



Request for Proposals



Wool Harvesting Training Pilot Approach

RFP released: 22 October 2020

Deadline for Questions: 5:00pm 29 October 2020

Deadline for Proposals: 5:00pm 13 November 2020



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This opportunity in a nutshell

What we need

There are an estimated 7500 FTE's in the wool harvesting industry for Australia and New Zealand. Approximately 30% of this workforce alternates between New Zealand and Australia, and 10% of this workforce are long-term, experienced shearers who are nearing retirement. Both sheep numbers and the associated workforce have dropped within New Zealand, but the workforce has dropped disproportionately due to a lack of training and opportunities, and higher pay rates in Australia. These factors mean that the ratio of shearers to sheep in New Zealand is currently at a historic low. An anticipated lift in Australian pay rates will likely further contract the New Zealand workforce once COVID-19 travel restrictions are lifted.

Kaiaka Wool Industry Training NZ (Kaiaka) is seeking to appoint capable and credible provider(s) to develop and deliver a sustainable, integrated training model for the shearing and wool handling industry. This training model will be developed and implemented over a two-year period, after which it is intended to continue through partnering with an alternative funding provider. During this pilot period, it is intended that 270 people will receive training, and 150 new jobs will be created.

What we don't want

We do not want theoretical proposals about potential approaches or models of wool harvesting training. Providers must be able to develop and deliver the proposed model at the volumes required over an 18 month period. We do not want a traditional training approach similar to what has been delivered in the industry in the past, as the geographic spread of potential trainees make this logistically inefficient and not cost effective.

Because funding will be provided through an alternative channel following the pilot period, providers must not regard this project as a standalone pilot. The model developed must be able to be sustained beyond the pilot period.

What's important to us

Kaiaka is looking for credible providers with the capability and experience to develop and deliver this training model. They must have a good track record in development and delivery of training programmes for the primary industries. They would ideally have existing relationships and networks across the national wool harvesting sector.

Many of the potential trainees will have no formal educational qualifications, and some may not view themselves positively as a learner. The successful provider(s) must be able to engage potential trainees and deliver successful training outcomes, as well as building trainees' positive view of themselves as a learner.



Why should you bid?

This is a unique opportunity to be part of shaping a new and future-focused training approach for one of New Zealand's most iconic industries. Providing skilled staff for the wool harvesting industry has huge positive economic benefits for New Zealand, as well as providing stable career pathways for trainees.

A bit about us

Kaiaka is a trust formed by the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association for the purposes of developing and implementing this training model. It is governed by industry and independent directors, and is funded through Provincial Growth Fund: Te Ara Mahi funding and in-kind funding from the New Zealand Shearing Contractors' Association.



SECTION 1: Key information



1.1 Context

- a. This Request for Proposal (RFP) is an invitation to suitably qualified suppliers to submit a Proposal for the Wool Harvesting Training Pilot Approach contract opportunity.
- b. This RFP is a single-step procurement process.
- c. Words and phrases that have a special meaning are shown by the use of capitals e.g. Respondent, which means ‘a person, organisation, business or other entity that submits a Proposal in response to the RFP. The term Respondent includes its officers, employees, contractors, consultants, agents and representatives. The term Respondent differs from a supplier, which is any other business in the market place that does not submit a Proposal.’. Definitions are at the end of [Section 6](#).



1.2 Our timeline

- a. Here is our timeline for this RFP.

Steps in RFP process:

Date:

Deadline for Questions from suppliers:

29 October 2020

Deadline for the Buyer to answer suppliers’ questions:

6 November 2020

Deadline for Proposals:

5:00pm 13 November 2020

Anticipated Contract start date:

1 December 2020

- b. All dates and times are dates and times in New Zealand.



1.3 How to contact us

- a. All enquiries must be directed to our Point of Contact. We will manage all external communications through this Point of Contact.

- b. **Our Point of Contact**

Name: Suzanne Kennedy

Title/role: Secretary

Email address: kaiaka@nzshearing.co.nz



1.4 Developing and submitting your Proposal

- a. This is an open, competitive tender process. The RFP sets out the step-by-step process and conditions that apply.
 - b. Take time to read and understand the RFP. In particular:
 - i. develop a strong understanding of our Requirements detailed in [Section 2](#).
 - ii. in structuring your Proposal consider how it will be evaluated. [Section 3](#) describes our Evaluation Approach.
 - c. For resources on tendering visit www.procurement.govt.nz/suppliers.
 - d. If anything is unclear or you have a question, ask us to explain. Please do so before the Deadline for Questions. Email our [Point of Contact](#).
 - e. In submitting your Proposal you must use the Response Form provided. This is a Microsoft Word document that you can download.
 - f. You must also complete and sign the declaration at the end of the Response Form.
 - g. You must use the pricing schedule template for your pricing information.
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- h. Check you have provided all information requested, and in the format and order asked for.
 - i. Having done the work don't be late – please ensure you get your Proposal to us before the Deadline for Proposals!



