rangahau: projects of **2 years** at **\$350,000*** (**\$6.5 million allocation**)



**Note all funding amounts are exclusive of GST*

2027 Investment Round | Key Changes

Decision maker

Research Funding New Zealand (RFNZ) makes the investment decisions

One consistent definition

Māori-facing organisation is any organisation that has a clearly identified Māori individual or group(s) who play a central role in shaping, guiding, and delivering the proposed work

Economic outcomes

All proposals to have economic outcomes; environmental proposals should explain a clear economic pathway and benefit



Alignment to Priority Pillars

Primary
Industries and
Bioeconomy


Technology for
Prosperity

Environmental
Sustainability
and Resilience


Healthy
People and a
Thriving
Society




Ara Whaihua Eligibility Criteria | Ko wai e āhei ana ki te tono?




Be made by a New Zealand based **single legal entity**




Be made by a **Māori-facing Organisation** or a **Māori Research Organisation**




Be for activities relating to the **translation of existing or new science** to address a known problem or identify a route to market.




Be for activities that clearly **align with the funding purpose** and requirements of the scheme as outlined in the Investment Plan




Work Programme **not** already funded by another Government funding scheme.




Not include any full time tertiary or school students.




Be for **science translation activities** where majority of work **occurs** in New Zealand




Not benefit a Russian state institution or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort



Be made by a applicant who is **not** in breach of a MBIE science funding contract



Be submitted via **Pitau** (MBIE's online portal)



Address **one or more** Vision Mātauranga themes: Taiao, Indigenous Innovation and/or Mātauranga

Key Ara Whaihua Eligibility Criteria | Ko wai e āhei ana ki te tono?

Be made by a Māori-facing organisation **or a** Māori Research organisation

Be for activities relating to the translation of existing or new science to address a known problem or identify a route to market

Be for activities that clearly align with the funding purpose and requirements of the scheme as outlined in the Investment Plan

Address **one or more** Vision Mātauranga themes: Taiao, Indigenous Innovation and/or Mātauranga.



Rangapū Rangahau Eligibility Criteria | Ko wai e āhei ana ki te tono?



Be made by a NZ based **single legal entity**



Be made by a **Māori-facing Organisation or a Research Organisation**



Be **co-developed** between at least one research organisation and one Māori-facing organisation with a supporting co-development letter



Work Programme **not** already funded by another Government funding scheme



Not include activities that are eligible for funding from Ministry of Education



Not include any full time tertiary or school students.



Majority of work **occurs** in New Zealand.



Not benefit a Russian state institution or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort.



Be made by a applicant who is **not** in breach of a MBIE science funding contract



Be submitted via **Pitau** (MBIE's online portal).



Be for activities that clearly align with the funding purpose and requirements of the scheme



Address **one or more** Vision Mātauranga themes: Taiao, Indigenous Innovation and/or Mātauranga.



Key Rangapū Rangahau Eligibility Criteria | Ko wai e āhei ana ki te tono?

Include **BOTH** a Research organisation and a Māori-facing organisation

Be **co-developed** between the research organisation and the Māori-facing organisation(s) with a supporting co-development letter

Be for activities that clearly align with the funding purpose and requirements of the scheme as outlined in the Investment Plan

Address **one or more** Vision Mātauranga themes: Taiao, Indigenous Innovation and/or Mātauranga.



Vision Mātauranga Policy Themes

Indigenous Innovation



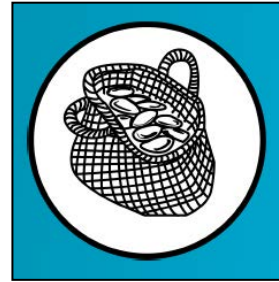
Contributing to economic growth through distinctive science and innovation

Taiao



Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea

Mātauranga



Exploring indigenous knowledge and science and innovation

Hauora/Oranga



Improving health and social wellbeing

*HAWCF proposals **must not** primarily address the hauora theme. Proposals must align with the intent of the Fund.*



Application and Assessment Process



Key Documents

- Investment Plan
- Gazette Notice
- Call for Proposals x2
- Proposal Templates x2
- Assessment and Scoring Guidance x2
- Combined Progress and Final Reporting Templates x2
- Contract Templates x2

Documents can be found on the [He Ara Whakahihiko Capability Fund webpage](#)

He Ara Whakahihiko Capability Fund

The He Ara Whakahihiko Capability Fund supports economic growth by investing in and growing Māori science, innovation and technology (SI&T) by strengthening the capability, capacity, skills and networks between the Māori economy and the SI&T system.

