



## Bashford-Nicholls Trust – Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Premier Research-in-Action Award

### APPLICATION GUIDELINES

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#### Purpose of the Award

The **Pivot – Enabling Innovation in Agriculture: Bashford-Nicholls Trust – Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Premier Research-in-Action Award** (hereafter referred to as the Pivot Award) offers an opportunity to realise the remarkable potential of the agricultural, horticultural and veterinary sector in Taranaki. The Pivot Award supports the application of research or research translation initiatives to help Taranaki communities flourish.

Launched in 2019, the Pivot Award is a joint initiative between the Bashford-Nicholls Trust and Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa. We want to support collaborative projects with Massey University researchers and Taranaki stakeholders that apply or extend the results of research to create positive change for Taranaki communities, businesses, industries and environment. The focus of the award is not on the research itself but on the positive outcomes and impacts that the Taranaki region will receive at the conclusion of the projects.

#### Who are we?

The **Bishop's Action Foundation** is a charitable organisation that works throughout Taranaki, researching, collaborating and supporting projects that help the Taranaki community to flourish. It manages the scholarships provided by the **Bashford-Nicholls Trust**, which manages the proceeds from the sale of two farms in South Taranaki with the aim of generating surpluses to enable scholarships for agriculture and veterinary science study and research.

**Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa** is internationally recognized for its research in agri-food, veterinary medicine and sciences. Its researchers in these areas, and within the fields of environmental and resource management, Mātauranga Māori and social and health sciences, significantly contribute to New Zealand's social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

#### Award Outcomes

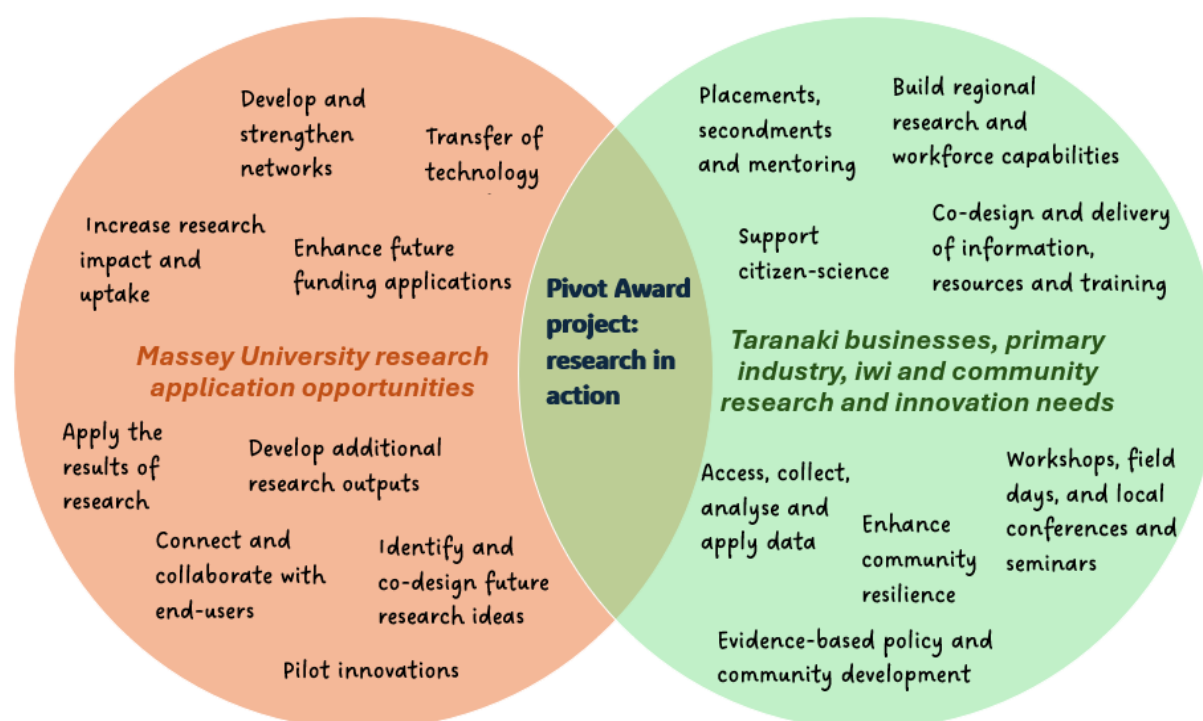
The Pivot Award is looking to support projects that contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Translation or adoption of agriculture, horticulture and/or veterinary related research to the benefit of the Taranaki region.
2. Demonstration or extension of sustainable agriculture, horticulture or veterinary practices that may not yet be widely adopted in the Taranaki region. These could include practices that:
  - a) have been recently developed through research

