



## INNOVATION FUND ALLOCATION POLICY

---

### Background

The primary funding for Coastal People: Southern Skies Centre of Research Excellence (the Centre) is from the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC). The Centre will allocate its financial resources in a strategic and transparent way, in alignment with its values, in order to meet its strategic goals. These goals, and the methods of measuring progress against them, are defined in the TEC Annual Plan.

The Innovation Sail (Innovation Fund) is intended to capture the spirit of understanding, experimenting, and collaborating in new ways by funding pilot studies that focus on technological advances, blue-sky ideas and novel combinations of research teams alongside local communities. The funding may also be used to support innovative training development and outreach. The funding is not intended to fund the FTE of permanent staff.

The **vision** of CPSS is flourishing wellness (mauri ora) of coastal communities.

The **mission** of CPSS is to connect, understand and restore coastal ecosystems of NZ and the Pacific through transformative research, local action and by unlocking potential through new pathways to learning.

The **values** of CPSS are central to all that we do and all of our actions are underpinned by these values; our values are based on **KAITIAKITANGA** and **MANA**:

**MEANINGFUL  
AUTHENTIC  
NATURAL  
ACTION**

### Content

1. All non-student members of the Centre are eligible to submit proposals to the Innovation Fund. Applications from PhD candidates who have submitted their thesis for examination will be considered on a case by case basis.
2. The assessment criteria are that the proposed project must:
  - o align with the values of the Centre;
  - o benefit coastal communities, Māori or Pacific peoples;
  - o be developed in line with the vision and mission of the Centre;
  - o be premised on understanding, experimenting, and or collaborating in new ways;



- o be:
    - i) a pilot study/project focussed on technological advances, blue-sky ideas, innovative training programme development; and or
    - ii) novel combinations of research teams alongside local communities including outreach activities; and or
    - iii) a novel initiative that is unlikely to receive funding from any other source.
  - o fit the criteria of research excellence as defined by the Centre;
  - o be complementary to the research programme defined in the Annual Plan;
  - o support the development of capability.
3. The Innovation Fund cannot be used to fund overheads.
  4. Projects may only receive funding from the Innovation Fund on one occasion (i.e. the same project will only be funded once).
  5. Funding rounds will be advertised to members of the Centre.
  6. Applications must be completed on the Innovation Fund Application Template.
  7. Funding applications will be reviewed by the Theme Leaders Group against the assessment criteria.

Following the collation of the applications, these will be reviewed to determine if the Theme Leaders Group membership profile is appropriate for the nature of the projects described. The Directors may appoint additional wellbeing, Pacific and or Māori researchers onto the Theme Leaders Group specifically for the evaluation of the applications, if required.
  8. The Theme Leaders Group will make a recommendation to the Senior Leadership Team who will review the recommendation and make a decision on the application.
  9. A summary of the Innovation Fund spending will be provided to the Strategic Advisory/Governance Board following each funding round detailing the initiatives funded and the associated budgets.
  10. The Senior Leadership Team reserve the right to make final decisions on eligibility and funding.

### **Related Documents**

TEC Annual Plan

Innovation Fund Guidelines

### **Contact for further information**

If you have any queries regarding the content of this policy or need further clarification, contact the Kaiurungi Programme Manager