### Briefing Note: Meeting with the 2019 PBRF Review panel

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<th>To:</th>
<th>Hon Jenny Salesa, Associate Minister of Education</th>
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<td>Cc:</td>
<td>Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>23 July 2019</td>
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<td>Priority:</td>
<td>Medium</td>
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<td>In Confidence</td>
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<td>METIS No:</td>
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<td>Hannah Williams</td>
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<td>Ewan Delany</td>
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<td>Messaging seen by</td>
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<td>Communications team:</td>
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<td>Round Robin:</td>
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**Purpose of paper**

The purpose of this paper is for you to:

**Note** that you will be meeting with the 2019 Performance-Based Research Fund Review panel at their first meeting, at Mātauranga House in Wellington on Monday, 29 July. This briefing provides information to support you at this meeting.

**Agree** that this Briefing will be proactively released.

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**Signatures**

Andy Jackson  
Group Manager, Tertiary Policy  
Graduate Achievement,  
Vocations and Careers  
23/07/2019

Hon Jenny Salesa  
Associate Minister  
of Education  
24/7/19
Background

1. You are meeting with the 2019 Performance-Based Research Fund (PBRF) Review panel ("the panel") at Mātauranga House from 11:00am – 11:45am on Monday, 29 July. Ministry of Education ("the Ministry") officials will also be in attendance to support the meeting.

2. This meeting will allow you to meet all members of the panel as all six members will be attending in person.

3. There will be an opportunity for you to formally welcome the panel, as they commence their Review work. You may then wish to join the panel members for morning tea.

2019 PBRF Review panel members

4. You have agreed to the appointment and role of the panel (METIS 1196268 refers). All six of the panel members have now accepted their offers of appointment and will begin the Review on Monday, 29 July.

5. An announcement of the commencement of the 2019 PBRF Review and the panel appointees will be released by the Ministry on Wednesday, 24 July 2019.

6. The panel is comprised of well-known and experienced researchers, academic leaders and industry leaders. Further details on each panel member is included as Annex 1.

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<tr>
<th>Panel member</th>
<th>Current organisation/institution</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith (Chair)</td>
<td>University of Waikato</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Wendy Larner</td>
<td>Victoria University of Wellington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dr David Phipps</td>
<td>York University, Canada</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor Ian Town</td>
<td>Te Papa Hauora Christchurch Health Precinct</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Associate Professor Marcus Williams</td>
<td>Unitec Institute of Technology</td>
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7. The panel members have been selected for their collective skills and expertise across these areas:
   a. overseas funding systems
   b. detailed knowledge of our current system – from a research perspective and a management perspective
   c. mātauranga Māori
   d. Pacific research
   e. knowledge transfer and impact/applied researchers or those from industry.
Potential topics of discussion with the 2019 PBRF Review panel members

8. We suggest you use this opportunity to share with the panel your perspective on the purpose of the Review and the scale of the opportunity it presents, and to discuss with the panel how their work will inform any subsequent change.

9. The following section covers key subjects that the panel may be interested in hearing from you. We have attached talking points structured around these topics in Annex 2.

Purpose of the initial meeting of the 2019 PBRF Review panel

10. The panel's initial meeting will allow members to meet one another and make some decisions about how they would like to proceed with the Review.

11. This meeting will also allow the panel to meet with officials from the Ministry, Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) and Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) who will support the panel throughout the Review.

12. Officials will also discuss background information on the PBRF and the Terms of Reference for the 2019 PBRF Review with the panel, to ensure they are well-placed to begin the Review.

Rationale and process for the 2019 PBRF Review

13. On your recommendation, Cabinet has agreed to a comprehensive review of the fund and its core aims. The panel is not being invited to consider whether there should be a PBRF, but does have the opportunity to propose significant change to how the PBRF works in practice. For example, the panel may make recommendations about the unit of assessment (individual or group); how often there is a quality evaluation; how early career or part-time researchers are treated; or how Māori, Pacific and applied research is supported.

14. The PBRF Review will be guided by the Terms of Reference which were approved by Cabinet on 17 September 2018 [CAB-18-MIN-0449 refers]. As per the Terms of Reference, the aim of the Review is to examine the ways Government can continue to support research excellence, by improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the PBRF to ensure it continues to deliver solid outcomes for learners, businesses, communities and New Zealand.

15. The panel will work independently to review the PBRF and its core aims. Members will be supported with data, evidence and other assistance provided by the Ministry, the TEC and MBIE. The Ministry will also support the panel to consult with relevant experts and sector representatives to inform their work.