On this page | **tēnei whārangi**

↓ [The Fund's aim](#)

↓ [The funding available](#)

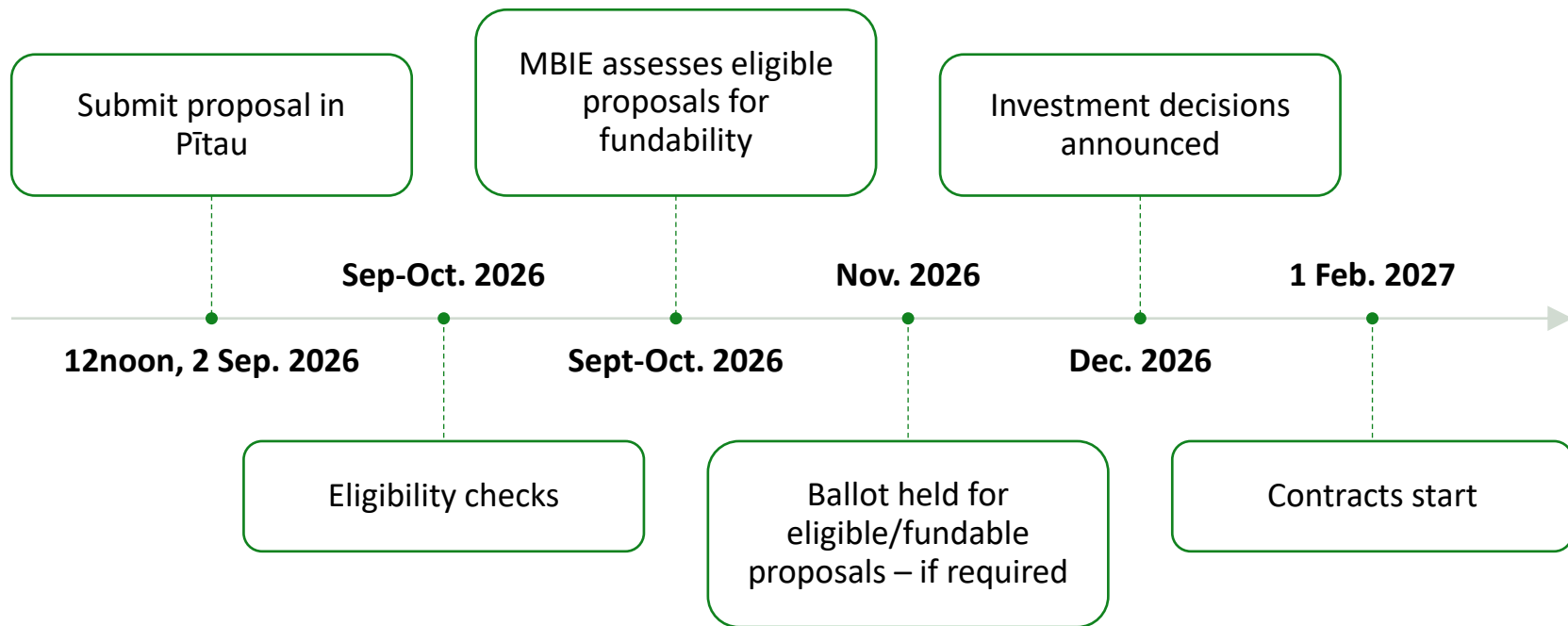
↓ [Webinar for 2027 round applicants](#)

↓ [Key documents](#)

↓ [Contact](#)



Ara Whaihua Application and Assessment Process | Te Tukanga Tono Me Te Aromatawai

