

MARSDEN FUND

TE PŪTEA RANGAHAU
A MARSDEN

ROYAL
SOCIETY
TE APĀRANGI

Marsden Fund Council Roadshow

Marsden Fund Investment Plan

2017

Why are we here?

1. Budget 2016 funding increased

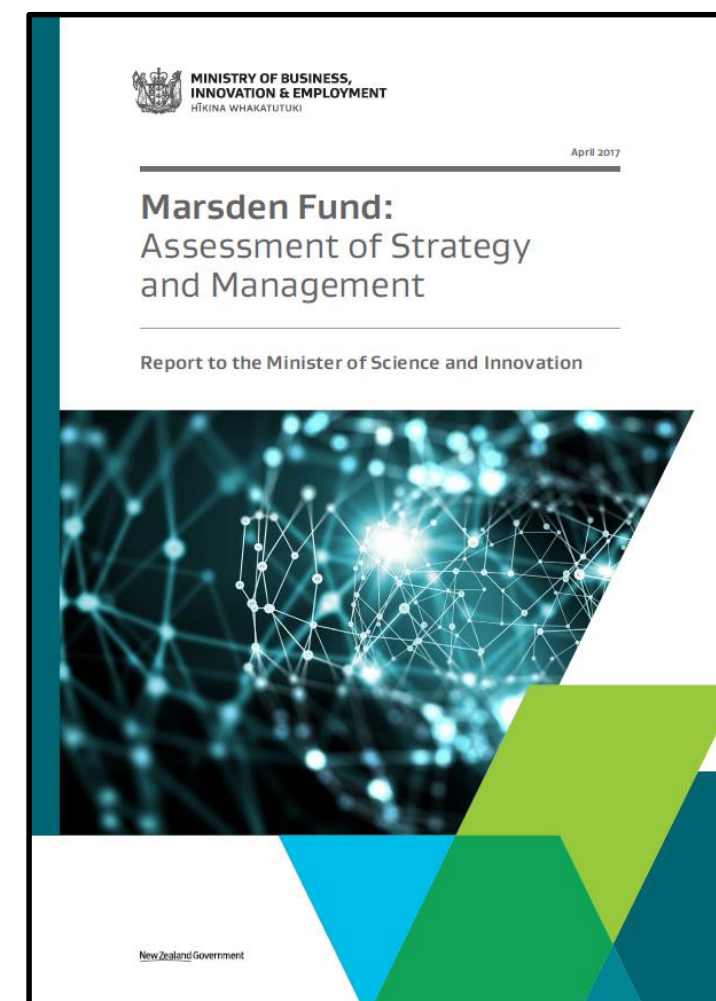
In Budget 2016 the Government announced it would invest an additional \$66m over four years in the Marsden Fund. This brings the total fund to \$57.8m in 2016/17, rising to \$79.8m per annum in 2019/20.

