



**Natural Hazards
Commission**
Toka Tū Ake

Guidelines for applicants

BIENNIAL GRANTS CONTESTABLE ROUND

2026



Quick reference guide

Funding available	Approximately NZ\$1,200,000 (excl. GST)
Project value	Proposals accepted between \$50,000 - \$100,000 excl. GST
Project length	Maximum 2 years
Contract start date	On or after 5 January 2026 (projects must start by 1 April 2026)
Applications	There will be two stages, first an Expression of Interest application then successful EOIs will be invited to submit full proposals.
Submission	All proposals must be submitted via SmartyGrants
Assessment	EOIs will be internally assessed for eligibility. If eligible, EOIs will be sent to the Assessment Panel for review. Full proposals will be assessed by the Assessment Panel.
Confidentiality	All proposals received will be treated as confidential, subject to any legal requirements under the Official Information Act 1982 or any other relevant law.
Contact us	If you have any questions or there are any changes in your application at any stage, please contact research@naturalhazards.govt.nz as early as possible.

Key dates

Activity	Date
EOI submission period	1 May until 12 noon, Thursday 29 May 2025
EOI assessment period	Through June 2025
Expected full proposal submission period	First week of July until 12 noon, Thursday 14 August 2025
Applicants notified of funding decisions	Expected mid-October 2025
Contracting period	October – November 2025
Contracts begin	January 2026

Dates are subject to change. If they change, we'll let you know by email and update our website. If you are not already in touch with our research team or registered in our Smarty Grants Portal, please email your name, organisation and role to research@naturalhazards.govt.nz with *Research Distribution List* in the subject line.

Contents

Quick reference guide	2
Key dates.....	2
Contents.....	3
The funding available	4
Eligibility criteria	4
Key Documents.....	5
What is new since the last Biennial Grants contestable round?	5
Application and assessment information	5
Overall assessment process.....	5
Eligibility assessment	6
EOI assessment	7
Full Proposal Assessment	8
Assessment Panel	9
Conflicts of interest.....	9
Feedback	10
Funding Decisions	10
How to Submit your Application.....	11
Completing your EOI and submitting proposals.....	11
SmartyFile	11
Contracting, payment, reporting and monitoring	12
Contracting	12
Payments	12
Reporting and monitoring	12
Public engagement and communications	12
Contact.....	12
Appendix: Assessment Panel Scoring Criteria.....	13

Our research goal is to invest in research and capability targeted at reducing the risk of impacts from natural hazards on people, property, and the community. We are inviting proposals for our Biennial Grants round. Biennial grants focus on individual projects targeted to the areas of research interest explained in our Natural Hazards Commission (NHC) [Toka Tū Ake Research Investment Priorities Statement 2025](#).

The proposed projects should be feasible within a two-year timeframe, commencing in January 2026 (or before 1 April 2026).

The funding available

The indicative total funding available is approximately \$1.2m (excluding GST). Each individual contract value is between \$50,000 and \$100,000 (excluding GST) for a term of up to two years.

For information on what we can support, please read our [Funding Guidance](#).

Eligibility criteria

For proposals to be eligible under the Biennial Grants round, they must:

- be made by a New Zealand-based researcher, research organisation, or legal entity representing a New Zealand-based research organisation,
- be designed so that the majority of the benefits in new knowledge accrue outside of the Research Organisation or legal entity which represents the Research Organisation,
- not be made by a department of the public service as listed in Schedule 2 of the Public Service Act 2020,
- be for research related activities, the majority of which are to be undertaken in New Zealand, unless there are compelling reasons to consider the proposals despite the amount of research related activities being proposed to be undertaken overseas,
- advise that the proposed funding recipient will adhere to the terms and conditions of funding set out in the [research funding agreement contract](#)
- not be for activities already funded elsewhere,
- clearly explain how the project has the potential to—
 - provide a benefit to insured persons (whether or not the research also has the potential to provide a benefit to persons who are not insured persons); or
 - reduce the future cost of providing natural hazard cover.
- if led by a post-graduate student, be supervised by an academic supervisor who monitors closely the quality of the research.
- produce research outputs that will be publicly available and able to be used by other researchers, practitioners and the public.
- not exceed \$100,000 excl. GST or be for less than \$50,000 excl. GST
- 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.