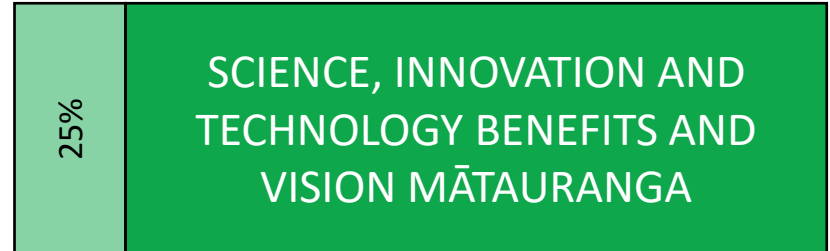


Ara Whaihua Assessment Criteria | Ngā paearu aromatawai

EXCELLENCE | KAIRANGITANGA

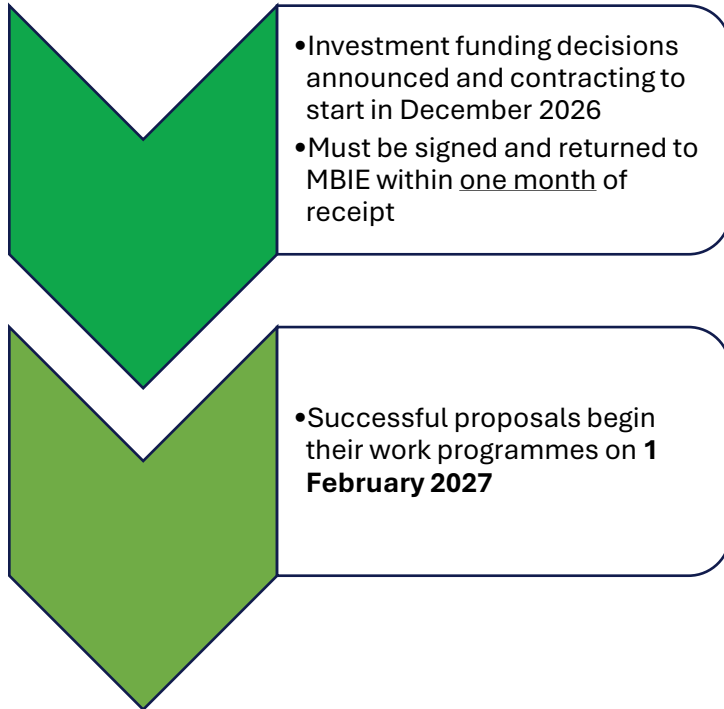


IMPACT | PĀPĀTANGA

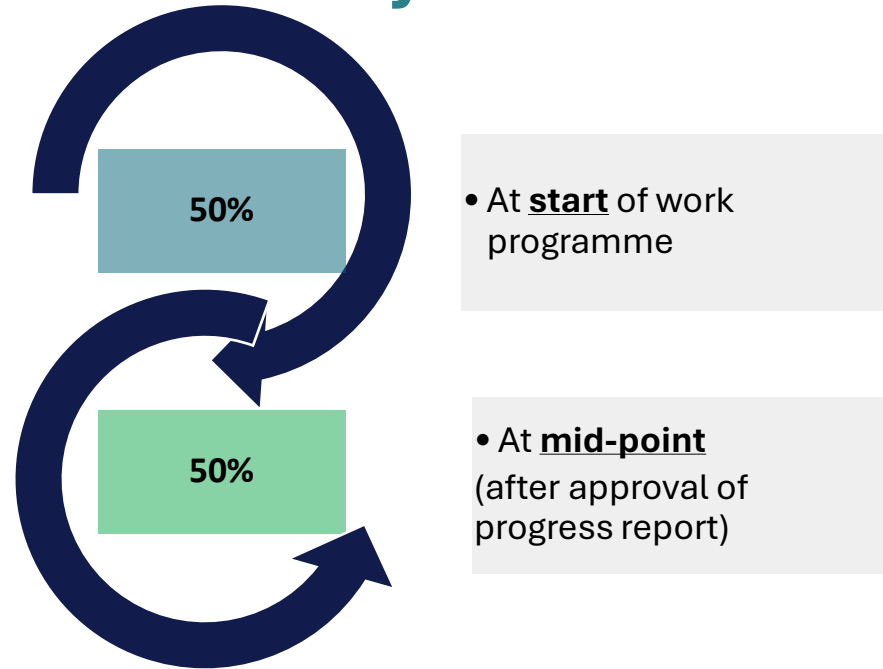


