

## Special Research News - Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027

Kia ora koutou,

MBIE has now released high-level information on the new Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027, including the Investment Plan and Gazette Notice.

You can find further detail here:

- [2027 Transition Research Fund Gazette 23 Jun 2026](#)
- [Transition Research Fund Investment Plan 2027](#)
- [Transition Research Fund 2027 overview](#)

### What we know so far

The TRF brings together investigator-led funding previously delivered through the Marsden and Endeavour Funds into a single fund. It will operate through three mechanisms:

- Talent Development (supporting emerging researchers and future talent aligned to the Technology for Prosperity pillar)
- Projects (innovative, high-impact research)
- Programmes (larger, collaborative and longer-term initiatives)

The fund is transitional, intended to operate for a single funding round as the system moves to a future model. Overall investment is expected to be broadly consistent with existing Marsden and Endeavour funding, but structured differently. Funding decisions will be made by Research Funding New Zealand, with a strong expectation of alignment to national science priorities.

You may also be aware that this sits within the broader [Science Investment Plan](#) (SIP) and system reforms, which introduce a more strategy-led, priority-driven funding approach. This is articulated through four pillars:

- Technology for Prosperity
- Primary Industries and Bioeconomy
- Environmental Sustainability and Resilience
- Healthy People and a Thriving Society

The four pillars have five to six priority opportunities in scope for public investment.

### What this means for Otago researchers

There are still important details to come (including call timing, application processes, and assessment criteria). However, we expect:

- A single, highly competitive funding round
- A strong emphasis on alignment with national pillar priorities and delivering impact to opportunities under the pillars
- Changes to the scale and structure of proposals

Given the scale of change and the institutional cap on the number of applications able to be submitted, we will be:

- Developing an internal triage and prioritisation process to support the strongest possible applications
- Providing targeted advice and workshops once more detail is released

- Re-deploying university resource where appropriate (particularly to support larger programme proposals)

**Next steps / immediate actions**

MBIE is hosting a [webinar](#) on Thursday 25 June (11:30am) providing further information and Q&A. We strongly encourage researchers to attend if considering applying to the TRF.

We recognise there is considerable uncertainty at this stage. We will share further guidance as soon as MBIE releases more operational detail.

Please get in touch with the Research & Enterprise Office (RA/BDM you would usually contact) if you would like to discuss how these changes may affect your research plans.

Ngā mihi  
Research & Enterprise Office