Key Documents

When developing your proposal we encourage you to consult the following key reference documents:

- These Guidelines, the EOI template, and the Full proposal template which are available on [our Biennial grants webpage](#)
- Our [Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazard Risk Reduction 2024-2029](#) which sets out our ambition to address New Zealand's resilience challenges.
- Our [Research Strategy 2024](#) which outlines how we wish to build our evidence base to support smart decision making and lead to innovative ways to reduce impacts from natural hazards.
- Our [Research Investment Priorities Statement 2025](#) which is designed to help applicants align their proposals with our areas of research interest.
- [Template Research Funding Contract](#)
- [Budget Template](#)
- In the Appendix to these Guidelines the Assessor Scoring Criteria

What is new since the last Biennial Grants contestable round?

- We have published a new [Research Strategy](#) which guides and directs our research activities. We also refreshed our [Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazards Risk Reduction](#).
- We have published a new [Research Investment Priorities Statement 2025](#).
- This round we will not be progressing with dedicated pools for Māori focussed proposals, nor will we have a defined allocation for Early Career led proposals. There will be a single pool and a single Assessment Panel.
- NHC Toka Tū Ake is dedicated to promoting the participation of Māori and early career researchers. While we will not be running a separate pool in the 2025 Biennial round, we strongly encourage researchers who are early career, Māori or from other under-represented groups in their disciplines, to apply.
- More generally, we have changed our name and have a new Act, [the Natural Hazards Insurance Act](#).

Application and assessment information

Overall assessment process

The application and assessment process includes:

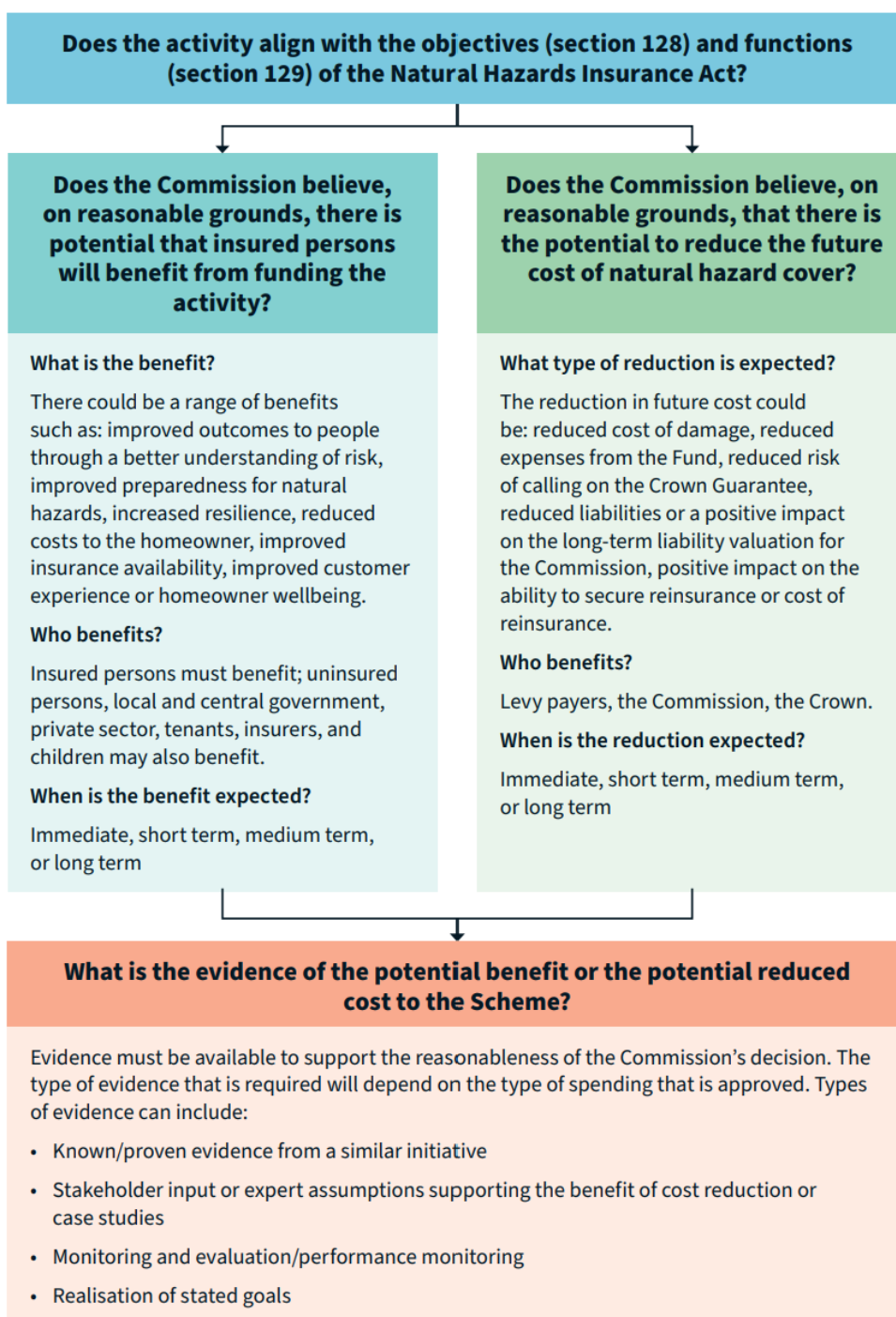
1. Applicants submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).
2. NHC Toka Tū Ake officials assess eligibility and consider benefit test criteria (see below).
3. Assessment Panel review and score the eligible EOIs against the Research Excellence and Benefit/Impact assessment criteria.
4. Assessment Panel make assessments and scores.
5. Assessment Panel meet to moderate scores and recommend which are invited to submit a Full Proposal.
6. Successful EOI applicants submit Full Proposals.

