Biennial Grants 2026: Expression of Interest Template

# Expression of Interest

Before you start please note:

1. We strongly recommend reading our [Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazards Risk Reduction](https://www.naturalhazards.govt.nz/assets/Publications-Resources/Resilience-and-Research-Publications-/Resilience.strategy.risk.reduction-2024-2029-1-1.pdf), [Research Strategy](https://www.naturalhazards.govt.nz/assets/Publications-Resources/Resilience-and-Research-Publications-/Research.Strategy-2024-3.pdf) and [Research Investment Priorities Statement](https://www.naturalhazards.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Research-Investment-Priorities-Statement-2025.pdf)
2. Please closely read our Guidelines for Applicants and Funding Guidance to ensure your EOI is eligible
3. Your EOI should directly address the eligibility and assessment criteria and align to at least one Research Investment Priority
4. Word limits must be adhered to where noted.
5. Unless specifically requested, do not include URLs. Information provided by way of URL links to websites will not be considered or assessed.
6. Information provided in this EOI should be reflected in the Full Proposal (if successful).
7. Only minimal changes are allowed between the EOI and full proposal documents, so please take care with providing accurate content into the EOI form.

# Project Details

## Title

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*Provide a meaningful and accurate descriptive title. Avoid using acronyms or abbreviations. (recommend 10 words or less)*

## Amount requested (NZD excluding GST):

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*Estimate of the total funding required. Note this should be between $50,000 and $100,000 and reflect expected costs. A budget will be required should the EOI be accepted to progress to Full proposal. Please refer to the Research Funding Expectations Policy when costing your project.*

## Commencement date:

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*Project must start on or after 1 January 2026 and before 1st April 2026*

Host institution

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*Organisation Name*

# Proposed research

This should include a brief description of the proposed research project and include answers to the following questions:

* What is the problem?
* What is the specific research question?
* How will the proposed research contribute to solving the problem, including a description of the proposed methodology?
* What are the expected research outputs and outcomes?

## Proposed research

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*Word count: Must be no more than 500 words.*

## How does this research fit with activities in the broader New Zealand science community, and is the proposed project aligned with current or upcoming project work by yourself or others?

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 *Word count: Must be no more than 200 words.*

# Impact

# Natural Hazards Commission (NHC) Toka Tū Ake Research investment priorities

## Tick one or two boxes (two at most) that best represent the research investment theme that your proposal addresses.

[ ]  Quantifying hazards and impacts - Research to improve understanding of New Zealand’s natural hazards, in particular data and models to quantify the magnitude and frequency of hazards and their impacts.

[ ]    Supporting people and decisions – Research that enables individuals, communities, and decision makers to understand, manage, and mitigate various risks, covering governance, economics, and social and behavioural aspects of disaster risk management.

[ ]    Resilient Buildings - Research focused on understanding and improving building and land performance to ensure buildings are designed, built, and retrofit for resilience.

[ ]    Smarter land use – Research focused on understanding, managing, and improving land use so we can make smarter decisions and build stronger homes on better land

*At least 1 choice and no more than 2 choices may be selected.*

# Uptake and benefits

This section addresses how the research will ensure impact and benefit for Māori and all New Zealanders, including specific benefit for NHC Toka Tū Ake through benefit to insured persons, or reducing the future cost of [natural hazards cover](https://www.naturalhazards.govt.nz/insurance-and-claims/about-nhcover/).

The [Natural Hazards Insurance Act 2023](https://legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2023/0001/latest/whole.html) requires all research activities we fund have

*“the potential to—*

*(i) provide a benefit to insured persons (whether or not the activity also has the potential to provide a benefit to persons who are not insured persons); or*

*(ii) reduce the future cost of providing natural hazard cover:”*

Please describe below how your EOI meets this requirement. We recommend you refer to the Guidelines and Strategies to support your answer.

## How does your proposed research meet these criteria? What is the pathway to these benefits or reductions being realised?