Ara Whaihua Contracting and Payments Process

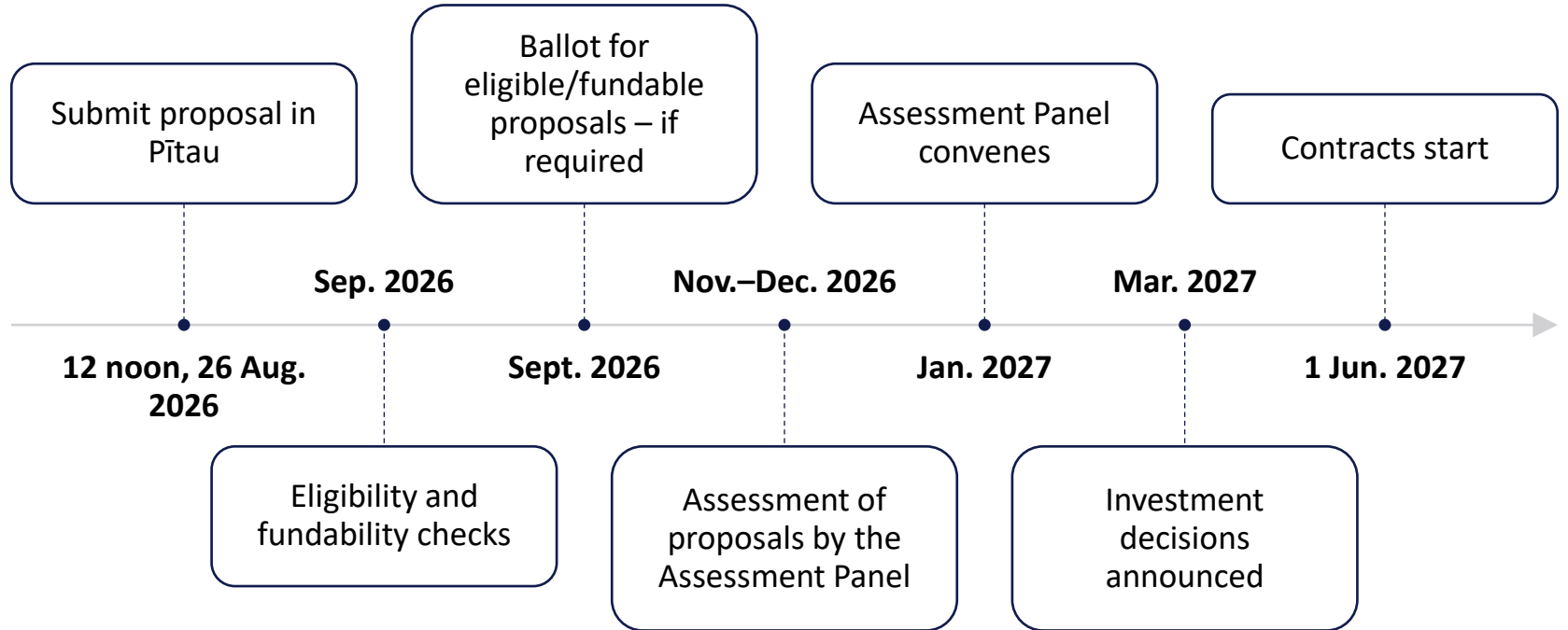
Contracting



Payments



Rangapū Rangahau Application and Assessment Process | Te Tukanga Tono Me Te Aromatawai