7. Assessment Panel make assessments and scores.
8. Assessment Panel meet to moderate scores and recommend rankings.
9. Head of Research and Chief Resilience and Research Officer make investment decisions, including balancing the portfolio.

Eligibility assessment

The first step of assessment is NHC Toka Tū Ake will assess the EOI against our eligibility criteria including our legislative requirements or “resilience ‘benefit test’ criteria” to access the Natural Hazards Fund. Please see flowchart below.

The resilience 'benefit test' criteria



If the EOI is eligible, we will send the EOI to the Assessment Panel.

EOI assessment

Assessors will assess EOIs on each of the criteria summarised below. Please find the full scoring criteria in the Appendix. We recommend you review these carefully and keep in mind when developing your EOI.

EOI's will be scored for **Research Excellence** against the following criteria:

- articulation of the research problem and approach to solving it (25%)
- originality and novelty (10%)
- collaboration and fit into the research landscape (15%)

They will also be scored for **Impact** against the following criteria

- Benefit to NHC Toka Tū Ake demonstrated through alignment¹ with the Research Strategy (the Strategy) and Research Investment Priorities Statement (20%)
- Benefit to Aotearoa NZ demonstrated through Uptake - understanding of the research outputs and path to uptake, understanding of the benefit to next and end-users, and relevance of benefits and additional value to New Zealanders' resilience to natural hazard risk (10%)
- Benefit to Aotearoa NZ achieved through Capability Building via ECR leadership and/or capability building of the researchers and their career, and/or the sector (10%)
- Benefit through alignment to Vision Mātauranga (VM) policy in the space of natural hazard resilience (10%)

Full Proposal Assessment

If your EOI is successful and you are invited to submit a Full Proposal, these will be assessed against the criteria below.

For Research Excellence:

- **High quality** of proposed research (insight through articulation of problem and approach, originality & novelty, and rigour) (20%)
- **Clear** research plan with objective(s) and high-level milestones. **Achievable** methodology and outputs (10%)
- **Collaboration** across agency and/or disciplinary boundaries and clear connections with any existing initiatives (10%)
- **Capability** to deliver research (10%)

For Impact:

- **Alignment** - with the Research Investment Priorities Statement 2025, the Research Strategy and the Resilience Strategy for Natural Hazards Risk Reduction (20%)
- **Uptake** (15%) understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact, strength of relationships with relevant users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori, consideration of methods for dissemination of research findings and/or engagement with stakeholders and end-users.

¹ Examples of projects which would score poorly on alignment include projects which are:

- focused on disaster response such as early warning systems,
- focused on emergency management,
- focused on health impacts such as personal injuries, or
- focused on techniques or methodologies which are not relevant for our [Natural Hazards Cover](#) (e.g. infrastructure projects, civil structures, studying building techniques not used for residential builds, etc).

Projects that score highly will be focused on natural hazards we cover and relate to residential buildings.

- **Benefit** (15%) understanding of the benefit to potential next and end-users, including benefit to insured persons or reducing the future cost of NHCover, relevance of benefits and additional value for Māori and New Zealanders' resilience to natural hazard risks, builds capability for New Zealand through the PI or the team, which is helpful for the natural hazards sector, and aligns to the [MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy](#) as applies to natural hazard resilience and risk reduction.

