



POSITION DESCRIPTION

- POSITION:** Interim Research Leader, NZ's Biological Heritage National Science Challenge Science Leadership Group (SLG)
- TERM:** Fixed term (6-8 months with option of extending position by mutual agreement)
- STATUS:** 0.3 FTE
- LOCATION:** Anywhere in Aotearoa/New Zealand
- FORMALLY ACCOUNTABLE TO:** Line Manager in Individual's Institution
- DIRECTLY REPORTING TO:** Challenge Director and Director Māori

PURPOSE:

Interim Research Leaders will be responsible for:

1. Building networks and linkages to help deliver transformational change.
2. Embedding the Challenge's values and ways of working across the New Zealand science and innovation system.
3. Working with other members of the SLG, Governance Group, and Kāhui Māori to operationalise the Challenge's 2019-2024 Tranche 2 Strategy.
4. Research leadership and 'thought leadership' to achieve greater impact.
5. Working constructively with all members of the SLG to give effect to Vision Mātauranga.
6. Ensuring high levels of science relevance and alignment with priorities of end users via the Challenge Strategy.
7. Facilitating alignment of research by Challenge Parties to the Tranche 2 Strategy.
8. Being recognised in New Zealand and internationally as a major contributor to outcomes through effective engagement with stakeholders.
9. Facilitating co-design of research to deliver greater impact through co-design with Māori.
10. Working closely with stakeholders to ensure adoption and scale-out of new knowledge.
11. Advising the Challenge Director and Director Māori of barriers to delivery of impact.
12. Ensuring coordination of investment across the Challenge, and with science leaders across Challenge Party institutions, to ensure integration of research activities nationally.
13. Working closely with the Challenge Support Team as required to design national teams that will deliver greater impact and benefit to Aotearoa.

KEY ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Providing leadership, focus and direction for Challenge investments.
2. Ensuring that the Challenge's values and aspirations are embedded in Tranche 2.
3. Ensuring that Challenge investments give effect to the Vision Mātauranga policy (scoring 3 or above on the VM scale).
4. Linking investments to relevant global research activities, to enhance the overall scope and depth of effort underpinning the Challenge Mission.
5. Facilitating alignment of research carried out by Challenge Parties and funded from non-Challenge sources to deliver greater benefit and impact.
6. Working with Knowledge Brokers and end users to facilitate knowledge transfer.
7. Developing and maintaining a network across similar roles in other National Science Challenges, key researchers in Challenge Party institutions, and MBIE.
8. Ensuring process and reporting requirements in relation to areas of responsibility are met.
9. Informing the Challenge Director and Director Māori proactively and in a timely fashion of any issues impacting on delivery.
10. Supporting the Director and the SLG in maintaining a culture and climate which facilitates high performance and high levels of satisfaction and engagement by all Challenge Parties.



Health, Safety and Environment

- Take all practicable steps to ensure your own health and safety in the workplace, and that no action or inaction on your own part harms others.
- Comply with Health, Safety and Environmental Legislation and Regulations and Landcare Research safe work policies, procedures and instructions.

PERSON SPECIFICATION:

Education/Qualifications and Learning

- Tertiary qualified (or equivalent experience) in field relevant to the Challenge Mission.

Knowledge, Experience and Personal Attributes

- National/international reputation in one or more disciplines relevant to the Mission.
- A proactive approach: identifying needs and issues, taking ownership of strategic direction, building networks of influencers and other thought leaders, and providing drive.
- Exceptional relationship management skills.

Competencies:

- Stakeholder Focus: Understands the needs of stakeholders, communicates with them regularly and delivers on expectations.
- Resilience: Maintains effective work behaviour in the face of setbacks or pressure. Remains calm, stable and in control of themselves and situations.
- Communication: Speaks clearly and fluently and in a compelling manner to both individuals and groups. Maintains regular and frequent dialogue with key influencers in all Challenge Parties, working proactively to build strategic direction. Writes in a clear and concise manner, using appropriate grammar, style and language. Has a broad perspective on effective brokering and transfer of knowledge required by key stakeholders.
- Strategic Thinking: Demonstrates a broad-based view of key influences on short-, medium, and long-term issues affecting delivery of impact, and works to respond to such influences.
- Drive and Initiative: Is self-motivated and shows a willingness to think for themselves, initiate action and make decisions.
- Questions traditional assumptions and identifies fresh approaches to help deliver on the Challenge Mission.

INTERACTIONS/REGULAR CONTACT WITH:

Internal to the Challenge:

Interim Research Leaders will work closely with:

- The Challenge Director, Director Māori, SLG, Governance Group, and Kāhui Māori.
- Research leaders across organisations in New Zealand.
- The Challenge Support Team.

External to the Challenge:

Interim Research Leaders will also work closely with:

- MBIE; Stakeholders and end users.