- b) have been successful in other regions or under different conditions
  - c) will assist with managing changing conditions
  - d) will assist in the improvement of quality of life for those living and working in the Taranaki region
  - e) embrace emerging technologies
  - f) improve the capacity of Taranaki communities, including training and mentoring, and/or
  - g) improve collaboration and communication around agriculture, horticulture and/or veterinary research disciplines.
3. Improvement of the productivity, economic, environmental or social potential of the agricultural, horticulture or veterinary sector in Taranaki.

## Value Proposition

This is an opportunity for Massey University researchers to work alongside Taranaki-based organisations or individuals to apply the results of existing research in practical and impactful ways for the benefit of Taranaki communities, businesses or primary industries. As indicated in the graphic below, the ideal Pivot Award project will leverage the results of research and the skills and experience of Taranaki stakeholders for creative solutions and positive action for the benefit of both Massey researchers and the region.



## Award amount

Each project supported by the Pivot Award can be awarded up to **\$35,000**, with the maximum overall funding awarded each year being \$100,000. The value of the Award is not subject to GST, inclusive or otherwise. This award is comprised of equal funding from the Bashford-Nicholls Trust and Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa.

Each project proposal needs to be clear (and realistic) on the level of funding being sought, the timeframe in which the project can be completed, and the mitigation of any potential risks.

Funds may be expended within either a 12 or 18-month period from the date on which they are awarded as specified in the award approval letter. Funds must not provide a private benefit to any members of the project team, except in the form of a payment for researcher time, travel costs directly associated with the project or student stipend.

## Application process and timeline

The application process includes several steps as set out in the timeline below. Information about the Pivot Award and application process will be developed and shared ahead of the workshop by Massey staff including the Business Development Manager (Taranaki).

Taranaki stakeholders and Massey University researchers are invited to come together at the **Research Connections Workshop** in **July** to explore mutual opportunities to apply research in innovative and practical ways for the benefit of the region. The workshop is likely to be of interest to Taranaki individuals, community organisations or representatives, primary industry representatives, local businesses and rural support networks keen to work with Massey University to apply the outcomes of relevant research for the benefit of the region. Members of the Pivot Award Committee may attend the workshop and/or suggest 'Critical Friends' to attend to offer local information or ask questions to prompt discussion. Eve Kawana-Brown, Business Development Manager (Taranaki), may also attend and is available to discuss connections into Massey pre or post the workshop.