Assessment Panel

In forming our Assessment Panel, we have endeavoured to ensure a range of disciplines are represented relevant to each of the portfolio themes below (described in more detail in our [Research Strategy](#))

- Quantifying Hazards and Impacts
- Smarter Land Use
- Resilient Buildings
- Supporting People and Decisions

We also endeavour to ensure Rangahau Māori expertise, as well as a variety of academic backgrounds and organisations. We will publish the membership of the Assessment Panel on our [Biennials research webpage](#).

While recognised in their respective technical disciplines, not all assessment panel members will have technical backgrounds or knowledge of the disciplines called upon in the proposals, so it is important that proposals are clear, succinct, in plain English and easily understandable.

Where there is not sufficient expertise in the panel in question to assess the proposals, the panel will recommend that the proposals are reviewed by an external expert from the field/discipline. In this event the researcher will be notified that an additional assessor has been sought.

Conflicts of interest

We will publish the membership of the Assessment Panel on our research webpage. If you identify that an Assessor has an actual, perceived or potential conflict of interest, declare this in the Conflicts of Interest section of your EOI, and Proposal if relevant. If you discover a potential conflict of interest after proposal submission, notify us immediately by emailing research@naturalhazards.govt.nz with details of the conflict.

Panel members will operate under a confidentiality agreement. This includes a declaration and management of any conflicts of interest.

Where an external expert is sort to review a proposal, they will also be bound by a confidentiality agreement.

A **direct conflict of interest** is where you identify:

1. An assessor is directly involved with a proposal (as a participant, manager, mentor, or partner) or has a close personal relationship with the applicant, for example, family members, and/or

2. An assessor is involved as collaborator or in some other way involved with your proposal.

An **indirect conflict of interest** is where you identify an assessor:

3. is employed by an organisation involved in a proposal but is not part of your proposal
4. has a personal and/or professional relationship with you or your team, and/or
5. is assessing a proposal under discussion that may compete with their personal or business interests.

Should you identify a conflict it must be declared and explained including what kind of conflict (see above), and the circumstances from which the conflict arises. Perceived, potential, and actual conflicts should be explained.

If a conflict is declared, we will decide a management plan. Management may include the conflicted assessor not scoring the EOI or proposal and exiting the moderation meeting when it is discussed, as appropriate.

Feedback

Because of the anticipated large number of EOIs, only limited feedback will be given to unsuccessful EOI applicants. Ineligible applications will be informed why they are ineligible. Applicants which are eligible but declined to progress to Full proposal will be notified and information shared about their relative placement with the field (e.g. scored in the lower 50% of EOIs).

All successful EOI applicants will receive a short commentary on the number of EOIs received, the number selected to submit full proposals, and any relevant generic feedback as appropriate.

All full proposal applicants will be given feedback including comments directly from panellists, successful or unsuccessful. This information will be given in good faith to improve future applications for funding.

Funding Decisions

The Assessment Panel make recommendations based on scoring, and NHC Toka Tū Ake makes investment decisions in accordance with our policies. In making our investment decisions, we will:

- consider Assessment Panel reviews, scoring and moderation discussions
- may consider portfolio balancing, investment signals and targets in the Research Strategy.

NHC Toka Tū Ake may decide to invest less in total than the round indicated.

Applicants should note that the decisions of the panel and NHC are final, and no further action taken to engage with panel members regarding scoring and moderation matters will be tolerated.

How to Submit your Application

Completing your EOI and submitting proposals

Applicants are required to complete their registration and submit proposals in SmartyGrants, our Investment Management System - a secure online portal. To help you prepare your registration and proposals we have provided two templates:

- Biennial EOI template
- Biennial Proposal template

These templates are linked in the key documents section above and available on our website.

All applicants are required to submit their Biennial 2025 EOIs and full proposals via our online [SmartyGrants](#) research grants management system. You can use your existing account or create one. When the round opens the application form will be made available online.



[Login to SmartyGrants or create a new account by clicking here](#)

For more information on how to create an account or navigate using SmartyGrants please visit [SmartyGrants Help Guide for Applicants](#).

SmartyFile

University and Crown Research Institute Research Offices, as well as Administrators from other organisations applying for Biennial grants, can now administer, view, manage and submit multiple Biennial applications via SmartyFile. To do so, you must first create an account on SmartyFile.

For more information on how to create an account or navigate using SmartyFile please visit [SmartyFile Help Guide for Applicants](#).



