



Crown Research Institutes

Crown Research Institutes (CRIs) are Crown-owned companies that do business in New Zealand.

MBIE, 2016

Each of the seven CRIs is aligned with a productive sector of the economy or a grouping of natural resources. They are:

- [AgResearch](#)
- [Institute of Environmental Science Research \(ESR\)](#)
- [Institute of Geological and Nuclear Science \(GNS Science\)](#)
- [Landcare Research](#)
- [National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research \(NIWA\)](#)
- [Plant and Food Research](#)
- [Scion](#)

As of 1 February 2013 Industrial Research Limited (IRL) became Callaghan Innovation.

Read more about [Callaghan Innovation](#).

Established in 1992, CRIs play a unique and important role supporting their sectors to innovate and grow. They strive to address New Zealand's most pressing issues and achieve economic growth by improving sectors' productivity and improving the sustainable use of natural resources.

Governance of CRIs

The CRIs have two shareholding ministers who act to protect the Crown's investment in CRIs. The two ministers are the [Minister of Science and Innovation](#) and the [Minister of Finance](#).

The governance structure for all CRIs is the same — Shareholding Ministers appoint CRI boards of directors, who in turn appoint the chief executive in accordance with the Companies Act and the constitutions of each CRI.

The [CRI toolkit](#) outlines the accountability and performance framework in which CRIs operate.

Our relationship with CRIs

MBIE's ownership and performance role is to monitor the Government's investment in CRIs.

As part of this role we:

- provide strategic ownership advice to the shareholding ministers on the financial and non-financial performance of the CRIs
- work with CRIs to ensure they can deliver optimal outcomes for New Zealand
- assist with the appointment of directors to CRI boards, in partnership with the Crown Ownership Monitoring Unit.

The [CRI toolkit](#) outlines the accountability and performance framework in which CRIs operate.

CRI core funding review

In 2015-16, the Government reviewed CRI core funding. Following this, CRI core funding was moved to form part of the new Strategic Science Investment Fund (SSIF).

Read the [review report \[PDF 711KB\]](#).

Read more about the new [Strategic Science Investment Fund](#).

The CRI Taskforce recommendations

In February 2010 the CRI Taskforce presented its recommendations on how to enhance the value of New Zealand's investment in CRIs.

Read the [CRI Taskforce recommendations \[PDF 875KB\]](#)

The CRI Toolkit

The [CRI toolkit](#) is a resource primarily for CRI boards, management and staff. The information and guidelines in the toolkit:

- outline the accountability and performance framework in which CRIs operate
- reflect the overarching outcomes and changes as a result of the Government's endorsement of the CRI Taskforce recommendations.

Four Year Rolling Reviews

Four Year Rolling Reviews provide shareholding ministers with an independent assessment of each CRI's current effectiveness and future potential in delivering on the purpose and outcomes set out in its Statement of Core Purpose. The reviews provide insights on where performance can be improved and assurance on where the CRI is operating effectively in delivering outcomes that contribute to New Zealand's economic, social and environmental well-being.

The reviews are an assessment of governance effectiveness, financial viability and sustainability. They also identify opportunities, barriers to success and alignment to government priorities.

Findings from the reviews support CRI Boards in their governance and decision making roles. The reviews are conducted every four years and involve an independent panel working for up to 15-20 days. The panel's work includes document examination, interviews with the CRI Board, management and staff; and interviews with key end-users and stakeholders.

The review panels have consistently found a strong commitment to science that benefits New Zealand; that the organisations are underpinned by solid practices, processes and policies; and good relationships with key customers. They also found the CRIs would benefit from a clearer strategy; strengthened partnerships and interactions with Māori; and delivery of future financial projections.

For detail on each of the reviews that have been undertaken and the action plans that the Boards have put in place to address the concerns, see the reports below.

[Plant and Food report \[PDF 709KB\]](#)

[Plant and Food action plan \[PDF 49KB\]](#)

[GNS Science report \[PDF 1.27MB\]](#)

[GNS Science action plan \[PDF 66KB\]](#)

[Landcare research report \[PDF 873KB\]](#)

[Landcare research action plan \[PDF 194KB\]](#)

[ESR report \[PDF 1MB\]](#)

[ESR action plan \[PDF 288KB\]](#)

[Scion report \[PDF 866KB\]](#)

[Scion action plan \[PDF 85KB\]](#)

[NIWA report \[PDF 1.2MB\]](#)

[NIWA action plan \[PDF 285KB\]](#)

CRI Toolkit

The Crown Research Institute (CRI) Toolkit is primarily for CRI Boards, management and staff.

[Read more...](#)

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