



**Bashford-Nicholls Trust – Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa
Premier Research Award**

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

Purpose of the Award

The **Pivot – Enabling Innovation in Agriculture: Bashford-Nicholls Trust – Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Premier Research Award** offers an opportunity to realise the remarkable potential of the agricultural sector in Taranaki, to help Taranaki communities flourish. The Award supports research aligned projects or research translation initiatives with the potential to influence the future of agriculture and/or veterinary science and effect change in the Taranaki region.

The Pivot – Enabling Innovation in Agriculture: Bashford-Nicholls Trust – Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa Premier Research Award is a joint initiative between the Bashford-Nicholls Trust and Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa. The award was launched in 2019. It has a focus on researchers working alongside stakeholders to undertake research and/or to apply the findings of research, in order to create change for communities, businesses, industries and/or the environment in the Taranaki region. The Award is a catalyst for research-informed regional benefit.

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 operates two dairy 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 and engineering. Its researchers in these areas, and within the fields of environmental and resource management, Māori knowledge development and social and health sciences, significantly contribute to New Zealand's social, economic and environmental wellbeing.

Award Amount

The maximum value available in each funding round is **\$100,000**, comprising equal funding of \$50,000 from the Bashford-Nicholls Trust and Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa.

The funding may be allocated in the form of a single award for \$100,000, or as **two awards of up to \$50,000 each**. The value of the Award is not subject to GST, inclusive or otherwise.

Funds may be expended in either a 12 or a 24 month period from the date on which they are awarded.

Applicants should make clear in their proposal the level of funding they are applying for, and the timeframe in which they seek to complete the project and/or research. They are encouraged to be realistic about timeframes, budget, and mitigation of potential risks in what they propose to do.

It is assumed that applicants will comprise collaborative teams, although the Committee may choose to consider an application from a single applicant. 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.

Annual Timeline

Applications open:	June
Idea Concept Discussions:	June-August
Applications close:	September
Assessment process:	October
Interviews (for shortlisted applicants):	October
Award recipients announced:	November
Funding available:	January