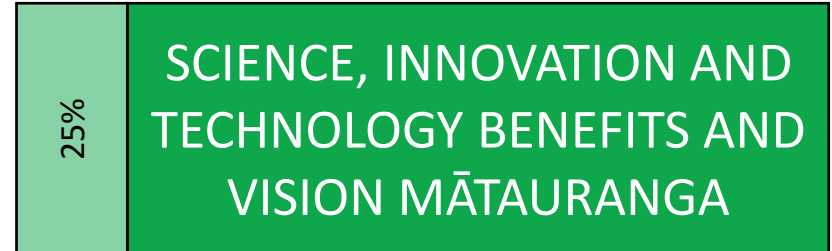


Rangapū Rangahau Assessment Criteria | Ngā paearu aromatawai

EXCELLENCE | KAIRANGITANGA

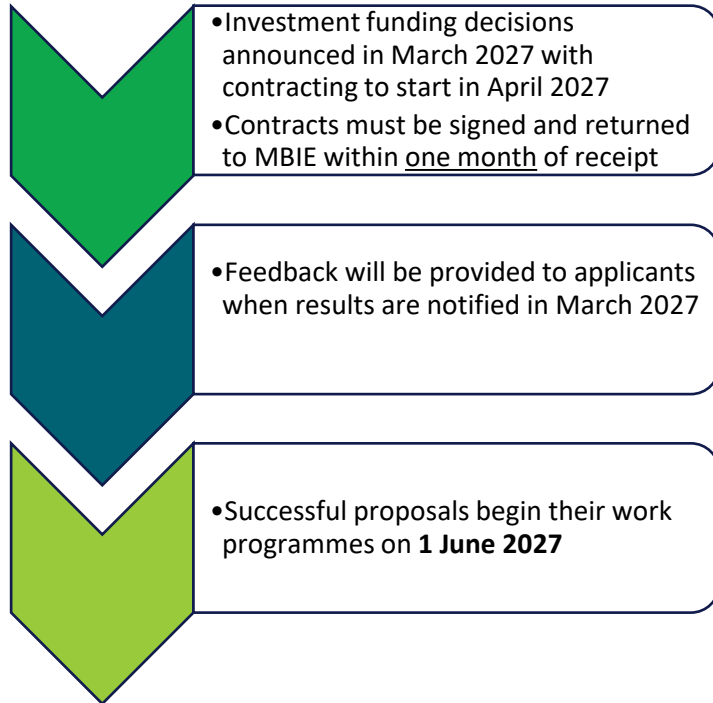


IMPACT | PĀPĀTANGA

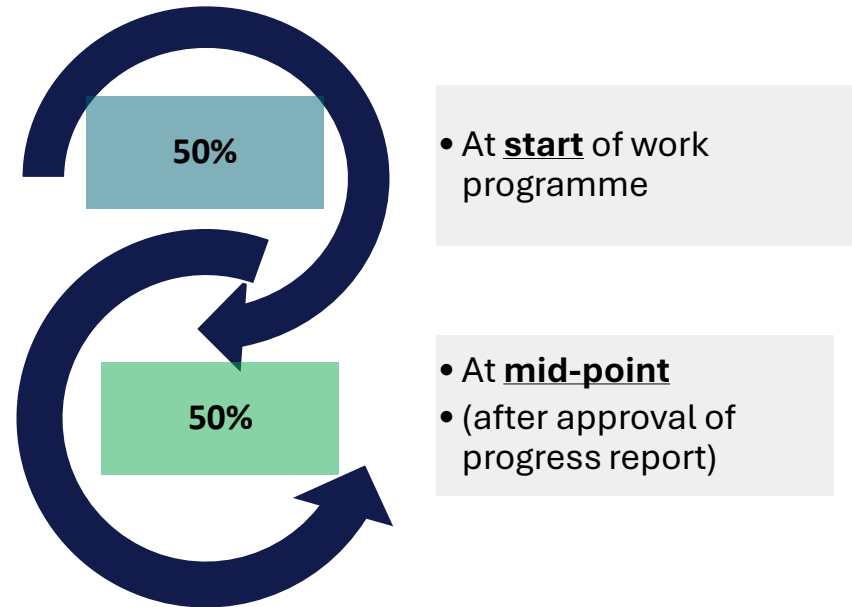


Rangapū Rangahau Contracting and Payments Process

Contracting



Payments



Rangapū Rangahau Assessment Panel

An external Assessment Panel will be appointed to assess the Rangapū Rangahau proposals

The names and biographies of the panel members will be published online by mid-July 2026

The panel will assess ALL eligible and fundable proposals, up to a maximum of 70 proposals

What does eligibility/fundability mean?



