



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

2027 Transition Research Fund Webinar and Q&A

Programmes Mechanism

13 October 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

2



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Research Funding New Zealand brings funding decisions together

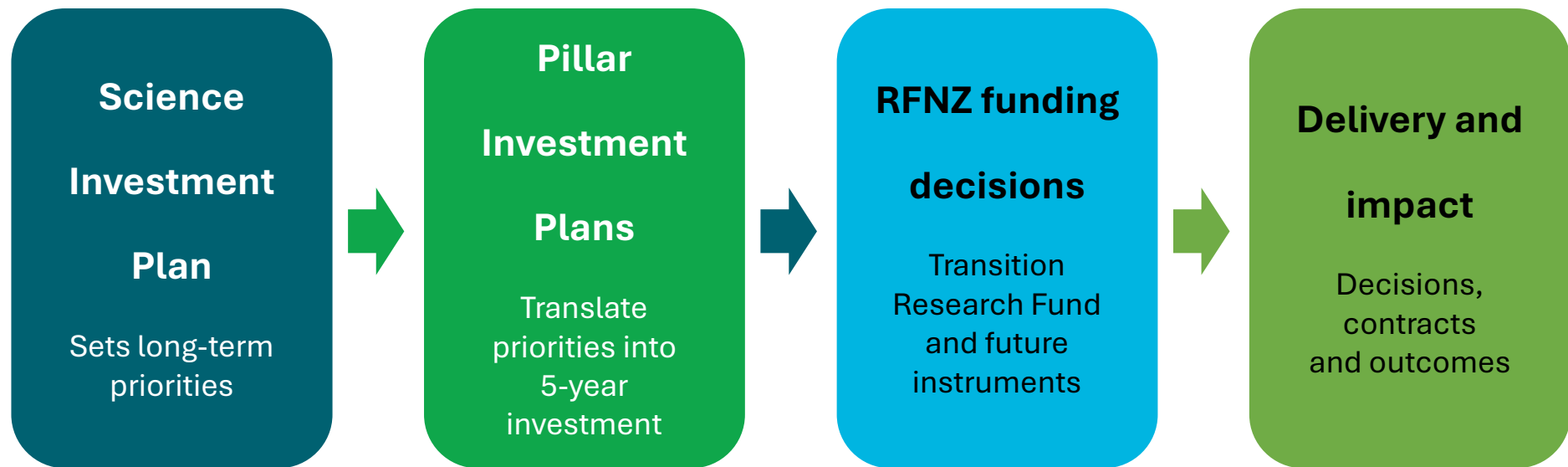
- RFNZ was established in Q1 2026 under the Research, Science, and Technology Act 2010
- The RFNZ Board consists of eight members that are making independent decisions across most research funding

BOARD MEMBERS

- Dr Emma Blott (Chair)
- Prof Aidan Byrne
- Prof Amanda Barnard
- Prof Brett Cowan
- Prof Dianne Gleeson
- Dr Meika Foster
- Distinguished Prof Sir Peter Hunter
- Dr Sue Bidrose
- Dr John Roche (observer)