[Login to SmartyFile or create a new account by clicking here](#)

Contracting, payment, reporting and monitoring

Contracting

If NHC Toka Tū Ake decide to invest in your proposal, we will enter into a Research Funding Agreement with your organisation. Our research funding agreement template is available on our website. If your proposal receives NHC Toka Tū Ake funding, the terms and conditions in the Research Funding Agreement will apply. We encourage all applicants to seek legal advice to ensure their agreement with the terms and conditions.

NHC Toka Tū Ake may:

- set pre-contract conditions that must be met before we and the applicant organisation enter into a Research Funding Agreement,
- set special contract conditions, and/or
- in special cases, vary the amount of funding allocated from that requested.

Payments

The total funding over the term of the contract will be split into payments throughout the life of the project. There will be an upfront payment upon agreement signing, and payments throughout the project, with at least 10% withheld until final delivery.

Reporting and monitoring

Successful applicants will be required to report 6-monthly in SmartyGrants – our online portal for the duration of the contract.

Public engagement and communications

Additionally, Biennial projects are from time to time required to collaborate with NHC Toka Tū Ake on communication/stakeholder engagement activities and social media posts.

Contact

If you have any questions, please contact us at research@naturalhazards.govt.nz

Appendix: Assessment Panel Scoring Criteria

Expression of Interest scoring grid							
Scores and criteria:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Low quality None Not /no Negligible Missing Not credible	Minimal Poor Little Inadequate Insufficient Doubtful Lacking	Some Uncertain Partial Incomplete Lacks detail Possibly	Acceptable Sufficient Suitable Adequate Reasonably	Good Substantial Well Clear Large	Strong High Comprehensive Very good Very well Certain Extensive	High Quality Excellent Exemplary Impressive Outstanding Definitely
	Research Excellence (50%)						
Excellence: Articulation of the research problem and approach to solving it (25%)	This EOI does not articulate the problem with no approach to solve it.	This EOI poorly articulates the problem with a doubtful approach to solve it.	This EOI articulates the problem somewhat with a limited approach to solve it.	This EOI articulate the problem sufficiently with a suitable approach to solve it.	This EOI articulates the problem well with a clear approach to solve it.	This EOI articulates the problem comprehensively with a very good approach to solve it.	This EOI articulates the problem excellently with an outstanding approach to solve it.
Originality & novelty (10%)	There is no originality and novelty.	There is little originality and novelty.	There is some originality and novelty.	There is acceptable originality and novelty.	There is clear originality and novelty.	There is strong originality and novelty.	There is impressive originality and novelty.
Collaboration and fit into the research landscape (15%)	This research has negligible collaboration. It does not complement, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has little collaboration and poorly complement, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has limited collaboration and partially complements, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has negligible collaboration and does not complement, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has substantial collaboration and well complements, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has very good collaboration and certainly complements, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.	This research has excellent collaboration and definitely complements, aligns or fills gaps of other research activities in the broader New Zealand science community.
	Impact (50%)						
Benefit to NHC (20%) Demonstrated through alignment with the Resilience and Research Strategies (the Strategies) and Research Investment Priorities Statement.	The EOI has no alignment to the Strategies or any areas of interest in the Research Investment Priorities Statement.	The EOI has minimal alignment to the Strategies or an area of interest in the Research Investment Priorities Statement.	The EOI has limited alignment to the Strategies or any areas of interest in the Research Investment Priorities Statement.	The EOI has sufficient alignment to the Strategies or any areas of interest in the Research Investment Priorities Statement.	The EOI has good alignment to the Strategies and an area of interest (or suitable alignment to multiple areas of interest.)	The EOI has strong alignment to the Strategies and an area of interest (or substantial alignment to multiple areas of interest.)	The EOI has excellent alignment to the Strategies and multiple areas of interest, or outstanding alignment to one.
Benefit to Aotearoa NZ demonstrated through Uptake (10%) Understanding of the research outputs and path to uptake. Understanding of the benefit to next and end-users. Relevance of benefits and additional value to New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risk.	The EOI demonstrates no understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It does not describe a benefit for a next or end user. It cannot explain the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates little understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It minimally describes a benefit for a next or end users. It inadequately explains the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates some understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It partially describes benefits for next or end users. It incompletely explains the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates sufficient understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It adequately describes benefits for next or end users. It reasonably explains the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates good understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It clearly describes clear benefits for next and end users. It explains well the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates strong understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It extensively describes strong benefits for next and end users. It explains very well the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.	The EOI demonstrates high quality understanding of key outputs and path to uptake. It impressively describes certain benefits for next and end users. It explains very well the relevance of the research for wider NZ resilience.
Benefit to Aotearoa NZ achieved through Capability Building (10%)	The EOI has no ECR components or capability building potential.	The EOI has little ECR components or doubtful capability building potential.	The EOI has some ECR components and/or limited capability building potential.	The EOI has sufficient ECR components and/or adequate capability building potential.	The EOI has good ECR components and/or clear capability building potential.	The EOI has strong ECR components and very good capability building	The EOI has exemplary ECR components and excellent capability building