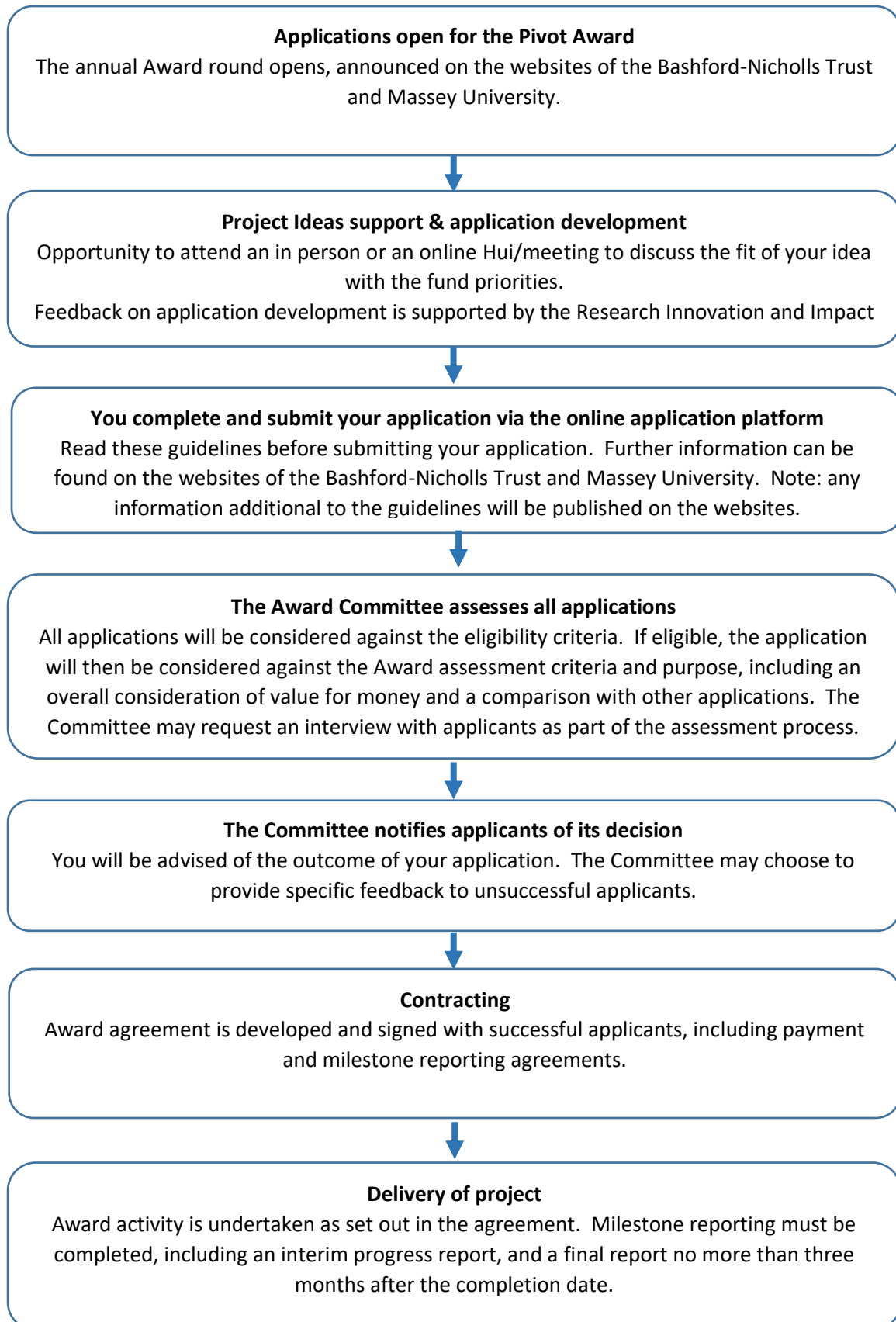
The Award Committee

Applications will be considered and Awardees selected by the Award Committee, comprised of:

- The Chair of the Bashford-Nicholls Trust Board;
- 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;
- The Provost of Massey University or nominee;
- One other Massey University representative appointed by the Provost of Massey University;
- One representative nominated by the Bishop's Action Foundation; and
- A Māori representative.

The Award Committee reserves the right to request an interview (either in person or remotely via videoconference) with applicants as part of the assessment process.

Application Process



Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered, applications must meet all the applicant and project eligibility criteria. Information must be provided to allow the Committee to assess whether the application meets the eligibility criteria.

Applicant eligibility criteria

This award is for:

- Massey University researchers who wish to undertake and lead research-aligned projects, or employ their research knowledge and expertise, with an organisation, industry, community group or individual in the Taranaki region where there is clear 'regional fit' and value for Taranaki, and/or
- Organisations or individuals seeking to work with Massey University researchers, to develop economic, social or environmental benefit for the Taranaki region and/or where that work may be nationally significant and of benefit to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Preference will be given to applicants who demonstrate a genuine connection with the Taranaki region and the ability to deliver positive economic, social or environmental outcomes from their research. The intention is that all members of the team will be based within New Zealand; however, consideration will be given to teams that include international experts.

To be eligible, applicant teams must comprise at least 50% Massey University researchers, as follows:

- 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 FTE 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.

The application must identify the Team Leader(s). If the application is successful, the Committee will work with the Team Leader(s) to establish an efficient project management process. Applications without Massey University leaders must identify a single point of contact within Massey University who will act as Project Manager, and with whom the Committee will liaise in establishing an efficient process.

Project eligibility criteria

To be eligible, the proposed research project must:

- contribute to achieving one or more of the three Award outcomes noted below;
- be designed so as to be completed within either one or two calendar years from the date the funding is first awarded;
- outline a programme of activities commensurate with the value of the Award/s (between \$50,000 and \$100,000);
- offer a clear benefit to Taranaki beyond those that accrue to the individuals or organisations contributing to the project;
- achieve outcomes that would not occur without the Award, and
- not provide a private benefit to the applicant or any members of the applicant team, except

in the form of a payment for research time and/or stipend.

Award Outcomes and Assessment Criteria

In making its decisions, the Committee will assess the information provided in applications in terms of how well they are likely to contribute to at least one of the Award outcomes, and against the assessment criteria. It will also consider how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving the overall purpose of the Award, and the value for money of applications. The application must describe how the proposed activities will contribute to achieving the purpose of the Award. Applicants are encouraged to describe how their application aligns with strategic initiatives in the region, and how it complements relevant local or national research, and research application or implementation initiatives.