2. Assessment of the Strategy and Management of the Marsden Fund

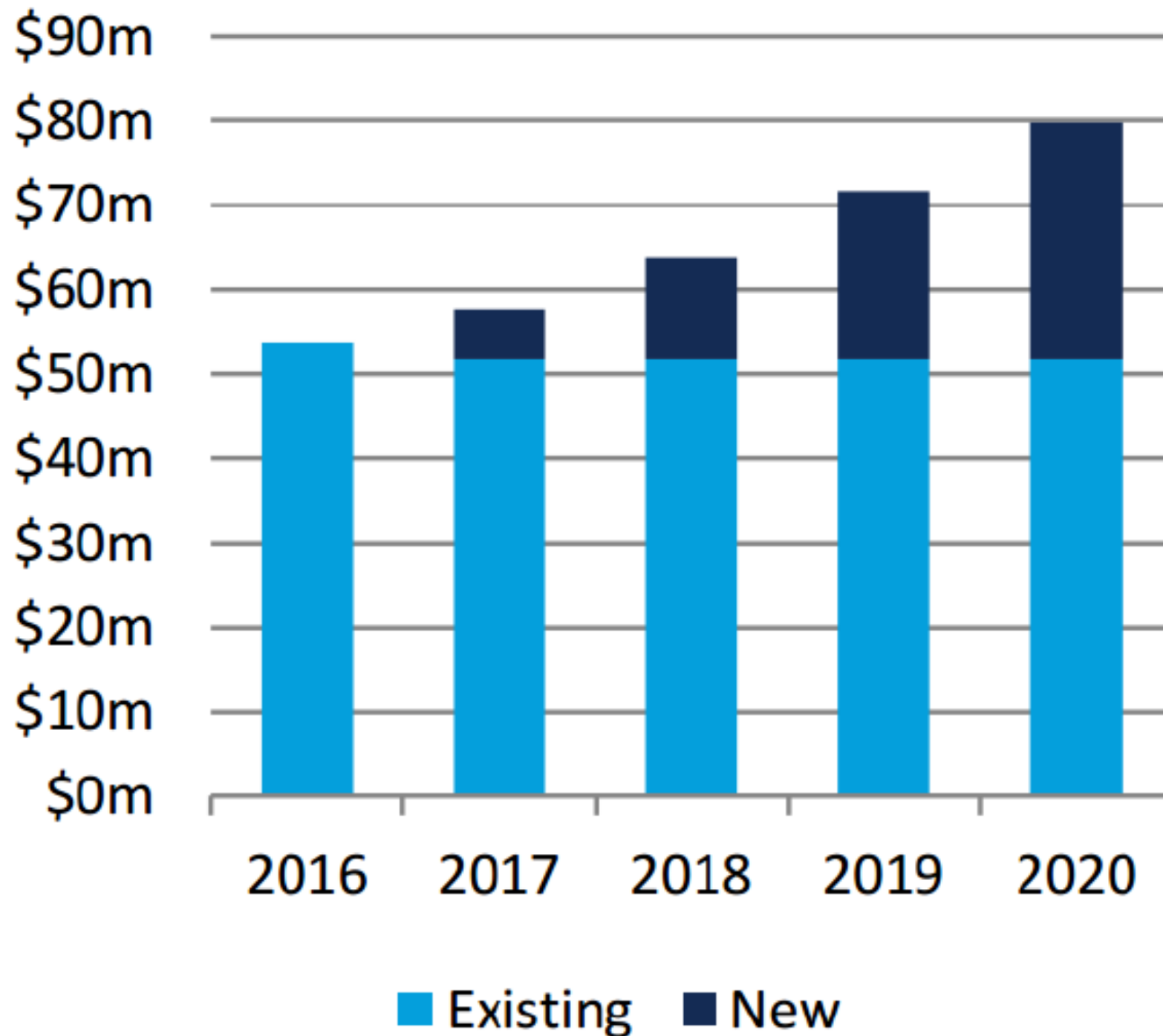
On 12 April 2017 the Minister of Science and Innovation, Hon Paul Goldsmith, released a report which detailed a number of measures that aimed to ensure that the Marsden Fund continues to be effective and fit-for-purpose