via ECR leadership and/or capability building of the researchers and their career, and/or the sector.						potential. (E.g., it is led by an ECR researcher who will learn new skills.)	potential. (E.g., it is led by an ECR researcher who will learn new skills and builds capability in a critical area.)
<p>Benefit through alignment to <u>Vision Mātauranga policy</u> in the space of natural hazard resilience (10%)</p> <p>Indigenous Innovation: Contributing to natural hazard resilience through distinctive Māori research and development.</p> <p>Taiao / Environment: Achieving natural hazard resilience through iwi and hapū relationships with land and sea.</p> <p>Hauora/Health: Improving outcomes for Māori people throughout the natural hazards system</p> <p>Mātauranga: Exploring indigenous knowledge, science and innovation with respect to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates no alignment to any aspects of Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience and cannot justify this.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does not involve Māori community research partners, does not clearly identify potential benefits for Māori, and/or does not address an important issue(s) for Māori, and/or does not explain clearly why Vision Mātauranga is not relevant for this EOI.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates limited alignment to any aspects of the Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience or justifies why not.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, or does identify a limited potential benefit for Māori, and/or does minimally explain how it addresses an issue(s) for Māori, and/or does explain but lacks detail as to why Vision Mātauranga is not relevant for this EOI.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates some alignment to any aspects of the Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience or well justifies why not.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, or does identify a limited potential benefit for Māori, and/or does minimally explain how it addresses an issue(s) for Māori, and/or does explain somewhat why Vision Mātauranga is not relevant for this EOI.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates strong alignment to at least one aspect of the Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, and/or does identify a potential benefit for Māori, and/or does explain how it addresses an issue(s) for Māori and/or does explain well why Vision Mātauranga is not relevant for this EOI.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates excellent alignment to multiple aspects of the Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, and/or does identify a strong potential benefit for Māori, and/or does explain well how it addresses an important issue(s) for Māori.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates excellent alignment to multiple aspects of the Vision Mātauranga policy as applies to natural hazards resilience.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, and/or does identify a strong potential benefit for Māori, and/or does explain well how it addresses an important issue(s) for Māori.</p>	<p>The EOI demonstrates excellent alignment to multiple aspects of the VM policy as applies to natural hazards resilience.</p> <p>For example:</p> <p>It does involve Māori community research partners, and/or does identify a strong potential benefit for Māori, and/or does explain well how it addresses an important issue(s) for Māori.</p>

