

OUR LAND AND WATER

Toitū te Whenua,
Toiora te Wai

What is Our Land and Water?

Our Land and Water is a National Science Challenge. National Science Challenges are dedicated and designed to break new ground in areas of science that are crucial to New Zealand's future. In our case, this means, tackling the biggest science-based issues and opportunities facing our country in the area of primary production, and the complex relationship it has with our precious land and water resources.

Enhancing New Zealand's primary sector production and productivity while maintaining or improving land and water quality is our aim. The vision for Our Land and Water is that New Zealand is world-renowned for integrated and successful land based primary production systems, supported by healthy land and water and capable people. We already have research programmes underway including **Collaboration Lab** that specifically target our aim and are working towards our future vision. The Challenge research is structured around three interlocking themes, one of which is Collaborative Capacity in which the Collaboration Lab programme sits.

Research Timeline

July 2016: Collaboration Lab funding approved

November 2016: Collaboration Lab research underway

June 2019: Collaboration Lab research complete

Why do we need research about Collaboration?

The value of collaboration has begun to be recognised in New Zealand. Social science research over the past twenty years has emphasised the importance of collaboration for achieving successful outcomes in complex systems. However, there are still gaps in our understanding; there is insufficient long-term evaluation of collaborative approaches, there is a scarcity of studies on how researchers undertake interdisciplinary research, translating concepts of collaboration into practice has proven very difficult and there is a lack of important information about Māori participation in collaborative processes.

In New Zealand, adversarial processes have dominated natural resource decision-making processes, leading to stalemate and inaction. The magnitude and complexity of the challenges in New Zealand's land and water sectors require science and society to work in completely new ways requiring new models of engagement and science-society interaction. One of these new ways of working is collaboration.

The research in the Collaboration Lab programme will help to address the aforementioned gaps. The programme includes three research projects which commenced in late 2016.

The research has three projects:

1. Project one will use practitioner insights about how the use of collaborative processes enables new practices, ways of organising and social relations that support decision-making and practice change.
2. Project two will survey participants of seven current limit-setting processes and the wider community. These surveys are designed to evaluate both the collaborative process and the outcomes of the collaboration.
3. Project three will examine collaboration case studies using the Integration and Implementation Science (I2S) framework. This is to understand if using the I2S framework could lead to improved outcomes in land and water management through improved researcher practice.

Together these projects will build an enhanced understanding of collaborative practice, weaving together centuries of focused practice in Māori tikanga and the

leading innovative edge of current collaborative practice from multiple fields to form new mātauranga, or practical wisdom.

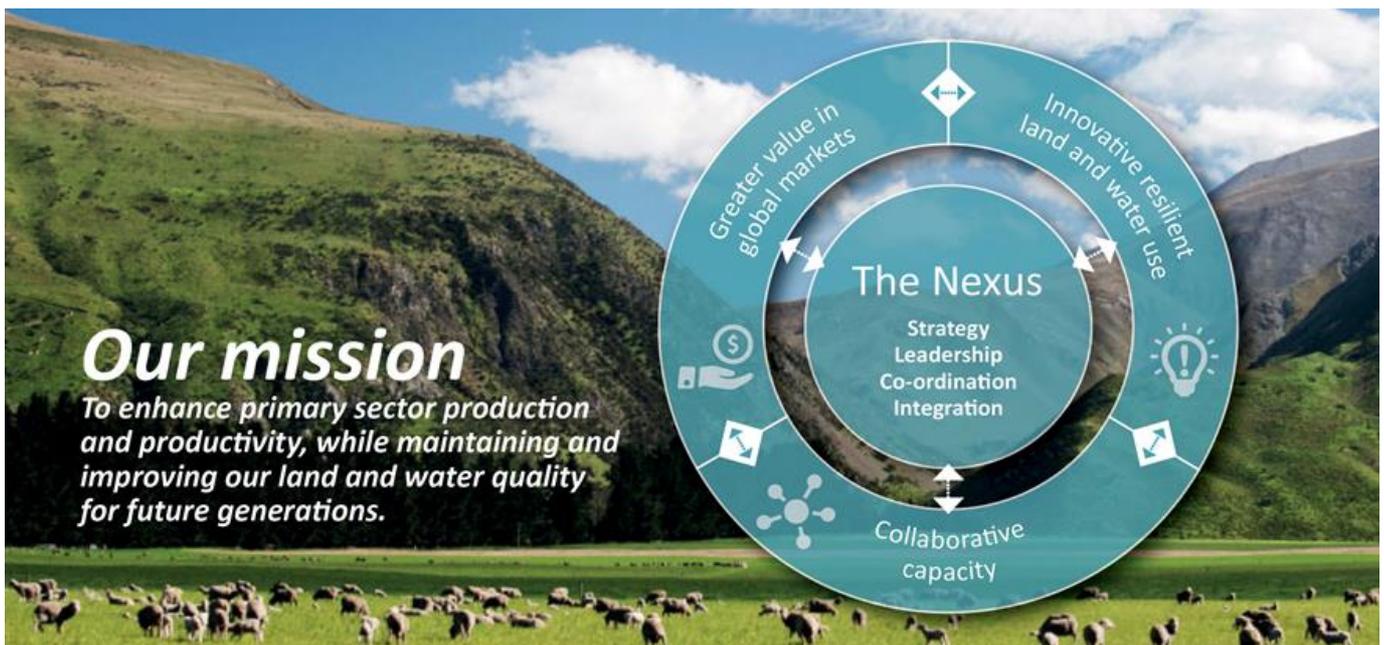
This research aims to improve collaborative practice, improve knowledge around the impacts of collaboration and identify the characteristics of effective interdisciplinary research.

Who is involved in the research?

Our Land and Water provides an opportunity for collaboration between the best teams and researchers from universities, institutions, businesses and non-government organisations.

The Collaboration Lab consists of scientists, facilitators, social development practitioners and Iwi members and has a broad research team across non-government agencies, local Iwi, Crown Research Institutes and Universities.

The point of contact for the Collaboration Lab research is Melissa Robson : robsonm@landcareresearch.co.nz



Our mission

To enhance primary sector production and productivity, while maintaining and improving our land and water quality for future generations.