3. Investment Plan

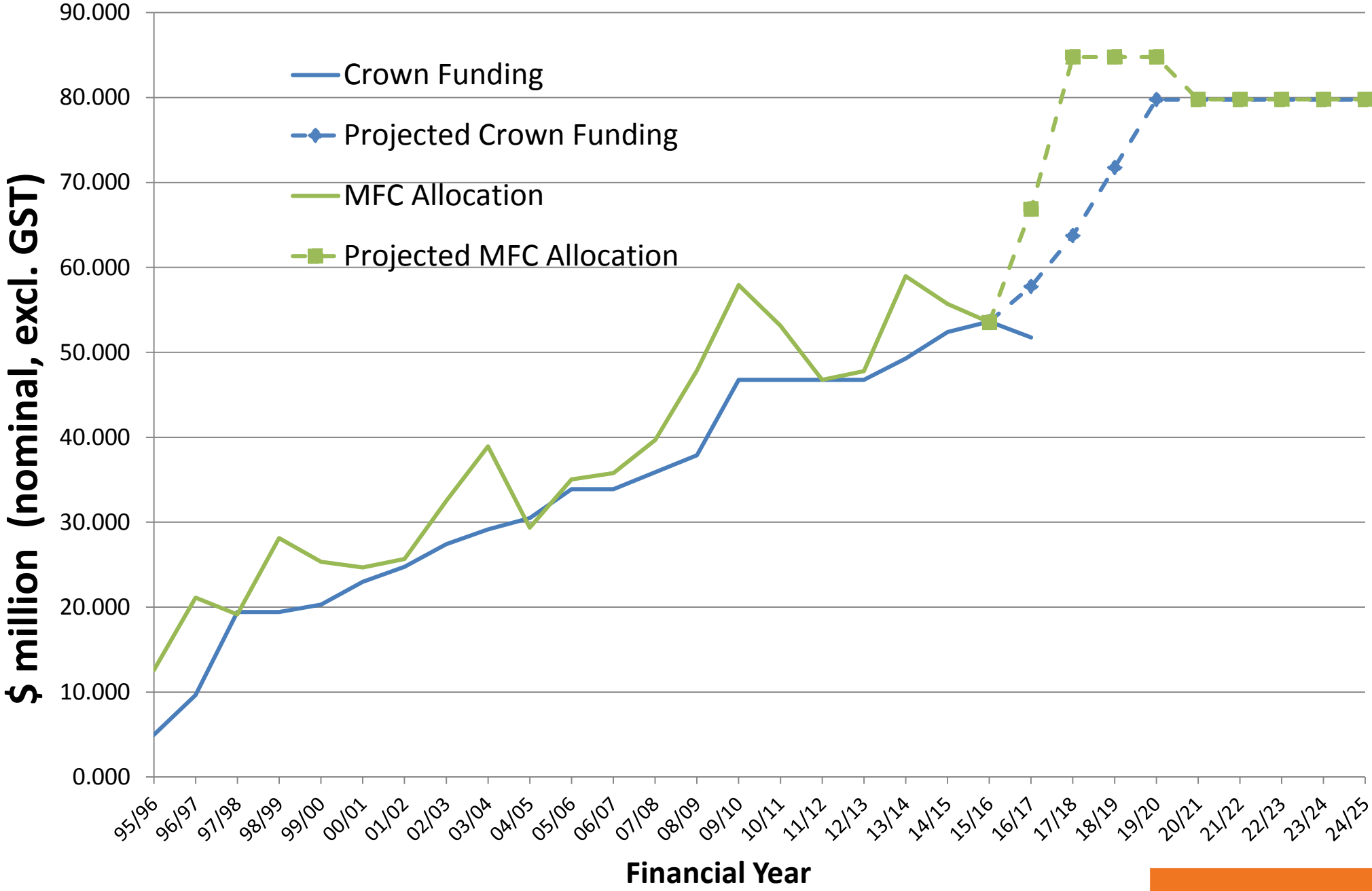
The Minister of Science and Innovation instructed the Marsden Fund Council to develop the new Investment Plan reflecting the Report's recommendations.



Marsden Fund — Government Investment



Historic Funding profile



New Zealand Government



Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister of Science and Innovation

Appoints

Instructs

Marsden Fund Council



Manage appointments



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Provides Governance
and decision-making

Contracts the Society with
Contestable Fund (\$\$\$)



Funds contracts and monitors reporting

Research Community

Marsden Fund Council — Mission Statement

To drive world-class research in New Zealand by supporting and incentivising excellent researchers to work on their best and boldest ideas and to connect internationally, leading to new knowledge and skills with the potential for significant downstream impact for New Zealand