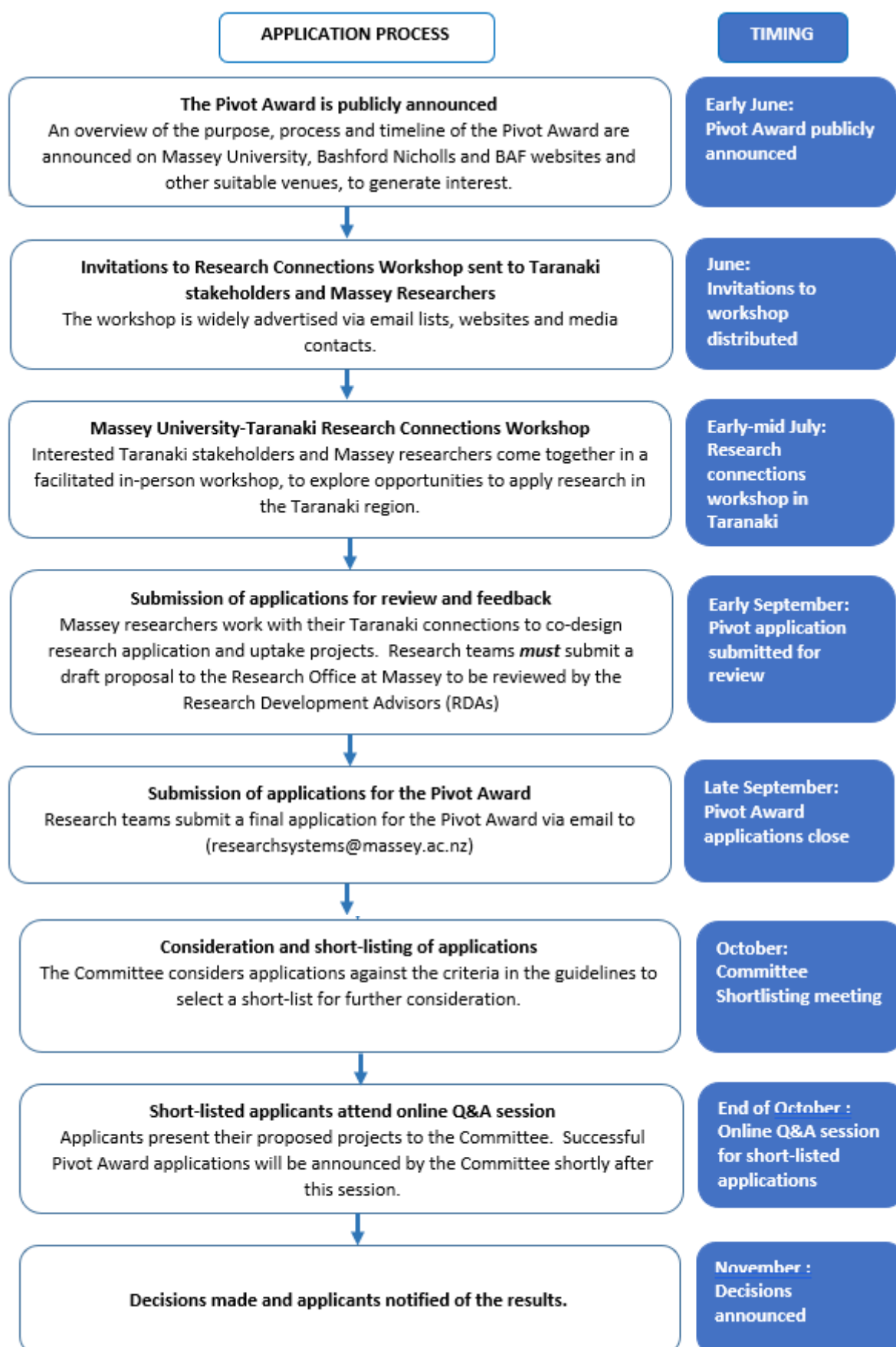
Applications must be completed on the Pivot Award application template. Support is available to assist in completing applications from the Massey University Research Office. Please contact the Award Secretary ([researchsystems@massey.ac.nz](mailto:researchsystems@massey.ac.nz)) for further information.

#### ***Applications review***

All applications **must** be submitted for review and feedback by the Research Development Advisors (RDAs) at Massey Research Office by 8 September 2025. The RDAs will review the content of the project proposal against the Award guidelines and provide feedback to the applicants.

Final applications must be submitted by the applicants via email to the Award secretary ([researchsystems@massey.ac.nz](mailto:researchsystems@massey.ac.nz)) by 5 pm on the closing date. No late applications will be considered.