Eligible proposals are those that meet ALL of the listed eligibility criteria



Fundable proposals are those that meet the minimum funding threshold which are:



Ara Whaihua proposals must score a “4” or higher (out of 7) on the scoring grid to proceed



Rangapū Rangahau proposals must score a “3” or higher (out of 7) on the scoring grid to proceed



Why are we using a selection ballot?



A ballot may be used in both schemes depending on how many eligible proposals that meet the funding threshold are received



The ballot process helps us manage operational costs and is a transparent selection method which treats all proposals that meet the funding threshold fairly and does not discriminate against applicants



Ara Whaihua: If we receive 22 or more eligible proposals that meet the funding threshold, we will use a ballot system to select proposals for recommendation for funding



Rangapū Rangahau: If we receive 71 or more eligible proposals that meet the funding threshold, we will use a ballot system to reduce assessment burden on the Assessment Panel.

First time applying for MBIE Science Grants? Moko Kauri can help

If you're new to MBIE science grants or don't have access to a Research Office, assistance is available:

Moko Kauri can:

- Help you understand if your proposal matches the fund
- Help use the tools and templates available
- Provide guidance on MBIE requirements for science grants
- Provide clear, practical advice

Moko Kauri cannot:

- Provide advice on the content of your application
- Help with writing your proposal

Contact: info@mokokauri.co.nz



HE MOKO, HE PUNA WĀNANGA
MOKO KAURI
LIMITED

Accessing Pītau



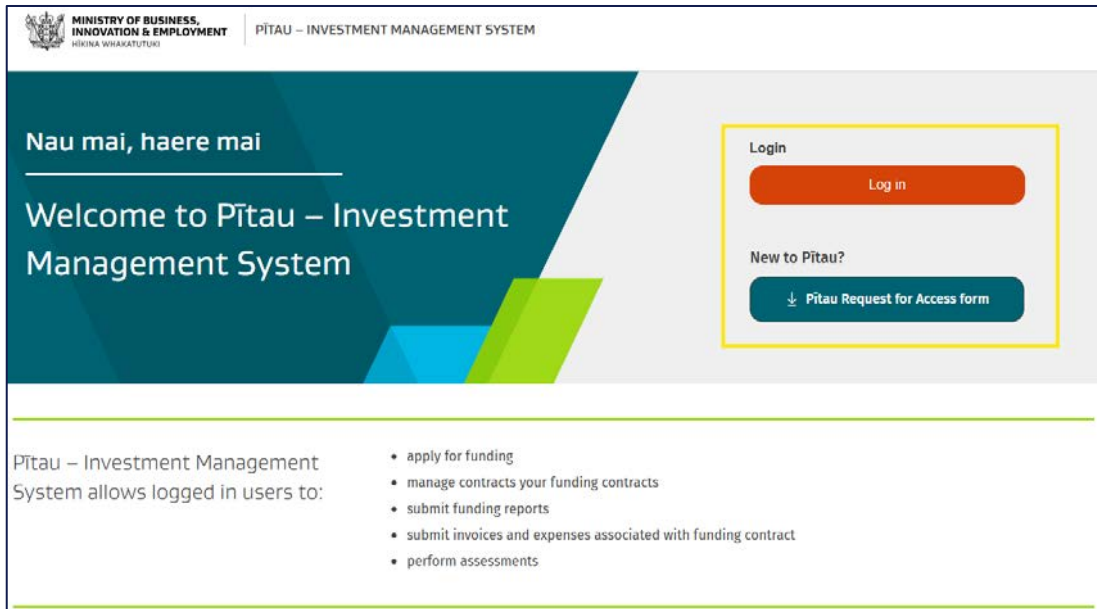
Accessing Pītau

If you need access to Pītau:

- Complete the Request for Access form, located on the [Pītau portal webpage](#)
- Email the completed form to: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz

Apply for access **EARLY**

- We cannot guarantee requests will be processed the week of submission.