**DON'T
PANIC**

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy



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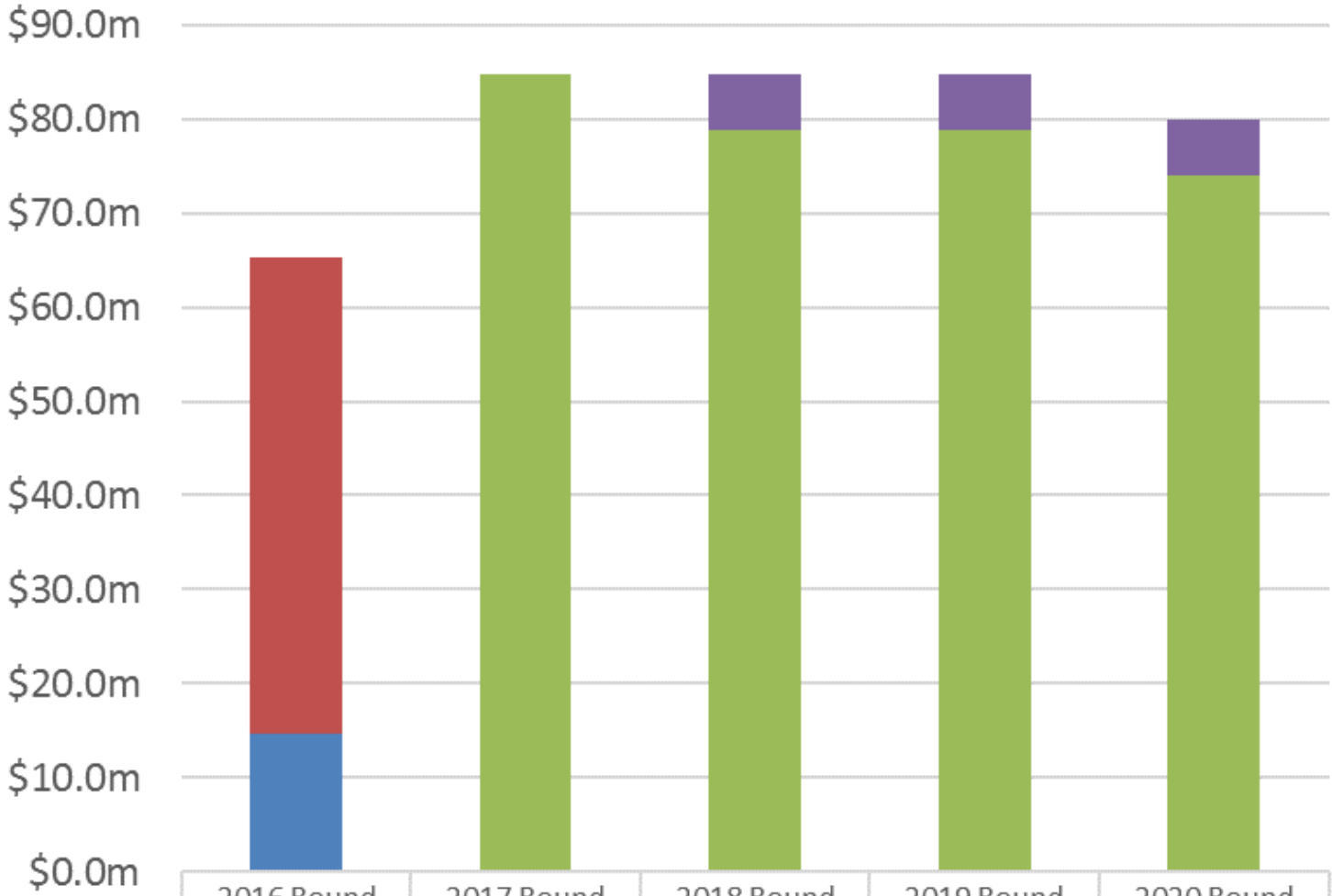
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Investment Plan — Overview

- **New Awards:** to support large interdisciplinary projects (worth up to \$3 million)
- **Follow-on grants:** allowing researchers to sustain research momentum
- **NSSI alignment:** modifying assessment criteria to include the potential for significant scholarly impact
- **Feedback:** providing more feedback to institutions and unsuccessful applicants
- **Moderation:** undertaking additional moderation between panels
- **Combined panel trial:** trialling a broader assessment panel structure for HUM, EHB and SOC

Projected Funding Allocation

Annual dollar investment in awards (excl. GST)
Historic and projected



	2016 Round	2017 Round	2018 Round	2019 Round	2020 Round
MFC Award	\$0.0m	\$0.0m	\$6.0m	\$6.0m	\$6.0m
Fast Start + Standard		\$84.8m	\$78.8m	\$78.8m	\$74.0m
Standard	\$50.5m				
Fast Start	\$14.7m				

Marsden Fund Council Award

MFC putting aside \$6m a year, for projects up to three years in duration.