The Pivot Award Committee will consider all applications against the eligibility criteria and award outcomes set out in these guidelines. The Committee will create a short list of projects that closely align with these criteria, and short-listed applicants will be invited to attend an **online Q&A session** in **October** to present their applications and discuss the details of their projects with Committee members. Final decisions will be announced shortly after this meeting. Funding will be available from January the following year.



### The Pivot Award Committee

The Pivot Award Committee will consider all applications and make final decisions on which applications will receive a Pivot Award.

The Committee is chaired by the Chair of the Bashford-Nicholls Trust Board, and comprises:

- The Provost of Massey University or nominee;
- One representative nominated by the Bishop’s Action Foundation;
- One member of the Bashford-Nicholls Trust Board (in addition to, and appointed by, the Chair of the Trust Board);
- The Chair of the Massey University Scholarships Committee or nominee;
- One other Massey University representative appointed by the Provost of Massey University, and
- A Māori representative nominated by the Chair of the Pivot Award Committee.

Committee secretarial support will be provided by Massey University’s Research Operations team.

### Conflict of Interest

Where a member of the Award Committee considers they have a material connection to an applicant and/or considers they may have a potential conflict of interest in relation to an applicant, or that there is a high risk of the possibility of a perceived conflict, that conflict is to be notified to the Secretary of the Committee prior to the assessment of applications. Where an applicant considers there is a high risk of the possibility of a perceived conflict of interest, this must be notified to the Secretary. In the event of a material and actual conflict of interest, the relevant Committee members will be required to absent themselves from the discussion of that application.

### Eligibility criteria

This award is for:

- Massey University researchers who wish to undertake projects to apply their research knowledge and expertise, alongside an organisation, industry group, community group or individual in the Taranaki region where there is clear ‘regional fit’ and value for Taranaki; and
- Organisations or individuals seeking to work with Massey University researchers, to develop economic, social or environmental benefit for the Taranaki region.

Applications must meet the following eligibility criteria.

1. Projects must be led by a Massey University researcher and a representative of the Taranaki partner(s).
2. Preference will be given to projects where the Massey University project leader demonstrates a genuine connection with the Taranaki region and the ability to deliver positive economic, social or environmental outcomes from the application of their research knowledge.
3. Where the project involves a wider team, Massey University researchers must comprise at least 50% of the team. Massey University researchers must be:
  - current employees of Massey University (including postdoctoral scholars) employed at greater than 0.5 FTE, and/or
  - postgraduate research students enrolled at Massey University at greater than 0.5 EFTS (or greater than half the full-time credit requirement).

*NB: The Bashford-Nicholls Trust Deed specifies that beneficiaries of the Trust need to be New Zealand citizens resident in New Zealand. This Award will be administered in accordance with the Trust Deed.*

*Disclaimer: Our fund prioritises ethical investing, focusing on sustainability and social responsibility. Consequently, we avoid industries that harm the environment or society, ensuring our investments align with our values and contribute positively to the world. The assessment committee reserves the right to decline to fund applications that do not align with these objectives.*

Unsuccessful applicants are welcome to reapply for the Award in subsequent years, on the assumption they submit a significantly amended proposal based on feedback received through the assessment process.

## Project budget

Provide a brief project budget in the application form. Note that no University overheads apply to the Pivot Award.

### Funding will NOT be awarded for any of the following:

- Business-as-usual activities for the participants or beneficiaries of the project;
- Activities that are reasonably considered to be the same as ones which are already underway, or activities that are so closely related that they could not be reasonably considered to be additional to those already available;
- Activities (including purchases of equipment or materials) that could reasonably be considered to be part of a land manager/owner's ordinary responsibility, unless they demonstrate a substantial public benefit that would not occur without the grant, and the private beneficiary's contribution to the cost of the project is at least proportional to the private benefit obtained (note that co-funding, either in cash or in-kind, will be taken into account when considering the private beneficiary's contribution);
- Activities and trials of methods that are already well-established best practice for relevant industries or the region;
- Single-benefit commercial or other activities that do not demonstrate benefits to the Taranaki region beyond those that accrue to the individuals or organisations contributing to the project;
- Overseas travel by project team members;
- Costs incurred in the preparation of an Award application or related documentation, and
- Projects which have been previously funded by this Award.