16. At the conclusion of their review, the panel will provide an independent report with its findings and any recommendations. The Ministry will provide you with advice on this final report.

17. We expect the panel to present its final report by 31 December 2019.
How the 2019 PBRF Review panel's final report will be used

18. You and Minister Hipkins are required to report back to Cabinet and seek approval for public consultation on recommended changes to the PBRF. The panel’s final report will inform the recommendations you make.

19. The panel's final report will be proactively released to inform public discussion during the public consultation phase of the PBRF Review.

Next Steps

20. You may wish to discuss this further at your next meeting with officials on Wednesday, 24 July.

Annexes

Annex 1: 2019 Performance-Based Research Fund Review panel members

Annex 2: Suggested Talking Points
Annex 1: 2019 Performance-Based Research Fund Review panel members

**Professor Linda Tuhiwai Smith – University of Waikato**

Professor Smith is currently Professor of Māori and Indigenous Studies and Senior Research Advisor at Te Kotahi Research Institute, University of Waikato. She has served as Dean of the School of Māori and Pacific Development and as Pro Vice-Chancellor Māori at the University of Waikato. She is an internationally recognised scholar and received the 2018 inaugural Te Puawaitanga Award from the Royal Society Te Apārangi in recognition of the eminent and distinctive contribution she has made to Te Ao Māori and to Māori and indigenous knowledge. She was recommended by the Royal Society Te Apārangi and the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor. Professor Smith will serve as chair of the PBRF Review panel.

**Professor Wendy Larner – Provost, Victoria University of Wellington, President of the Royal Society Te Apārangi**

Professor Larner became Provost of Victoria University of Wellington in 2015, and President of the Royal Society Te Apārangi in 2018. Previously, she was Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law, and Professor of Human Geography and Sociology at the University of Bristol. She is an internationally respected social scientist whose research sits in the interdisciplinary fields of globalisation, governance and gender. She also has a range of experience with international research assessment systems, such as the United Kingdom Research Excellence Framework and the Hong Kong Research Excellence Framework. She was recommended by the Tertiary Education Commission and the Royal Society Te Apārangi.

**Dr David Phipps – Leader of Knowledge Mobilisation Unit, York University**

Dr Phipps leads the Knowledge Mobilisation Unit at York University, Canada, which provides services to researchers, community organisations and government agencies who wish to maximise the economic, social and environmental impacts of university research. He also leads Research Impact Canada, Canada’s knowledge mobilization network across 12 universities. Dr Phipps has a strong interest in how different research assessment systems look to measure impact. He was recommended by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.
**Professor Ian Town – Chair, Te Papa Hauora Christchurch Health Precinct**

Professor Town has recently been appointed by the Ministry of Health as their Chief Science Advisor. He became Chair of the Te Papa Hauora Christchurch Health Precinct in 2014. He previously worked within the university system as Deputy Vice-Chancellor at the University of Canterbury, from 2005 to 2013. He also works as a specialist consultant working with leading providers in health and higher education, specialising in governance, health research, innovation and strategic planning. He also has extensive knowledge of the PBRF, and is currently special advisor to the Tertiary Education Commission’s Governance Group for the PBRF. He was recommended by the Tertiary Education Commission and the Office of the Prime Minister’s Chief Science Advisor.

**Associate Professor Yvonne Underhill-Sem – University of Auckland**

Associate Professor Underhill-Sem is currently an Associate Professor of Development Studies at the University of Auckland and has also worked extensively in the area of Pacific Research. She is Director of the New Zealand Institute for Pacific Research, was Deputy-Chair of the inaugural Pacific PBRF panel from 2016-2018 and has also sat on the Marsden Fund Social Science panel. She was also a 2010/11 Fulbright Senior Scholar at the City University of New York Graduate Centre. She was recommended by the Tertiary Education Commission.

**Associate Professor Marcus Williams – Unitec Institute of Technology**

Associate Professor Williams is currently an Associate Professor at the Unitec Institute of Technology, and also works as their Director of Research & Enterprise. He is a cross-disciplinary art practitioner, with an enduring interest in collaboration, who has exhibited throughout NZ, Australia, the UK and Europe. He brings a range of relevant experience, including his interactions with the PBRF from a tertiary education institution in the ITP sector. He was recommended by the Royal Society Te Apārangi and Unitec Institute of Technology.