In addition, applications must demonstrate how the project will contribute to one or more of the following outcomes:

1. Translation or adoption of agriculture and/or veterinary related research to the benefit of the Taranaki region.
2. Demonstration or extension of sustainable agriculture practices that may not yet be widely adopted in the Taranaki region. These could include practices that:
 - i. have been recently developed through research;
 - ii. have been successful in other regions or under different conditions;
 - iii. will assist with managing changing conditions;
 - iv. will assist in the improvement of quality of life for those living and working in the Taranaki region;
 - v. embrace emerging technologies;
 - vi. improve the capacity of Taranaki communities, including training and mentoring, and/or
 - vii. improve collaboration and communication around agriculture and/or veterinary research disciplines.
3. Improvement of the productivity, economic, environmental or social potential of the agricultural sector in Taranaki.

Proposals which offer outcomes and impacts with potential benefit at a national and/or international level will be welcomed, where a beneficial impact to Taranaki is also demonstrated.

In assessing applications, the Committee will give consideration to the following criteria:

Rationale

Provides a robust demonstration of the demand for the research:

- Identifies an opportunity to realise the potential of the agricultural sector in Taranaki and to help Taranaki communities flourish.
- Describes how the proposal will complement or add to existing research, services and resources within the community, or in national sector/industry contexts.
- 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.

- 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 research team.
- Includes a risk management plan to outline risk mitigation actions in the event of delays beyond the control of team members. The research team is otherwise expected to prudently and professionally manage the project to successful completion.

Impact

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

- Draw researchers with a strong connection to Taranaki back into the region to contribute their knowledge and skills to its development.
- 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).

Excellence

Describes a well-designed programme of research, or research translation/application, with a robust implementation plan that is designed to create genuine change for communities, businesses, industries and/or the environment in Taranaki, including:

- A project design and methodology that clearly is appropriate and will contribute to the success of the project.
- Strong links between the applicants and the community, including established relationships with stakeholders, relevant organisations, clients, or other service providers.
- How relevant knowledge from wider stakeholder groups will feed into the research.
- A project team that has the relevant expertise, skills, qualifications and experience to complete the project and to deliver the proposed outcomes.
- Assurance of the feasibility to achieve what is being proposed in the timeframe and within available resources.

Award purpose and outcomes

- Demonstrates how the project outcomes will benefit the Taranaki region consistent with the purpose and outcomes of the Award, supported by evidence-based statements.
- Implements and delivers a project within a one or two year timeframe, where the benefits of the research are likely to be realised within a reasonable timescale.

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:
 - i. a substantial public benefit that would not occur without the grant, and

- ii. 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);
- research 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 (however international experts may be brought to New Zealand for the purpose of assisting or guiding the project);
- activities outside of New Zealand (although exceptions may be considered by the Committee based on the potential of these activities to contribute directly to the project and the proposed impacts);
- costs incurred in the preparation of an Award application or related documentation; and
- projects which have been previously funded by this Award.

Project budgeting

Massey typically budgets projects to include an overhead component. No overheads apply to the Pivot Award, therefore budgets accompanying applications do not need to include overheads.

Conflict of Interest

Where a member of the Committee considers he or she has a material connection to an applicant and/or considers he or she 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.

Reporting by Award Recipients

Funding will be released in a minimum of two instalments: one at the start of the project and one approximately half way through the project, subject to satisfactory progress and indications that the project is on track to achieve planned outcomes. At the end of the first period of the project, recipients of the Award must provide a progress report outlining progress against the proposed initiatives and activities still to be undertaken, accompanied by a financial update. This report is submitted to the Secretary in a template provided to the Award Recipient. The progress of the project will be considered by the Committee prior to release of the final funding instalment.

Award recipients must provide a final report on their activities and the impacts of the project not more than three months from the end of the project funding period. The final report is also submitted to the Secretary in a standard template provided to the Award Recipient.

In undertaking their project, Award recipients are encouraged to advise the Secretary of any issues that might affect the timing or delivery of the project outcomes **as soon as practicable** rather than waiting to include them in the mid-way or final report. 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.