The screenshot shows the login page for the Pītau – Investment Management System. At the top left is the logo for the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (Hikona Whakatutuki). The page title is "PĪTAU – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM". The main heading is "Nau mai, haere mai" followed by "Welcome to Pītau – Investment Management System". On the right side, there is a login section with a "Login" button and a "New to Pītau?" button with a link to "Pītau Request for Access form". At the bottom, there is a list of actions users can perform after logging in.

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INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HIKONA WHAKATUTUKI

PĪTAU – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Nau mai, haere mai

Welcome to Pītau – Investment Management System

Login

Log in

New to Pītau?

↓ Pītau Request for Access form

Pītau – Investment Management System allows logged in users to:

- apply for funding
- manage contracts your funding contracts
- submit funding reports
- submit invoices and expenses associated with funding contract
- perform assessments

Accessing Pītau

We will set up one initial Organisation Administrator

- This person will be responsible for adding additional user access.

Levels of access:

- **Organisation Administrator:** authority to **create** and **submit** applications. Manage access to Pītau.
- **Organisation Member:** can **create** and/or **work on** applications to which they are given access.

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INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HONORA WHAKATUTUHI

Pītau Request for Access form

Pītau is MBIE's Investment Management System – a secure online portal used to:

- apply for funding
- manage your funding contracts
- submit funding reports
- submit invoices and expenses associated with funding contracts
- perform assessments.

If you are new to Pītau, you can request access in one of two ways:


1. if your organisation has applied for MBIE funding before, contact your Research Office or Organisation Administrator as they should be able to give you access.
2. if your organisation has never applied for MBIE funding, complete the details below and email it to imssupport@mbie.govt.nz.

If you are unsure if your organisation already has access, complete the form and email to us and we will let you know.

We will process your Request for Access form within 2 working days. Once your access has been processed, you will receive an email with login instructions and a unique Pītau activation code. To complete the login process, you will need a RealMe account. If you have an existing RealMe account please use it. If you do not have a RealMe account, you will be directed to create one. Please note this does not have to be a verified account.

Questions with an * are mandatory

Organisation details	
The organisation submitting the application.	
* Organisation full legal name <i>As per the Companies/NZBN Register (if applicable)</i>	
Full trading name <i>(if different)</i>	
New Zealand Business Number NZBN <i>(if applicable)</i>	
Other registration number, for example Charities/Society/Trust Number <i>(if applicable)</i>	

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HONORA WHAKATUTUHI

* Type of entity (legal status) for example, Company, Charitable Trust, Incorporated Society, etc.	
GST number	
* Physical address	
* Postal address <i>(if different from above)</i>	
Website address	
Office phone number	
* Office email address <i>(if applicable)</i>	
What fund/grant are you applying for?	

The contact person entered on this form will be the administrator for your organisation. They must have authority to submit applications for funding to MBIE on behalf of your organisation. They will also manage Pītau access for other people within your organisation.

Contact Person/Organisation Administrator	
Person who will be submitting your first application, and who can manage Pītau portal access for other users in your organisation.	
* Salutation (Ms, Mr, Mx, Dr etc.)	
* Full name	
* Title or position	
Mobile phone number	
* Email address	

Helpful Hints for Pītau



Logging into Pītau requires two-factor authentication. The options are Microsoft or Google authenticators, or a RealMe login. RealMe login does not need to be verified.



Allow plenty of time to work in Pītau - Complete your Request for Access form early. Give your team time to set up their two-factor authentication and provide diversity information.



When adding key personnel to your application, search for them by full name (and preferred name, if applicable), before creating a new contact.



Add an extra Organisation Administrator if possible.



