

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

**ROLE:** Science Theme leader, Our Land and Water National Science Challenge

**TERM:** Fixed term (until 30 June 2024)

**STATUS:** 0.40 FTE

**LOCATION:** Any of the Challenge Party institutions' sites

**DIRECTLY ACCOUNTABLE TO:** Challenge Chief Scientist

### PURPOSE

The Theme Leader will be responsible for: Leading one of the three research themes in NZ's Our Land and Water National Science Challenge, to ensure the delivery of the following objective: *"To maintain and improve our land and water quality for future generations, while enhancing the value of the primary sector to New Zealand"*

The objective supports the Challenge vision: *"A future where catchments contain mosaics of land uses that are more resilient, healthy and prosperous than today; where all New Zealanders are proud of the state of our land and water and share value from them"*

The Theme leader will assist the Chief Scientist, Director and Te Kaihāpai Māori in ensuring that the Challenge explores and invests in excellent science that delivers to the objective and vision. While primarily responsible for one theme, the Theme Leader will operate across the Challenge, contributing to each theme in accordance with their skills, knowledge and experience

The Our Land and Water National Science Challenge has Te Ao Māori at its heart. The Theme Leader will be an advocate for a Māori world view as a guide for Challenge process and a key informant of research science strategy and impact

### OVERVIEW OF KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

Each Theme Leader will:

- Provide strategic science advice to the Chief Scientist and Programme Leaders on new research or implementation opportunities by remaining active in research and cultivating stakeholder networks
- Provide input to the Chief Scientist on investment processes and science prioritisation
- Help align and integrate Challenge science, recognising and building on the links and interdependencies between the Challenge Themes
- Oversee and support the performance of Challenge programmes/projects in respect of Te Ao Māori, science excellence, impact and capability development
- In conjunction with Te Kaihāpai Māori ensure research design and practice reflect the Challenge's commitment to Te Ao Māori and Mātauranga Māori

### KEY RESULT AREAS

*Strategic science advice*

- Support the Directorate in achieving the Challenge commitments to Te Ao Māori, including building links between Challenge research and impact for Māori, and the development and embedding of Mātauranga Māori and emerging Māori leaders in the Challenge
- As appropriate, lead or contribute to think-pieces with other theme leaders, the directorate or other interested parties, to explore potential areas of Challenge research

- Help to identify issues and research opportunities via science and stakeholder networks, including the Challenge Parties, that will accelerate Challenge progress towards its objective. This includes maintaining a watch on trends, drivers and science needs across the land and water science sectors.
- Contribute to strategic initiatives and formal scanning exercises such as refreshes of the Challenge strategy, the Research Landscape Map and the Strategy Landscape Map.
- Support the achievement of impact in partnership with Challenge programmes through effective engagement with stakeholders, and through the facilitation of co-innovation throughout the lifecycles of Challenge programmes

#### *Integration, alignment and implementation*

- Facilitate, align and integrate research carried out by Challenge programmes, Challenge Parties or others to the Challenge to accelerate progress toward the Challenge objective
- Work in partnership with Challenge programmes and stakeholders to ensure a pathway to implementation of scientific outputs, by supporting co-innovation in research where these enhance the achievement of the Challenge objective and vision
- Support the Directorate in the dissemination of Challenge science, and in accordance with the Challenge engagement and communications strategy

#### *Theme performance*

- Oversee the performance and evaluation of Challenge funded research including reviewing and reporting quarterly to the Directorate on commitments to Te Ao Māori, capability development, progress towards Challenge impacts, key research achievements, issues and risks
- Participate in, and follow up on, annual reviews (and other assessments as required) to ensure that Challenge research programmes/projects are delivering to our vision and objective
- Help and encourage Challenge Programme Leaders to create and maintain a culture of co-innovation with stakeholders and research partners, and in collaboration with the Chief Scientist and Te Kaihāpai Māori, regularly evaluate and enhance the effectiveness of co-innovation within the Challenge
- Ensure the challenge research is supporting the achievement of the challenge KPI's
- Working with the operations team to ensure monitoring and evaluation of challenge research is meeting the needs of the challenge and researchers

#### **KEY LIAISONS**

- Directorate staff, including the Challenge Chief Scientist, Director, Te Kaihāpai Māori and other Theme Leaders
- Programme and Project leaders, primarily within their theme, but across the Challenge as appropriate to programme knowledge and skill needs
- Relevant staff in the Directorate
- Māori partners involved in Challenge research activities
- Other stakeholders, including policy departments of government relevant to the achievement of the Challenge objective
- Challenge Parties Group

#### **EDUCATION/QUALIFICATIONS**

- Tertiary qualified (or equivalent experience) in area of science relevant to their Theme and the Challenge Vision and objective

### **KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE REQUIRED**

- Understanding of Te Ao Māori and its central role in shaping the direction, content and process of Challenge research
- Scientist with national or international reputation in one or more research disciplines relevant to their Theme and the Challenge objective and vision
- A proactive approach: identifying needs and issues and having and taking ownership of the strategic direction of their theme
- A commitment to working from a systems perspective on the knowledge needed to resolve the issues the Challenge is addressing and to realise the Challenge objective and vision
- Experience leading a substantial programme of transdisciplinary science with many collaborating scientists and stakeholders