Proposals scoring grid							
Scores and criteria:	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	None Not /no Negligible Missing Not credible	Minimal Poor Little Inadequate Insufficient Doubtful Lacking	Some Uncertain Partial Incomplete Limited Lacks detail Possibly	Acceptable Sufficient Suitable Adequate Reasonably Enough	Good Well Clear Large Decent	Strong High Comprehensive Very good Very well Certain Extensive	High Quality Excellent Exemplary Impressive Outstanding Definitely
Research Excellence (50%)							
High quality of proposed research (insight through articulation of problem and approach, originality & novelty, and rigour). (20%)	This proposal does not articulate the problem with an approach that is not fit for purpose . Negligible originality and novelty. No rigour in approach.	This proposal poorly articulates the problem with a doubtful approach of how to solve it. Minimal originality and novelty. Insufficient rigour in approach.	This proposal partially articulates the problem with an uncertain approach of how to solve it. Some originality and novelty. Some rigour in approach.	This proposal reasonably articulates the problem with a sufficient approach of how to solve it. Acceptable originality and novelty. Suitable rigour in approach.	This proposal well articulates the problem with a clear approach of how to solve it. Good originality and novelty. Clear rigour in approach.	This proposal very well articulates the problem with a certain approach of how to solve it. Strong originality and novelty. Very good rigour in approach.	This proposal impressively articulates the problem with an outstanding approach of how to solve it. Outstanding originality and novelty. Excellent rigour to approach.
Clear research plan with objective(s) and high-level milestones. Achievable methodology and outputs. (10%)	Proposal has unrealistic or no objectives and the project plan is missing . The methodology is not credible , and there are no clear outputs.	Proposal has inadequate objectives and the project plan is lacking . The methodology is poor , and it is lacking outputs.	Proposal has some objectives and the project plan is uncertain . The methodology is incomplete , and there are some outputs.	Proposal has suitable objectives and an adequate project plan. The methodology is reasonable , and there are suitable outputs.	Proposal has good objectives and clear project plan. The methodology is clear , and there are decent outputs.	Proposal has comprehensive objectives and project plan. The methodology is certain , and there are extensive outputs.	Proposal has excellent objectives and project plan. The methodology is exemplary , and there are high quality outputs.
Collaboration across agency and/or disciplinary boundaries and clear connections with any existing initiatives. (10%)	This research has no links of collaboration and missing complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has minimal links of collaboration and poorly complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has limited links of collaboration and partially complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has sufficient links of collaboration and reasonably complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has significant links of collaboration and largely complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has strong links of collaboration and extensively complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.	This research has excellent links of collaboration and definitely complements, aligns, or fill gaps of other research programmes.
Capability to deliver research (10%)	Those involved do not have the skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have inadequate skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have limited skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have sufficient skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have good skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have strong skills or background to deliver the research.	Those involved have excellent skills or background to deliver the research.
Impact (50%)							
Alignment (20%) with the Research Investment Priorities Statement 2025 and the Research Strategy.	The research has no alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has minimal alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has limited alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has acceptable alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has good alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has strong alignment to the strategy or any research priorities	The research has excellent alignment to the strategy or any research priorities
Uptake (15%) Understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact.	No understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact. Missing strength of relationships with relevant	Lacking understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact. Poor strength of relationships with relevant users and	Some understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact. Limited strength of relationships with relevant	Reasonable understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact.	Clear understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact. Substantial strength of relationships with relevant	Very good understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact.	Outstanding understanding of the path to uptake of the research and line of sight to impact.

<p>Strength of relationships with relevant users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Consideration of methods for dissemination of research findings and/or engagement with stakeholders and end-users.</p>	<p>users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders has not been considered</p>	<p>beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Inadequate methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Incomplete methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Sufficient strength of relationships with relevant users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Adequate methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Good methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Strong strength of relationships with relevant users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>Comprehensive methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>	<p>Exemplary strength of relationships with relevant users and beneficiaries of the research, including Māori.</p> <p>High quality methods for dissemination and engagement with the relevant stakeholders.</p>
<p>Benefit (15%)</p> <p>Understanding of the benefit to potential next and end-users, including benefit to insured persons or reducing the future cost of NH cover.</p> <p>Relevance of benefits and additional value for Māori and New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p> <p>Builds capability for Aotearoa NZ through the PI or the team, which is helpful for the natural hazards sector.</p> <p>Aligns to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Negligible scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>	<p>Minimal. scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover</p>	<p>Limited scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>	<p>Acceptable scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>	<p>Substantial scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>	<p>Extensive scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>	<p>Impressive scale and extent of potential benefit to insured persons and/or potential for the research to reduce costs of providing natural hazards insurance cover.</p>
	<p>The relevance of benefits and additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks is missing.</p>	<p>Poor relevance of benefits and insufficient additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>	<p>Some relevance of benefits and partial additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>	<p>Sufficient relevance of benefits and reasonable additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>	<p>Good relevance of benefits and large additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>	<p>Comprehensive relevance of benefits and certain additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>	<p>Outstanding relevance of benefits and exemplary additional value for New Zealanders’ resilience to natural hazard risks.</p>
	<p>This proposal does not build the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal minimally builds the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal somewhat builds the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal sufficiently builds the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal builds well the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal certainly builds the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>	<p>This proposal absolutely builds the capability of the researcher, team or sector.</p>
	<p>Does not align to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Minimally aligns to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Partially aligns to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Reasonably aligns to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Good alignment to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Very good alignment to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>	<p>Excellent alignment to the MBIE Vision Mātauranga Policy as applies to natural hazard resilience.</p>