For additional help contact IMS Support: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz | 0800 693 778 (Monday to Friday 8:30am – 4:30pm)

Advice to Applicants



MBIE Advice – Ara Whaihua



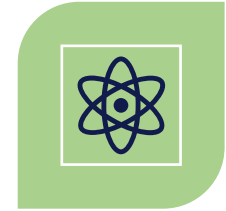
CLEARLY
DESCRIBE THE
**UNDERPINNING
SCIENCE**



**DESCRIBE THE
PATHWAY TO
COMMERCIALISATION
AND ECONOMIC
GROWTH FROM
EXCELLENT SCIENCE**



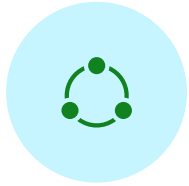
**HIGHLIGHT
FUTURE
OUTPUTS AND
OUTCOMES OF
THE PROJECT**



**SCALE YOUR
ACTIVITY TO FIT
THE STEP**



MBIE Advice – Rangapū Rangahau



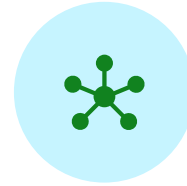
CLEARLY
DESCRIBE HOW
YOUR PROJECT
IS **CO-
DEVELOPED/CO-
DESIGNED**



DESCRIBE HOW
YOU WILL
DISSEMINATE
PROJECT
FINDINGS



EMPHASISE
NEW
PARTNERSHIPS /
GOING BEYOND
BUSINESS AS
USUAL



HIGHLIGHT
SCIENCE,
OUTPUTS AND
OUTCOMES OF
THE PROJECT



EXPLAIN HOW THE
PROJECT ALIGNS
WITH ECONOMIC
GROWTH, OR
DELIVERS
ENVIRONMENTAL
OUTCOMES WITH
ECONOMIC
BENEFITS

MBIE Advice

- **READ** all the provided documentation
- **DON'T LEAVE THE PREPARATION OF YOUR APPLICATION TO THE LAST MINUTE**; allow time to check for obvious mistakes
- Make sure that **ALL RELEVANT INFORMATION IS PROVIDED** in all sections of the application so that it **ACCURATELY REPRESENTS THE PROJECT**
- Ensure that any **ACRONYMS ARE DEFINED**
- Ensure the **TITLE** simply and accurately reflects the proposal aims, particularly the underpinning science and the economic benefit
- Your **PUBLIC STATEMENT** must accurately capture the underpinning science and clearly describe the outputs in a way that is understandable by a wider audience
- Ensure you use either the **RS&T CV TEMPLATE OR NARRATIVE CV TEMPLATE** for key personnel
- **ANZSRC codes** are mandatory; carefully read the instructions
- You should apply under the **ORGANISATION NAME/LEGAL ENTITY** you wish to be contracted under.



Panel Feedback from Rangapū Rangahau 2026

- **Follow the guidelines for each section.**
Many applications filled the sections but did not directly address what was asked, relying instead on unnecessary detail.
- **Respond clearly to the assessment criteria.**
Do not submit a full business landscape and expect assessors to extract what is relevant. This signals a lack of understanding of what is being assessed.
- **Be explicit about novelty.**
Clearly state what science is new and how much of the work is novel. With current tools, assessors can easily check whether similar work has already been funded.
- **Be precise about roles, contributions, and funding.**
Clearly identify what each organisation is responsible for and how funding is allocated across the work programme.



Panel Feedback from Rangapū Rangahau 2026

- **Focus on what matters—avoid overloading the application.**
Listing everything your organisation does will not strengthen the application. Assessors will judge against the criteria, not volume of activity.
- **Be realistic and proportionate.**
Avoid overstating impact. Claims should align with the scale of the fund and the proposed work.
- **Do not rely on reputation.**
Applications are assessed on their merits. Prior reputation or track record will not compensate for a weak submission.
- **Frame the work in terms of economic impact.**
This does not need to be immediate or commercial, but the pathway to economic benefit (including longer-term impact) must be clearly articulated.



Questions? | Pātai?

Use the Q&A function



MBIE Closing Karakia

Ka hiki te tapu

Kia wātea ai te ara

Kia turuki ai te ao mārama

Hui ē, Tāiki ē

TRANSLATION:

Restrictions are moved aside

So the pathway is clear

To return to everyday activities

Enriched and unified.

Contact us

Questions about applying?

HAWCF@mbie.govt.nz

info@mokokauri.co.nz

Questions about Pītau?

imssupport@mbie.govt.nz

0800 693 778 Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm