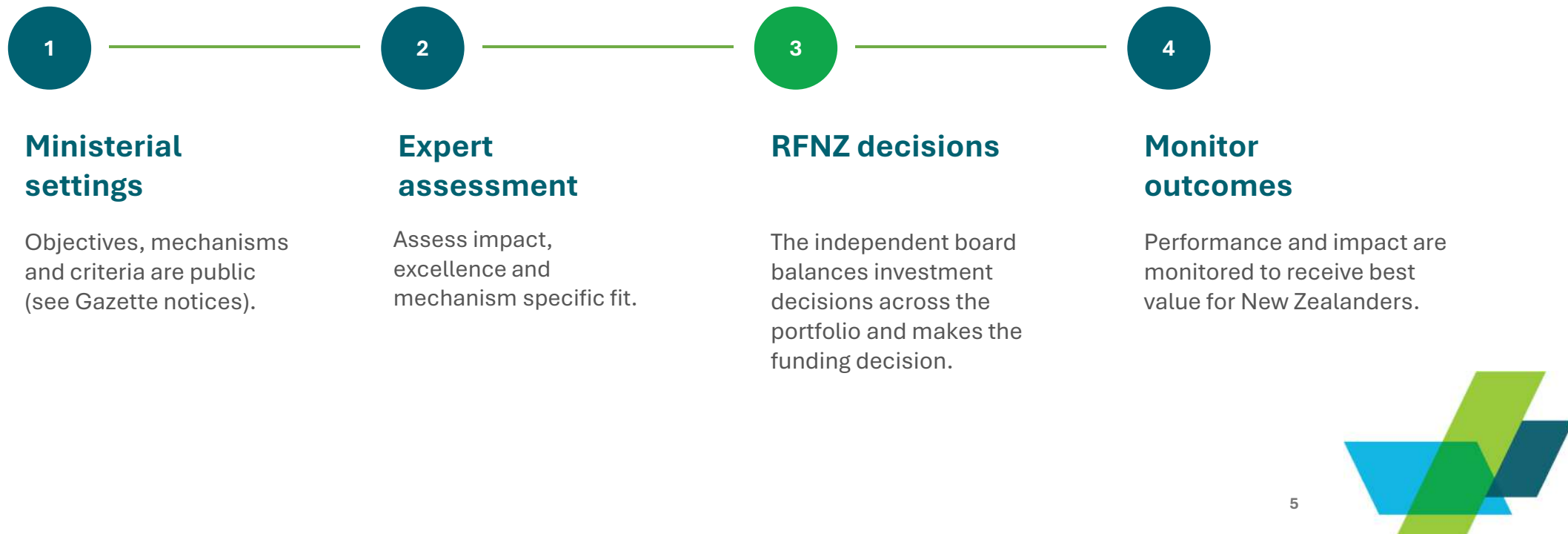


From national priorities to delivery and impact



Independent decisions

RFNZ makes funding decisions within the settings of the Research, Science, and Technology Act 2010.



The Transition Research Fund keeps research moving while the system changes

An investigator-led fund for foundational and applied research aligned with New Zealand's national priorities.

Supports emerging talent, bold projects and large collaborative programmes.

01

Continuity

Keeps investigator-led research moving during science-system reform.

02

Simplicity

Combines future Marsden and Endeavour funding into one.

03

Direction

Links investment to the Science Investment Plan and Pillar Investment Plans.



Three mechanisms



Talent Development

Develop future research leaders, capability and independence.



Projects

Back bold research with potential benefits for New Zealand.



Programmes

Support long-term collaboration on complex challenges.

All mechanisms support excellent research aligned with Pillar Investment Plans.

Available Funding

ANNUAL FUNDING BY MECHANISM

Talent Development	\$12.3 million per year for two years
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Projects	\$40.8 million per year for three years
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Programmes	\$31.7 million per year for five years
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\$84.8m

up to, excluding GST, in annual
funding



Indicative annual funding by pillar

Funding mechanism	Primary Industries & Bioeconomy	Technology for Prosperity	Environmental Sustainability & Resilience	Healthy People & a Thriving Society	Total annual funding by mechanism
Talent Development	\$0	\$12.3	\$0	\$0	\$12.3
Projects	\$8.7	\$20.0	\$7.6	\$4.6	\$40.8
Programmes	\$10.6	\$11.2	\$8.2	\$1.6	\$31.7
Total annual funding by pillar	\$19.3	\$43.5	\$15.8	\$6.2	\$84.8

The pillar framework is a major driver of funding decisions, shaping investment across the portfolio.

SUBMISSION DATES

Registration and Proposal submission deadlines



Talent Development

18 NOV 2026

Registration and proposal submission open.

16 DEC 2026

Registration closes.

3 FEB 2027

Proposal submission closes.



Projects

27 JAN 2027

Registration and proposal submission open.

17 MAR 2027

Registration closes.

28 APR 2027

Proposal submission closes.



Programmes

CURRENTLY OPEN

Registration and proposal submission.

9 DEC 2026

Registration closes.

3 MAR 2027

Proposal submissions close.

Eligibility criteria

The criteria on eligibility for this fund is outlined in the Gazette Notice.

Every criterion of the Gazette Notice must be met to be eligible for funding.
The ultimate funding decision will be made by RFNZ.

- Check the Gazette definition of “research organisation”.
- A Talent Development Principal Investigator may lead, and therefore apply, for only one Talent Development proposal.
- Exclude proposals where out-of-scope outcomes related to defence make up 50% or more.

Why caps exist—and where to find yours

- Manage application volumes.
 - Focus organisations on their strongest, best-aligned proposals.
 - Reduce unnecessary effort for applicants and assessors.
-
- Organisational caps apply at registration and proposal stage.
 - Find your organisation's cap on MBIE's Transition Research Fund 2027 web page.

APPLICATION VOLUMES

Caps apply at registration and proposal stage

REGISTRATION STAGE

- Organisations **may register above** their published cap.
- Allows time to test alignment with the related investment plans.

PROPOSAL STAGE

- Choose which applications progress under each funding mechanism.
- Proposals above the published cap will not be assessed.

Every proposal must connect to a national priority

The 2026–2036 Science Investment Plan organises public science investment around four pillars.

01

**Technology for
Prosperity**

02

**Primary Industries
& Bioeconomy**

03

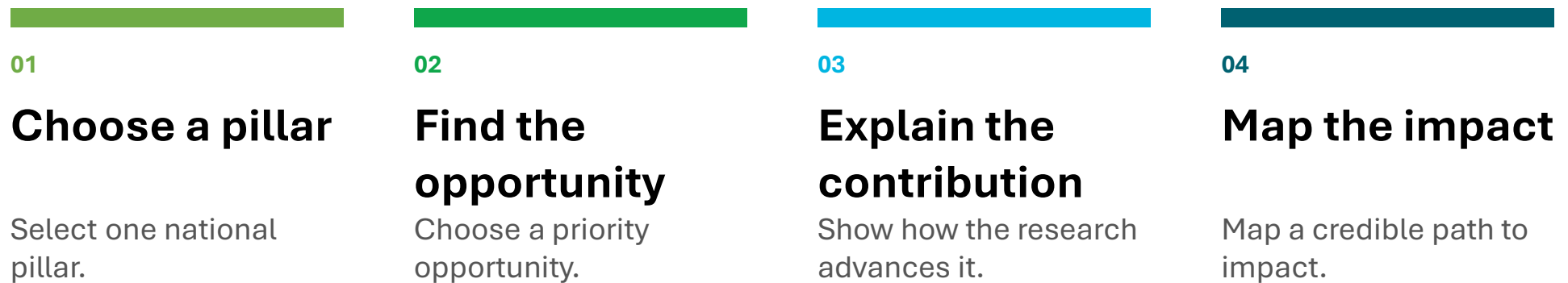
**Environmental Sustainability
& Resilience**

04

**Healthy People
& a Thriving Society**

Pillar alignment

Connect to a national priority and show a credible path to value.



Match the impact pathway to the research stage

EARLIER-STAGE

Knowledge, capability or applications may emerge over time.

APPLIED / LATER-STAGE

Show a route to adoption or measurable benefit.

Vision Mātauranga: relevance comes first

- An SI&T policy established in 2007
- Seeks to realise the contribution of Māori knowledge, people and resources through research and innovation
- Supports distinctive contributions across four Vision Mātauranga themes:
 - Indigenous Innovation
 - Taiao (Environment)
 - Hauora (Health)
 - Mātauranga (Indigenous Knowledge)
- Considered and assessed where relevant to the proposal

See key documents for Vision Mātauranga guidance.

Vision Mātauranga is:

- An SI&T policy
- About Māori people, knowledge, resources and innovation
- Opportunity and relevance-driven
- Broader than mātauranga Māori
- Applied where it adds value or relevance
- About strengthening research quality, relevance and impact

Vision Mātauranga is not:

- A mātauranga Māori policy
- Required in every proposal
- A compliance exercise
- A prescribed methodology
- An alternative to research excellence

Vision Mātauranga: relevance comes first

1

Consider whether it is relevant

Assess the proposed research objectively; it will not be relevant in all cases.

2

If relevant, explain how

Describe how Māori knowledge, people, resources, organisations or relationships contribute to the proposed research and outcomes.

3

If relevant, resource it appropriately

Ensure the approach is supported by appropriate expertise, resourcing and activities that are proportionate to the commitments being made.

4

If not relevant, say so clearly

Explain clearly why Vision Mātauranga is not relevant to the proposed research.

Expected benefits over time

- The fund aims to support research that can strengthen New Zealand over time.
- These are intended benefits, not guaranteed outcomes.



A more productive economy

New ideas, capability and pathways into real-world use.



A more resilient environment

Knowledge and tools for sustainability and adaptation.



Healthier, thriving communities

Research that supports people, wellbeing and society.



A stronger research system

Future leaders, collaboration and enduring specialist capability.

Key documents

All key documents will be available online on MBIE's website:

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/science-and-technology/science-and-innovation/funding-information-and-opportunities/investment-funds/transition-research-fund-2027>

- Transition Research Fund Gazette notices
- Science Investment Plan 2026–2036
- Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027
- Pillar Investment Plans
- Call for Proposals (three funding mechanisms)

Transition Research Fund Team

Programmes mechanism



Alan Coulson

Fund Manager



Emily Chapman

Co-Fund Lead



Kate Sloane

Co-Fund Lead



Rita Przybilski

Mechanism Lead –
Programmes

Programmes mechanism - outline

- ❑ Overview of Programmes mechanism
- ❑ Funding and timeline
- ❑ Assessment and decisions
- ❑ Preparing the application
- ❑ Accessing Pītau
- ❑ Recommendations to applicants

Overview of Programmes mechanism

Purpose of Programmes mechanism

Purpose

- Supports **larger, ambitious, more complex, multi-year programmes** that build collaborations and inter-disciplinary teams that **drives impact** for New Zealand.
- Supports programmes that address **complex challenges or opportunities** that have a high potential to **positively transform New Zealand's future** aligned with national priorities.
- Embed and grow **specialist expertise** aligned to national priorities.

Good fit

- Well defined multi-year research plan
- Larger research team and experienced Principal Investigator
- Variety of next and end-users and ideally existing collaborations
- High probability for impact

May be a better fit elsewhere

- Novel and bold research ideas
- Higher risk but potential for high transformational impact
- Smaller teams which can include first time Principal Investigator

Funding available



Indicative \$31.7m (excluding GST) of new annual funding available



5 year contract duration



\$1 million per annum minimum contract value



Indicative total of 15 proposals to be funded across all four pillars

How does Programmes differ to the other mechanisms?

TALENT DEVELOPMENT	PROJECTS	PROGRAMMES
• Focusses on developing an emerging or future research leader • About capability development • Contract – fixed at \$500,000 for 2 years	• Enables testing of bold and innovative research ideas • Supports small proposals and teams testing new ideas, methodologies and capabilities • Contract – fixed at \$1.5M for 3 years	• Research is larger, more complex and multi-year. Involves multiple partners and collaborations • Has high potential to positively transform New Zealand's future • Contract – minimum of \$1M per year for 5 years. No fixed upper limit contract value

Alignment to National Pillar Priorities

	Technology for Prosperity	Primary Industries and Bioeconomy	Environmental Sustainability and Resilience	Healthy People and a Thriving Society
Funding available	\$11.2m	\$10.6m	\$8.2m	\$1.6m
Indicative number of proposals funded	5 contracts	5 contracts	4 contracts	1 contract

Select one pillar only: the pillar that aligns with the majority of your proposal

Eligibility criteria

For a proposal to be eligible under the 2027 Transition Research Fund, it must:

- be made under an investment mechanism specified in the Schedules to this notice;
- align to one of the pillars, and to one of the pillar priorities listed as opportunities, as outlined in the Science Investment Plan;
- be made by an applicant who is not in material breach of any Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) science funding contract and who does not have any outstanding remedial actions associated with any termination of any MBIE science funding contract;
- be submitted in Pītau (MBIE's Investment Management System) and meet any applicable timing, formatting, content, or other administrative requirements set by MBIE;
- not name a person as Principal Investigator for a Talent Development proposal who is named as Principal Investigator on another Talent Development proposal submitted for the 2027 Transition Research Fund Talent Development mechanism;
- be made by a New Zealand-based Research Organisation or a New Zealand-based legal entity representing a New Zealand-based Research Organisation;
- be designed so that the new knowledge created is broadly disseminated for public benefit outside of the Research Organisation or legal entity that represents the Research Organisation;
- not be made by:
 - an entity listed in any of the parts of Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020;
 - a local authority as defined in section 5 of the Local Government Act 2002;
 - the New Zealand Police;
 - New Zealand Defence Force; or
 - the Parliamentary Counsel Office;
- be for research, science or technology, or related activities, the majority of which are to be undertaken in New Zealand, unless the Board considers that there are compelling reasons to consider the proposal, despite the amount of research, science or technology or related activities being proposed to be undertaken overseas;
- not benefit a Russian state institution (including but not limited to support for Russian military or security activity) or an organisation outside government that may be perceived as contributing to the war effort;
- advise that the proposed funding recipient will, and the Board must be of the view that it can, adhere to the terms and conditions of funding set out in an investment contract determined by the Board;
- not be for activities already funded from another external source;
- come within the total organisational funding Cap that applies to the proposal;
- not include out-of-scope research outcomes related to defence that amount to 50% or more of the proposal's outcomes.

Proposals determined to be ineligible by the Board under clause 7 cannot be awarded funding.

Organisational caps

Registrations

- Organisations may submit registrations up to 120% of their published organisational proposal cap, rounded up to the next whole number.
- If the limit is exceeded, MBIE will retain registrations in submission time stamp order, beginning with the earliest submissions.

Proposals

- Organisations may submit no more proposals than their published organisational cap.
- If the cap is exceeded, MBIE will accept proposals in submission time stamp order, beginning with the earliest submissions. Proposals above the cap will not be considered.

Please check the [TRF 2027 web page](#) for the cap which applies to your organisation

Any new organisation may submit up to three proposals per mechanism

Key documents and timeline

Key documents



Science Investment Plan 2026–2036 (SIP)

Sets the national priorities, pillars and priority opportunities that proposals must align to.



Pillar Investment Plans 2026–2031 (PIP)

Translates the strategic priorities from the SIP into 5-year outcomes that proposals must align to.



Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027

Explains the purpose of the Fund, the three mechanisms, investment signals and portfolio approach.



2027 Transition Research Fund Gazette Notices

Sets the eligibility criteria, assessment criteria, funding values and duration of investments.



Call for Proposals

Provides detailed applicant guidance, submission requirements and key dates.



Registration and Proposal Templates

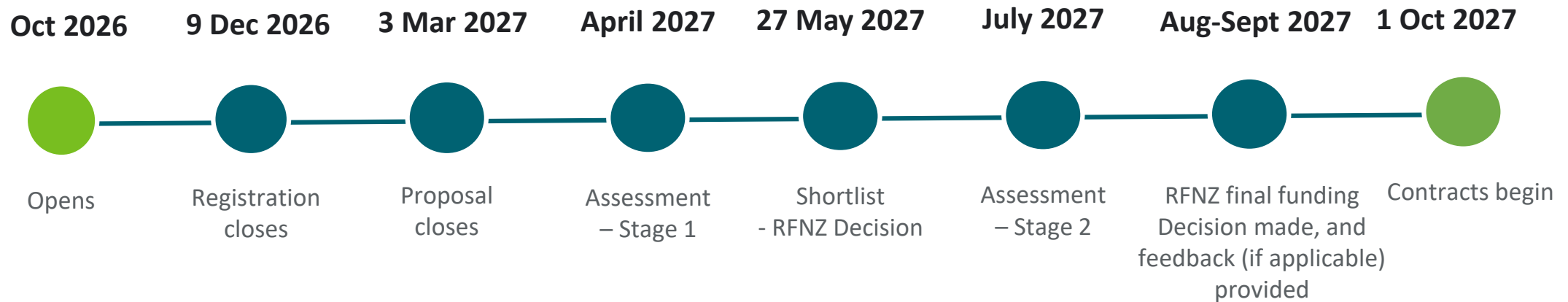
Show the information required at registration and proposal stage, including word limits.



Assessment and Scoring Guidance

Explains how proposals will be assessed against the assessment criteria.

Application, assessment and decision-making timeline



Two stage assessment process:

Stage 1: external assessment through College of Assessors (4 per proposal)

Stage 2: Panel review of shortlisted proposals

Note: dates are subject to change

Assessment and decisions

College of Assessors

- Each Programme proposal is assessed by four independent assessors selected from the College of Assessors.
- Assessors are selected based on relevant expertise, experience and conflicts of interest.
- Principal Investigators named on Transition Research Fund proposals will be added to the College of Assessors.
- Being added does not mean a person will automatically receive an assessment assignment.
- Researchers with relevant expertise are encouraged to join the College of Assessors
- Further information is available on the MBIE College of Assessors webpage

Assessment criteria

IMPACT

Benefit to New Zealand (25%)

The extent to which the proposed research has the potential to deliver meaningful outcomes for New Zealand's economic, social or environmental benefit.

Implementation Pathways (25%)

The indicative implementation pathway(s) to deliver public benefit to New Zealand that is not limited to a single firm or end-user, and the extend of an understanding of the barriers to impact.

EXCELLENCE

Science (25%)

The extent to which the proposed research is fit for purpose, rigorous innovative, ethically conducted and internationally benchmarked, and addresses areas of clear national need.

Team (25%)

The extend the proposed team has the mix of complementary skills, knowledge and resources to deliver the proposed research, science or technology or related activities, and to manage risk.

What are Assessors looking for?

IMPACT

Benefit to New Zealand and Implementation pathway(s)

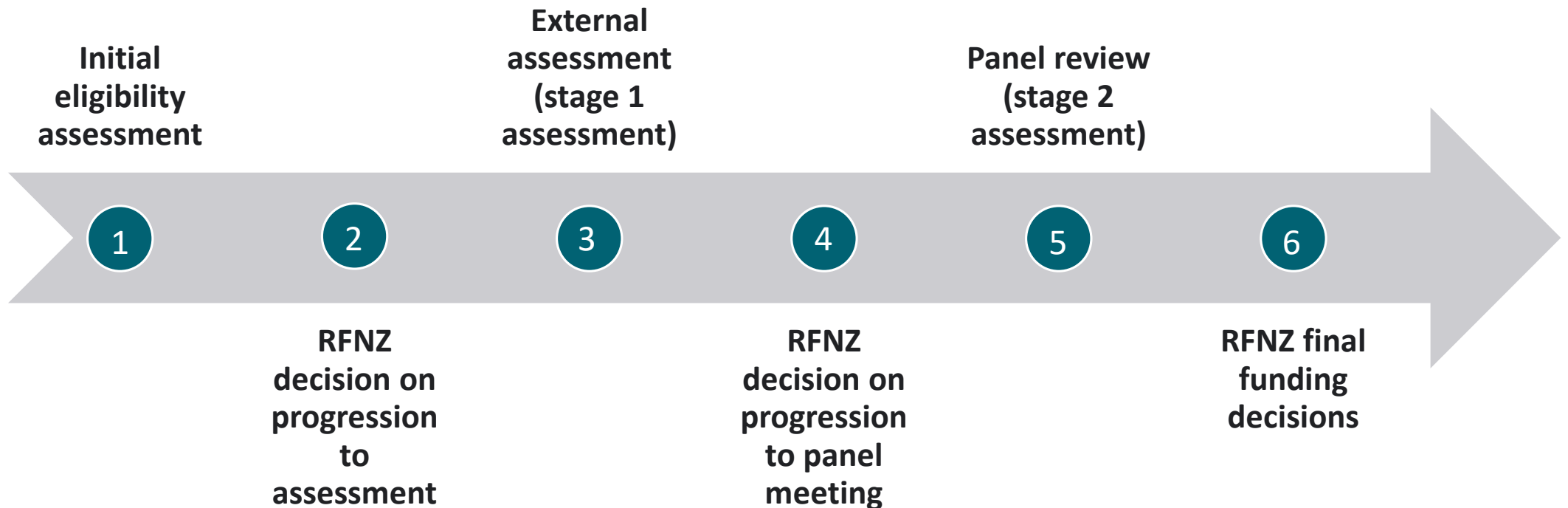
- Scale of potential benefits for New Zealand, that is not limited to a single firm or end-user
- Meaningful alignment with National Pillar Priorities
- Credible implementations pathways to impact
- Identified end- or next-users, beneficiaries and stakeholders
- Understanding of enablers and barriers to uptake

