

CONTESTABLE FUND: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – SECOND CALL

Background

The Our Land and Water (OLW) - National Science Challenge: has the objective *“To enhance primary sector production and productivity while maintaining and improving our land and water quality for future generations”* and the vision that *“New Zealand is world-renowned for integrated and successful land-based primary production systems, supported by healthy land and water and capable people”*.

The Challenge has three research Themes:

- Greater Value from Global Markets
- Innovative and Resilient Land and Water Use
- Collaborative Capacity

The OLV Challenge funds programmes that align to its Strategy (see www.ourlandandwater.nz). However, part of this strategy is to be inclusive of new innovative science and providers from the entire New Zealand science spectrum. Therefore, in addition to the existing funded programmes, the Challenge has an open “Contestable Fund”. The following information outlines the scope and timetable for the Contestable Fund process.

Funding

Up to \$750,000 dollars (ex GST) will be available over 2 years, beginning Jun, 2017. Individual projects to a maximum value of \$200,000 p.a. (i.e., total of \$400,000) will be considered. Applicants should note that projects of lesser value are encouraged.

Eligibility

Any New Zealand-based research organisation or end-user may apply. However a minimum of 75% of any funds approved through this funding round must remain within New Zealand. To encourage new researchers to engage with the challenge those researchers already contracted with the OLV Challenge at an FTE allocation of 0.15 or more per annum will not be eligible. We are looking for new and innovative research so the project (or a close variation) cannot already be funded by MBIE or another funding agency and any parallel application(s) must be declared in the proposal.

Scope

Proposals are invited that will show measureable and significant progress towards the Challenge Mission and are aligned to one or more of the Challenge Themes. Projects are to be innovative, can be of high risk, and should comprise research which would not be expected to be supported through other funding mechanisms. Projects should also connect directly with stakeholders. Applicants are **required** to contact the Chief Scientist or relevant Theme Leader to ensure their proposal is cognizant of existing Challenge programmes and Mission.

We are especially interested in proposals that explore new primary production and productivity systems or explore how the value chain can incentivise and reward sustainable land use practices (see www.ourlandandwater.nz).

Our Land and Water Science Theme Leaders

Name	Programme	Email
Rich. McDowell	Chief Scientist	Richard.mcdowell@agresearch.co.nz
Caroline Saunders	Greater Value from Global Markets	Caroline.saunders@lincoln.ac.nz
Alistair Mowat	Greater Value from Global Markets	Alistair.mowat@gmail.com
Chris Tanner	Innovative and Resilient Land and Water Use	Chris.tanner@niwa.co.nz
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Bruce Thorrold	Innovative and Resilient Land and Water Use	Bruce.thorrold@dairynz.co.nz
James Turner	Collaborative Capacity	James.turner@agresearch.co.nz
David Perenara-O'Connell	Collaborative Capacity	David.Perenara-O'Connell@ecan.govt.nz

Assessing Proposals

Proposals are to be sent to ourlandandwater@agresearch.co.nz by 5 pm on the 3rd of March, 2017.

If there are a large number of proposals, the Challenge Directorate (Director and Chief Scientist) reserves the right to filter proposals by 'goodness of fit' to the Challenge Mission and alignment with one or more of the Challenge Themes.

Proposals will be reviewed by the Directorate, Science Leadership Team and at least two national or international experts. Additional expertise will be co-opted if any member of the team is conflicted or that there is insufficient expertise in an area (e.g. for Māori agri-business).

Projects will be assessed on a scale of 1 (poor) – 5 (excellent) in the following areas and weightings.

1. Fit with the Challenge Mission and Themes (10%)
2. Science excellence expressed as niche, novelty, hypothesis and methodology (50%)
3. Ability of the team to deliver, risks and capability development (10%)
4. Implementation pathway, stakeholder interaction, co-funding, and relevance to Māori (15%)
5. Outcome, expressed as progress towards the Challenge Mission (15%)

Assessments will be communicated by the Chief Scientist to the Director who will make recommendations to the Challenge Board.

Note that a recommendation for funding may be subject to reviewer feedback being addressed in a proposal.

Timeline

Event	Key Dates
RfP released	1 January, 2017
RfP closes	3 March, 2017
Projects assessed	6-11 March, 2017
Board make recommendations known	April, 2017
Sub-contracts set-up	May, 2017
Projects commence	1 June 2017
Projects completed	Any time up to 31 May, 2019