

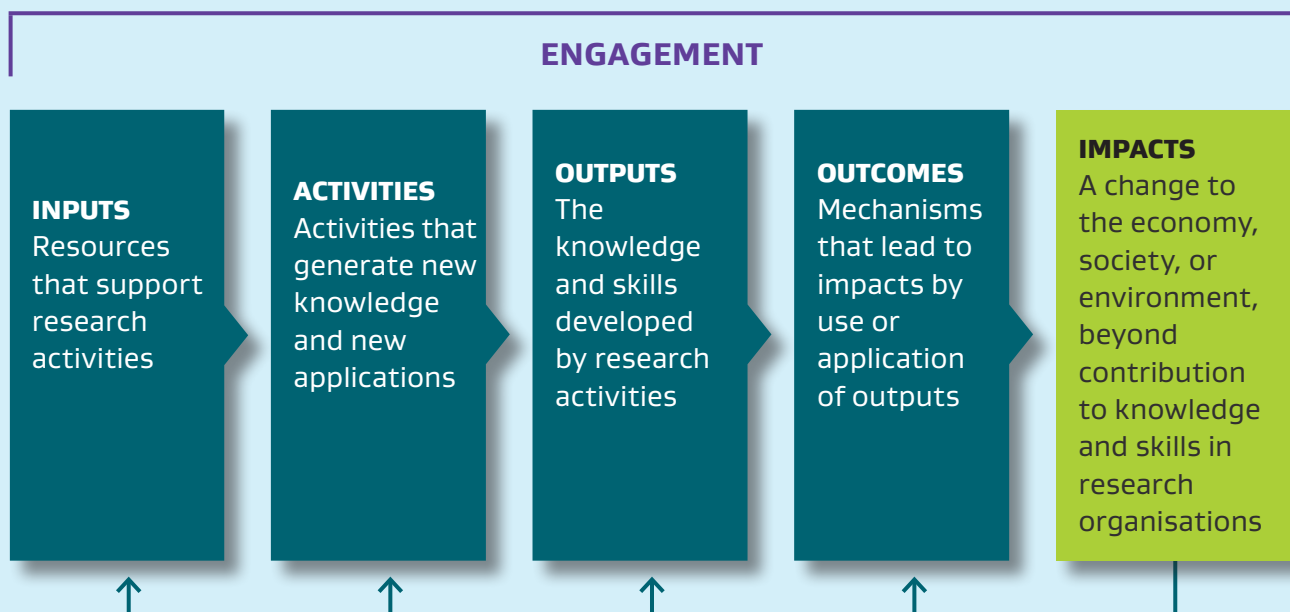
# A framework for the impact of research

## WHY DO WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF RESEARCH?

- › To help make the case for sustained new public research investment towards the 2% GDP target
- › To help research institutions meet social responsibilities and attract resources
- › To inform research, science and innovation policy that supports greater impacts
- › To help make research more relevant and more connected to end-user needs

## WE NEED AGREED CONCEPTS AND DEFINITIONS

### The results-chain framework



- › Research impact is a shared endeavour, and progress is unpredictable
- › **'Line-of-sight to impact'** means each researcher and institution can articulate their part in this shared endeavour.

For copies of this document and more information visit:  
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/researchimpact>

## Categorising research impacts (preferred approach)

### LIVING STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

#### Current Wellbeing

- › Civic engagement and governance
- › Cultural identity
- › Environment
- › Health
- › Housing
- › Knowledge and skills
- › Income and consumption
- › Jobs and earnings
- › Safety
- › Social connections
- › Subjective wellbeing
- › Time use



#### Indicators of Future Wellbeing

Natural Capital

Social Capital



Human Capital

Financial and Physical Capital



### VISION MĀTAURANGA

#### Current wellbeing

- › **Indigenous Innovation:** Contributing to economic growth through distinctive R&D
- › **Taiao:** Achieving environmental sustainability through iwi and hapu relationships with land and sea
- › **Hauora/Oranga:** Improving health and social wellbeing

For copies of this document and more information visit:  
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/researchimpact>

# Research impact: Principles and expectations

## PRINCIPLES FOR IMPACT MEASUREMENT

- › Acknowledge the multiple factors that contribute to impact, and:
  - note the influence of researchers diminishes along the results-chain
  - use caution when attributing impacts back to research
- › Corroborate the value of research by talking to end-users and collecting evidence
- › Use a unit of analysis that is large enough to allow for failures, risk-taking and distributed impact pathways (eg research institution, large research programme, portfolio, or fund)
- › Acknowledge lags, data gaps and data biases towards large or easily-measured impacts
- › Recognise the diverse contributions to impact across disciplines, horizons and wellbeing

## MBIE'S PRIORITIES

**MBIE will focus in the following areas to advance the research impact agenda:**

- 1) Use consistent language
- 2) Monitor impact at system level
- 3) Develop research sector capability
- 4) Develop the data infrastructure
- 5) Better understand how NZ research organisations are supporting and contributing to research impacts
- 6) Better understand resourcing needs and incentives to support research impacts

## MBIE'S EXPECTATIONS



### Public research funders

- › Use the results-chain framework and language
- › Articulate the line-of-sight to impact for each fund or contract using the results-chain
- › Perform impact assessment exercises
- › Work with MBIE to collect and maintain linkable data along the results-chain, following NZRIS common data standards



### Researchers

- › Use the results-chain framework to plan for and increase the impact of your research
- › Talk to your research office about impact planning, assessment and end-user engagement



### Public research institutions

- › Support researchers to explicitly plan for and increase impact from their work
- › Articulate your institution's contribution to research impact in terms of the results-chain
- › Work with MBIE towards systems that capture linkable data along the results-chain, following NZRIS common data standards

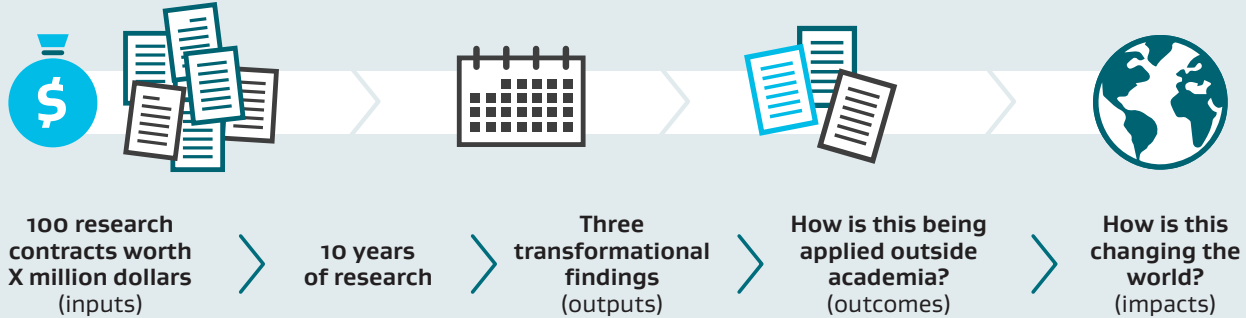
For copies of this document and more information visit:  
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/researchimpact>

# Measuring impact from basic research

## THREE PRACTICAL APPROACHES:

### 1

#### FIND THE BETS THAT PAID OFF ACROSS A PORTFOLIO OR FUND



### 2

#### TRACK YOUR RESEARCH ALUMNI

- › Where are your former research students working?
- › How are they contributing to the economy or society?



### 3

#### TRACK REFERENCES TO YOUR RESEARCH



For copies of this document and more information visit:  
<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/researchimpact>