Funds will be available from January the following year and will be managed via a Massey University research project account.

## Assessment criteria

In assessing applications, the Award Committee will consider the following criteria.

### Rationale

Provides a robust demonstration of the demand for the project, including:

- Describes how the outcomes of the project will benefit the Taranaki region, consistent with the purpose of the Award, and that would not occur without the Award.
- Describes how the proposal will complement or add to existing knowledge, services and resources within the community, sector or industry.
- Clarifies other sources of aligned funding for the proposed project and/or the relationship between the proposed project and other projects currently underway by named members of the project team.

### Impact

Convincingly demonstrates the potential to achieve on one or more of the following:

- Work alongside stakeholders to apply the findings of research to create genuine change for communities, businesses, industries and/or the environment.
- Optimise the impact of the proposal including a plan for community outreach and other knowledge translation of research findings within the Taranaki region.
- Provide opportunities for building research capacity within the region (for example supporting Māori researchers; inclusion of students or early career researchers; upskilling of local 'citizen scientists' or drawing researchers with a strong connection to Taranaki back into the region to contribute their knowledge and skills to its development).

## Project design

Provides a clear and detailed description of how the proposed project will be implemented, including evidence

of the links between the proposed outcomes/deliverables, benefit to the community, and amount of funding sought, including:

- Alignment with one or more the Award Outcomes.
- A project design and methodology that clearly is appropriate and will contribute to the success of the project.
- The potential for genuine links between the Massey University researcher and the community, including established relationships with stakeholders, relevant organisations, clients, or other service providers.
- A project team that has the relevant expertise, skills and community connections to complete the project and to deliver the proposed outcomes.
- Assurance of the feasibility to achieve what is being proposed in the timeframe (within either one or two years from the date the funding is awarded) and within available resources.
- Risk mitigation associated with the project, especially in the event of delays beyond the control of team members. The team is otherwise expected to manage the project prudently and professionally to successful completion.
- A clear benefit to Taranaki beyond those that accrue to the individuals or organisations contributing to the project.

### Awardee requirements

Leaders of funded projects will be asked to sign a brief agreement letter, confirming amount funded, project start and finish dates and the date a final brief report is due.

Within three months of the project funding period ending, project leaders will provide a brief report on their activities and the impacts of the project. This report is submitted to the Award Secretary in a standard template provided to successful applicants.

In undertaking their project, project leaders are encouraged to advise the Secretary of any issues that might affect the timing or delivery of the project outcomes **as soon as practicable**. Describing the issue, its potential impacts, and possible mitigations will help the Secretary and Committee to comment on suggestions or variations that might be acceptable within the project. The Committee also reserves the right to request a brief progress update from project leaders part-way through projects, again with a view to supporting the successful completion of the project.

Successful applicants are expected to acknowledge the support of the Pivot Award, the Bashford Nicholls Trust and Massey University in any media or publications arising from the project.

### Further information and support

Any queries about the process or these guidelines should be directed to Award Secretary (email [researchsystems@massey.ac.nz](mailto:researchsystems@massey.ac.nz)).

Anyone looking to provide connections between Massey researchers or interested parties in Taranaki are asked to contact the Award Secretary (email [researchsystems@massey.ac.nz](mailto:researchsystems@massey.ac.nz)) or Eve Kawana-Brown the Business Development Manager (Taranaki) (email [E.Kawana-Brown@massey.ac.nz](mailto:E.Kawana-Brown@massey.ac.nz)).

Support is available to assist in completing Pivot Award applications from the Massey University Research Office. Please contact the Award Secretary ([researchsystems@massey.ac.nz](mailto:researchsystems@massey.ac.nz)) for further information.