- Will fund 1 to 3 proposals (probably 1 or 2)
- Requires **full** proposal in the **first** round
- Assessed by the Marsden Fund Council itself, with best projects sent to international referees

Explicitly designed for projects that require larger teams, or for research that is *interdisciplinary* in nature and cannot be assessed by one panel alone

- Applications that simply look like bigger Standard grants are not likely to succeed
- Ideally projects would require more staff than can be covered by Standard grants to have a chance of success (e.g. project might require specialist post-docs in two areas)

Normal Marsden Fund assessment criteria apply

Follow-on grants

- From 2018, there is no restriction on applying for a second grant extending previously funded research.
- This will enable reinvestment in successful research.
- Existing award holders will compete alongside new applicants in annual funding rounds against the same assessment criteria.

Aligning Criteria to the NSSI

	Fast Start Award	Standard Award	[NEW]Marsden Fund Council Award
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must have the potential for significant scholarly impact because of the proposal's novelty, originality, insight and ambition Proposals must be rigorous, and should have a basis in prior research and use a sound research method The research team must have the ability and capacity to deliver Proposals should develop research skills in New Zealand, particularly those at the post-doctoral level and emerging researchers 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals must use an interdisciplinary approach to significantly expand research possibilities and ambition through new researcher and institutional links
Where relevant to proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals should consider the relation of the research to the themes of Vision Mātauranga and, where relevant, how the project will engage with Māori 		

What is scholarly impact?

Scholarly impact is a demonstrable contribution to shifting understanding and advancing methods, theory and application across and within disciplines.

- Applicants will not be required to make an impact statement in their proposal. Impact will be monitored **at the level of the whole fund** over a long timeframe.

Feedback

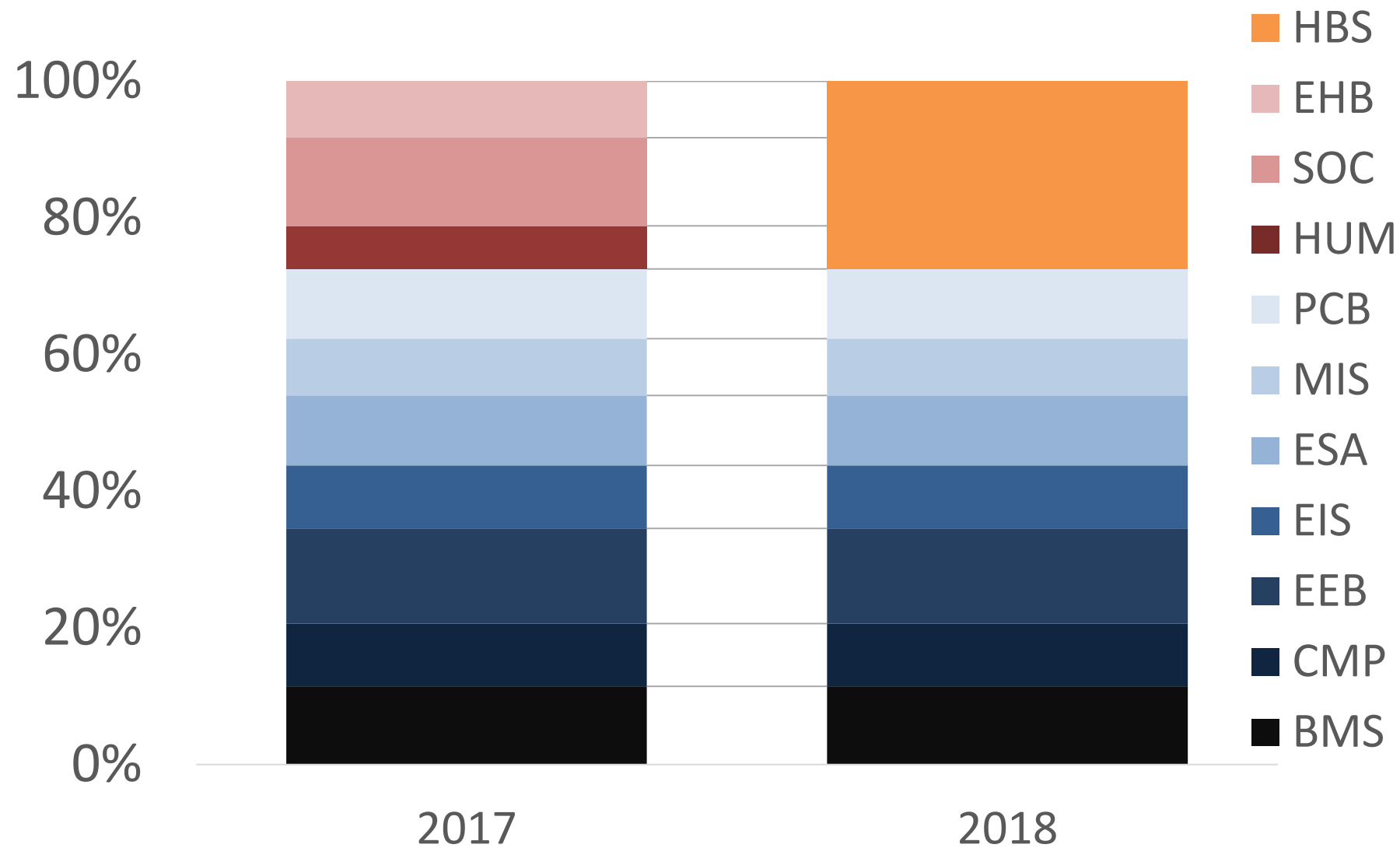
At the Expression of Interest stage, unsuccessful applicants and institutions will now be told:

1. Their proposal's score relative to all others considered by that panel, successful and unsuccessful, expressed as:
 - First quintile (*best proposals*)
 - Second quintile
 - Third quintile
 - Or 'Not ranked' (*Includes fourth and fifth quintile proposals because assessors do not rank these precisely*)
2. The percentage of all proposals considered by that panel which progressed to the Full proposal stage.
3. In a pilot process for the 2018 Round, the Council will also be testing ways of providing more detailed feedback, from one or more panels, to Fast-Start applicants who were unsuccessful but close to the cut-off for proceeding to the Full proposal stage.

Moderation between panels

- The Marsden Fund Council will use scores from international referees to moderate across all panels for proposals near the funding cut-off.
- Based on this moderation step, the Council may reallocate funding between panels to increase the overall quality and scholarly impact potential of research funded.

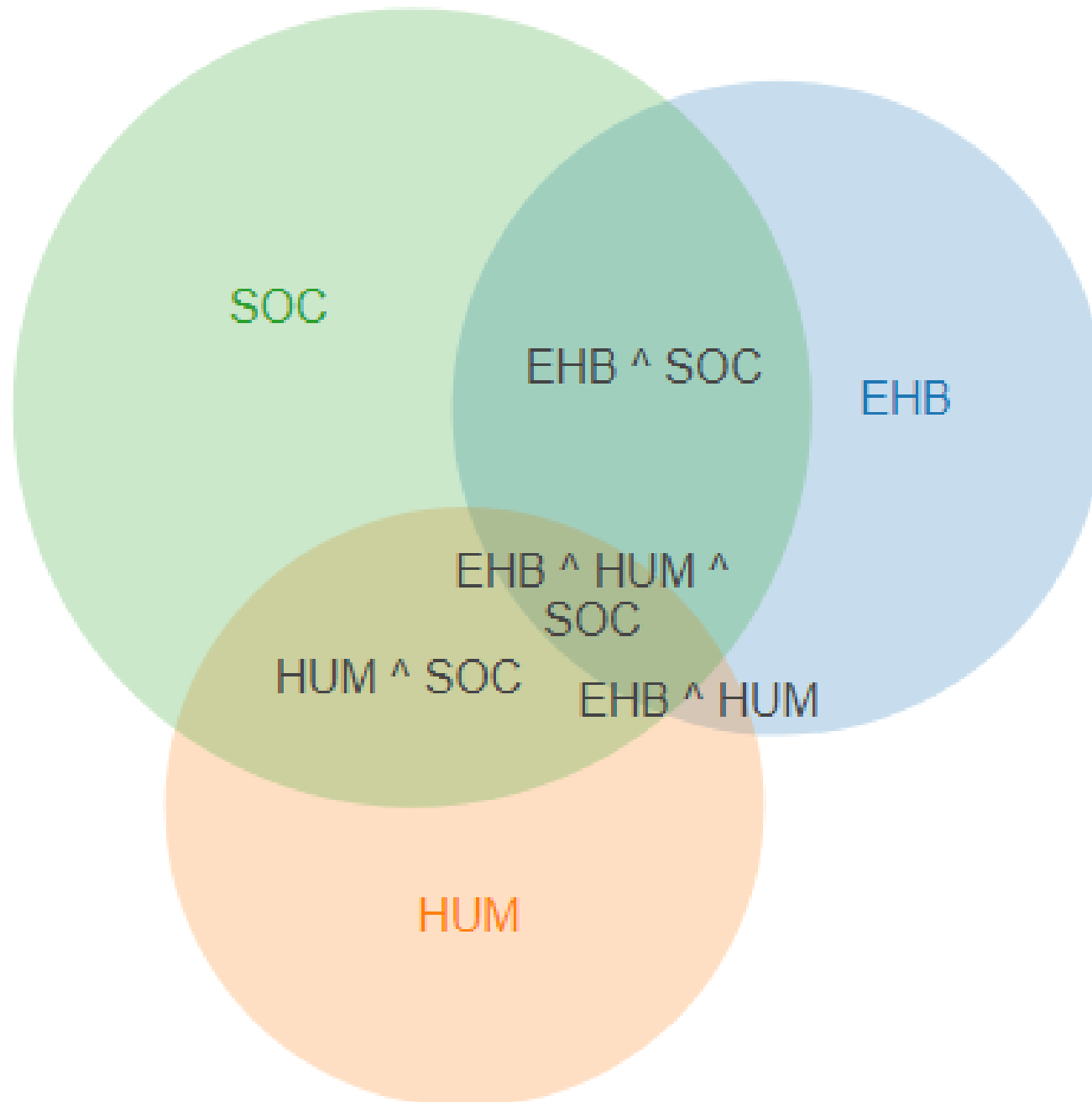
Combined Panel Trial - Funding by Panel



Funding level will not vary

We will monitor success rates of individual disciplines to ensure the combined panel trial has not disadvantaged any particular discipline

Combined Panel Trial – FOR Overlaps



	Counts of unique FOR codes included on EOIs 2014-16
EHB	209
HUM	176
SOC	312
Intersections	
EHB^HUM	7
EHB^SOC	97
HUM^SOC	71
EHB^HUM^SOC	33

Combined Panel Trial

Provisional model for EOI stage:

- The funding level of the Combined Panel Trial will **not** be different from previous panel totals for HUM, EHB and SOC
- ~400 EOI applications are expected
- Dynamic clusters will be formed around research disciplines (matched to panelists' expertise; FOR codes will be important!)
- 140 FS and 260 STD applications (requiring ~2000 assessments if five panelists assess each application).
- The clusters will recommend proposals to an overarching assessment group of panelists who will meet to discuss the relative merits and make recommendations to advance approximately 80 (20% of EOIs; ~30 FS and ~50 STD) to Full Applications

Combined Panel Trial

Expected outcomes:

- Each panelist will read about 80 proposals (assuming 25 panelists), this should reduce panelist burden.
- The intent is for the group of panelists who review your application to have a greater knowledge of your area.
- Performance of the trial will be assessed.

Summary

- The Investment Plan is a positive opportunity for the Marsden Fund Council to trial some new ideas and strategies as a result of the funding increase.
- These trials are collaborative between the Council and the research community.
- Feedback is welcome from the research community on the proposed combined panel trial.