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*What is the benefit, or what type of reduction is expected? Who is expected to benefit from the research? Please explain the pathway to these benefits being realised. What is the expected impact on the NHC Toka Tū Ake Scheme? Please provide any evidence or assumptions used to support the above statement on benefit and impact. When is the benefit or reduction expected? Word count: Must be no more than 500 words.*

## What additional natural hazard resilience related impacts and benefits are expected from this research, for New Zealand and Māori? Who else is expected to benefit from the research?

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# *Who else is expected to benefit from the research? Please list specific individual/ groups/communities. What is the expected pathway from your research outputs to these groups, and how will they benefit?* *Word count: Must be no more than 300 words.*

# Māori and Early Career considerations

NHC Toka Tū Ake aims to encourage participation from Māori and Early Career researchers.

# Capability building

## Are you an early career researcher? (within 7 years post highest qualification)

[ ]     Yes [ ]     No

## Explain how this research project builds capability for Aotearoa New Zealand, or provide a justification for why it does not apply

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*This could be through building capability for you, your team or your research sector. Word count 250 words.*

# Vision Mātauranga

## Are you a Māori researcher?

[ ]     Yes [ ]     No

## Does your proposed project have a significant Māori focus?

## [ ]      Yes [ ]      No

## Please explain how Vision Mātauranga is applicable for your project, or why Vision Mātauranga is not applicable for your project.

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*Please consider alignment to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy, geographic location of the work, Māori research and organisations operating in the space, potential to impact and benefit Māori community, involvement of Māori community partners, if the work is related to an important issue for Māori, etc. Word count 250 words.*

# Applicant Details

# Principal investigator details

## Principal investigator

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*Title First Name Last Name*

## Applicant position

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## Applicant primary phone number

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*Must be a New Zealand phone number.*

## Applicant primary email

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*Must be an email address.*

## Principal Investigator Narrative CV or RS&T CV

Attach a file: A maximum of 1 file may be attached. PI only required at EOI.

# Research Team

Provide details for project team members, students, associated researchers and organisations:

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*Include first and last name (if known), host institution and 1-2 sentence description of their role in project*

# Administrative contact details

## Administrative contact

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*Include first name and last name, and position title. This should be a contact in your Research Office or equivalent.*

## Primary phone number

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*Must be a New Zealand phone number.*

## Primary email

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*Must be an email address.*

# Terms and conditions

# Eligibility

Confirm that your application meets eligibility criteria from the Guidelines for Applicants.

## Tick to confirm you are eligible for this Biennial Grants round.

[ ]    Yes

Privacy

The information collected in this form will only be shared for the purpose of assessing the NHC Toka Tū Ake Biennial Grants 2026 round. The sharing of this information will be limited to staff of NHC Toka Tū Ake and members of the assessment panel. NHC Toka Tū Ake and assessors are required to store and share this information securely and only use for the purpose for which it is shared.

## Do you agree to the information in this form being shared with NHC staff and Assessors for the purpose of assessing the EOI?

[ ]      Yes

Conflict of interest declaration

Please review the Assessment Panellists and declare any conflicts of interest following the guidelines.

## Conflicts

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*Please list any conflicts of interest (perceived, potential or actual, and indirect or direct) following the guidelines (LINK). If none, please declare “None”.*

## Conditions

The current Research Funding Agreement template has been read by both the applicant and the employing organisation and it is acknowledged that if this proposal receives NHC Toka Tū Ake funding, the terms and conditions set out in this agreement will be adhered to.

## Do you and your organisation agree in principle to the terms and conditions in the NHC Toka Tū Ake Research Funding Agreement template?

[ ]    Yes (Applicant)

[ ]     Yes (Organisation)

##  Organisation representative

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*Include first and last name, and title. This should be a duly authorised person for the Organisation.*

## Primary email of organisation representative

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*Must be an email address.*

You have come to the end of the Expression of Interest form. You will now be asked to review your submission after which you can choose to save the submission and come back later or submit to complete the process. **You must submit your application by midday, Thursday 29 May, for it to be considered in this round.** NHC Toka Tū Ake will not consider submissions that are saved but not submitted. All successful submitted applications will receive a confirmation email from SmartyGrants.