EXCELLENCE

Science and Team

- A coherent and credible research plan
- Appropriate progression and dissemination of new knowledge
- Appropriate risk identification and management
- Strong domestic and international positioning
- Appropriate consideration of Vision Mātauranga
- An appropriate mix of complementary skills
- Skills, knowledge and resources that give confidence in delivery
- Appropriate Mātauranga Māori expertise, where applicable

Assessment and decision process



Feedback to applicants

- Feedback will be provided to all unsuccessful applicants who progressed to assessment stage
- Applicants whose proposals progress to the Panel meeting but who are not funded will receive the Panel's consensus comments
- Feedback will be sent to after funding results are announced
- No feedback will be provided for funded proposals

Preparing the application

Registration

Applicants must submit a registration before a proposal can be lodged

What can't be changed after Registration

- Start and end date
- Research keywords
- Field of Research (FoR) codes
- Socio-Economic Objective (SEO) codes

What can be changed after Registration

- Title
- Total funding requested
- Administrator details
- Pillar Alignment
- How the Proposal Aligns to the Pillar
- Principal Investigator information

Other important Registration information

- Assessor Nomination -is Registration-stage field only
- Check all information very carefully, particularly what cannot be changed at Proposal stage.

Proposal template - overview

1. Key Information

- Executive Summary
- Public Statement

2. Classifications

- How your proposal aligns to your selected Pillar

3. Performance Area

- Impact – Benefit to NZ (1200 words) –
- Impact - Implementation Pathway(s) (1200 words)
- Excellence – Science (1200 words)
- Excellence - Team (1200 words)

4. Resources

- Project Team (Principal Investigator 0.15FTE minimum per year)
- Supporting Organisations; Collaborations/Partnerships

5. Financial Information

- MBIE Requested Funding set at \$1m minimum per year
- Co-Funding and Subcontracting

6. Other Information

- IP Management
- Special Ethical and Regulatory Requirements
- Sensitive Technologies

Accessing Pītau

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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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/NBZN 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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* 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	

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, there is a header with the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment logo and the text 'PĪTAU – INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM'. Below the header, the main content area has a dark blue background on the left with the text 'Nau mai, haere mai' and 'Welcome to Pītau – Investment Management System'. On the right, there is a light grey box containing a 'Login' section with a red 'Log in' button, and a 'New to Pītau?' section with a blue button labeled '↓ Pītau Request for Access form'. At the bottom, there is a white section titled 'Pītau – Investment Management System allows logged in users to:' followed by a list of five bullet points: '• apply for funding', '• manage contracts your funding contracts', '• submit funding reports', '• submit invoices and expenses associated with funding contract', and '• perform assessments'.

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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

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)

Recommendations to applicants

For you to note

- Ensure staying within your organisational cap (check in with your Research Office)
- Start your application early
- Engage with relevant collaborators and other partners early, in particular Māori partners
- Ensure your Public Statement accurately reflects your proposal
- Ensure proposal titles are informative and accurately reflect the aims of your proposal
- Ensure the Programmes mechanism is the right fit for your proposal
- Ensure to select appropriate FOR and SEO codes
- Where Vision Mātauranga is relevant, ensure it is appropriately resourced
- Be selective and specific in identifying conflicts of interest

What MBIE can and cannot help with

MBIE can help with

- **Published requirements**
Point to the relevant Gazette notices, Call for Proposals, templates and guidance
- **Application process**
Explain Registration and Proposal submission process and key dates
- **Pītau support**
Help with access and system-related questions
- **Administrative clarification**
Clarify where information should be entered

MBIE cannot

- **Determine eligibility before submission**
For example, confirm that a proposal is eligible
- **Select a pillar for an applicant**
For example, advise which pillar is most competitive
- **Develop or review proposal content**
For example, comment on a draft response
- **Predict an assessment or funding outcome**
For example, say whether RFNZ will fund the proposal
- **Provide one-to-one strategic application meetings**
A fair and equitable process must be maintained

Contact

If you have any questions about applications, please contact your host organisation's research office in the first instance.

You can contact MBIE at transitionfund2027@mbie.govt.nz if:

- your organisation does not have a research office
- your organisation's research office cannot assist you

Pitau queries: imssupport@mbie.govt.nz

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

You can also [subscribe to our Alert e-newsletter](#).

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.*