

Transition Research Fund (TRF) 2027 – Updated

Key internal dates for the Talent Development and Project funding mechanisms are provided below. The University can submit up to 41 Talent Development proposals and 44 Project proposals. There is an internal selection process to determine which proposals will be submitted to MBIE for each mechanism.

R&E Support: Due to the volume of EOI registrations, **R&E BDMs and RAs are not available to provide one-on-one support for the preparation of TRF EOIs.**

The RA/BDM selected during the RAS registration process should be considered a placeholder. **R&E support will be allocated to applicants who progress to the external application stage.**

Details of a webinar for the Project and Talent mechanisms will be shared soon.

Talent Development

The sole focus of the 2027 TRF Talent Development mechanism is supporting emerging researchers and future talent aligned to the Technology for Prosperity pillar. The TRF Talent Development mechanism funds an individual PI and their project, not a team, and provides \$500,000 (excl. GST) over two years.

The specific policy objective is ([Gazette Notice](#), Schedule 1): *“To develop future research leaders and specialist capability through excellent research with the potential to deliver benefits for New Zealand aligned with national pillar priorities.”*

Key dates: Internal selection process for Talent Development

- **Register intent in RAS: 12 noon Monday 24 August 2026**

You must register your intent to submit a Talent Development EOI by [creating a RAS project](#) before this deadline. You can register at any time up until this date. No further internal registrations will be accepted after this date.

Note: Applicants can only submit one Talent Development EOI as PI. You may be a contributor on another Talent Development application and you may also be named on a Programme (not as PI) or Project.

- **Submit your EOI in RAS: 12 noon Monday 7 September 2026**

No EOIs will be accepted after this date.

An internal EOI template for Talent Development is being finalised and will be provided to applicants who have registered by noon on 24 August. Outcomes will be advised the **week of 12 October 2026**.

Projects

The TRF Project mechanism is for innovative, high impact research across all four pillars, and provides \$1.5 million (excl. GST) over three years.

TRF Project proposals must align with ONE of the following pillars (even if work spans multiple pillars):

- Primary Industries & Bioeconomy
- Technology for Prosperity

- Environmental Sustainability & Resilience
- Healthy People & Thriving Society

Each of the pillars have five or six identified challenges with an associated opportunity. TRF Project proposals MUST align to a pillar and associated opportunity with a clear narrative of impact. There is a strong emphasis on:

- Impact for New Zealand
- Alignment to government priorities
- Collaboration (end-users, partners)

The specific policy objective is ([Gazette Notice](#), Schedule 2): *"To enable the testing of bold and innovative research ideas through excellent research that are deemed likely to deliver meaningful benefits for New Zealand aligned with national pillar priorities."*

Key dates: Internal selection process for Projects

- **Register intent in RAS: 12 noon Monday 7 September 2026**

You must register your intent to submit a Project EOI by [creating a RAS project](#) before this deadline. You can register at any time up until this date. No further internal registrations will be accepted after this date.

Note: Applicants can only submit one Project EOI as PI. You may be a contributor on another TRF application. But going forward you may not be a PI on both a programme and a project to be submitted to MBIE. If you are unsuccessful in the internal programme assessment you may submit a Project EOI for consideration. Noting the call for programme Eois has already closed.

- **Submit your EOI in RAS: 12 noon Monday 19 October 2026**

No EOIs will be accepted after this date.

An internal EOI template for Projects is being finalised and will be provided to applicants who have registered by noon on 7 September. Outcomes will be advised the **week of 16 November 2026**.

MBIE webinars

Please ensure that you read the following documents, which will be critical to the development of your proposal:

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

These documents provide important context on what research will be approved for funding. The SIP is a 10-year strategy setting out the funding allocation to national priorities (pillars and opportunities) and the Government's high-level objectives for the SI&T system. The **Gazette is the ultimate guide for Research Funding New Zealand's decision-making**. TRFIP27 has instructions for assessment including guidance for portfolio balancing – but if in doubt refer to the Gazette.

We also recommend that you watch the recordings of recent **MBIE webinars** to understand changes to research funding ecosystem and the national priorities:

- [25 June 2026](#) - highlighted the latest updates on the Science, Innovation & Technology system reforms, including the Science Investment Plan, Transition Research Fund, and developing Pillar Investment Plans.

- [17 April 2026](#) - provided information about the Prime Minister’s Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council’s priorities report, and how these priorities will shape future investment across the science, innovation and technology system.
- [12 March 2026](#) - provided a programme wide update on the Science, Innovation & Technology system reforms, including the establishment of Research Funding New Zealand.

What will the MBIE template look like for a full application?

We will not be provided the MBIE Call for Proposals or templates for the TRF 2027 registration and full application until late August/early September.

Summary of dates

Note: **The internal call for Programme EOIs is now closed.** The dates are shown here to show how the timelines are staggered across the three TRF mechanisms.