1.5 Address for submitting your Proposal

- a. Proposals must be submitted by email to the following address:
gabrielle@dandgconsulting.co.nz
- b. Proposals sent by post or fax, or hard copy delivered to our office, will not be accepted.



1.6 Our RFP Process, Terms and Conditions

- a. **Offer Validity Period:** In submitting a Proposal the Respondent agrees that their offer will remain open for acceptance by the Buyer for two calendar months from the Deadline for Proposals.
 - b. The RFP is subject to the RFP Process, Terms and Conditions (shortened to RFP-Terms) described in [Section 6](#). We have not made any variation to the RFP-Terms.
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SECTION 2: Our Requirements

2.1 Background

A number of factors mean that the ratio of shearers to sheep in New Zealand is currently at a historic low, and the workforce may further contract once COVID-19 international travel restrictions are lifted. Previous attempts to provide a sustainable approach to the training of new wool harvesting personnel and the upskill of existing wool harvesting personnel have been unsuccessful. This has largely been because of the high overheads involved with delivering face-to-face training to rurally isolated, highly transient trainees.

Provision of formal qualifications has required a high level of compliance to attain and retain appropriate accreditations, which has further increased delivery costs. This, combined with the unwillingness of trainees or employers to pay high fees for training, has made the previous approach to training unsustainable.

2.2 What we are buying and why

This RFP relates to the purchase of the development and delivery of a training model for the wool harvesting sector. This will involve the development of the training approach and model, the implementation of this approach, and contribution to the evaluation of the success of the model. The model will include:

- the mechanism for delivery (face-to-face with large groups / small groups / individuals, online, a hybrid);
- the framework for the different levels of training, including how successful attainment of the different levels will be assessed and recognised (e.g. certification, industry seal, etc);
- the content and materials for each level or component of this training model; and
- the systems and processes required to identify, on-board, train, assess and monitor trainees, with the ability to scale this approach over time.

2.3 What we require: the solution

We are seeking to appoint capable and credible provider(s) to develop and deliver a sustainable, integrated training model for the shearing and wool handling industry. This training model will be developed and implemented over an 18-month period, after which it is intended to continue through partnering with an alternative funding provider.

This will involve the development of two wool harvesting (shearing and wool handling) pilot training centres, likely in Gisborne / Hawkes Bay and Otago / Southland.

The training content will be fit for purpose and focus on skill development opportunities. Courses at each level will assess and certify the achievement of a coherent set of skills and knowledge. These courses will include a statement of purpose, learning outcomes and strong evidence of need by employers / industry, iwi, and / or community.



Development will include industry attraction from secondary schools, online information for prospective shearers, development of Centres of Excellence (COE) as world class training environments, and development of consistent industry standards for certification, seals or similar.

2.4 What we require: capacity

Over the 18-month contract period, we expect:

- 270 people in total will have successfully completed the appropriate level of the training programmes (approximately 200 shearers and 70 wool handlers) across both regions;
- 120 of these people will be existing shearers / wool handlers who are being upskilled;
- 150 will be newly employed and will also receive training; and
- At least 70% of new employees will be Māori.

2.5 What we require: capability

We are seeking suppliers that are able to demonstrate the following capability:

- Track record in developing training models, ideally in and for the primary sector
- Track record of successful delivery of training programmes for the primary sector, ideally in the wool harvesting sector specifically;
- Credible networks and relationships within the wool harvesting sector;
- The ability to work collaboratively with other key stakeholders: other successful providers, industry groups, iwi, regional development agencies etc;
- Proven ability to engage, retain and support the successful completion of qualifications by highly transient students with few or no formal educational qualifications; and
- Professional indemnity and Public Liability insurances to the minimum of \$1m each.

Note that we encourage Suppliers to apply for all or some of the solution we are seeking, and therefore not all suppliers will require all areas of capability. For example, a supplier who applied solely to develop a framework and content would not require a track record in delivery also.

2.6 Contract term

We anticipate that the Contract will commence in December 2020. The anticipated Contract term and options to extend are:

Description	Years
Initial term of the Contract	18 months
Options to extend the Contract	No options to extend this contract, but possibility of provision of programmes under an alternative funding pathway



2.7 Key outcomes

The following are the key outcomes that are to be delivered.

Description	Indicative date for delivery
Development of training approach and content	February 2021
Review of first half year of delivery, with up to 90 trainees having completed training programmes, and up to 50 trainees having obtained employment.	30 June 2021
Review of second half year of delivery, with up to 90 trainees having completed training programmes, and up to 50 trainees having obtained employment.	31 December 2021
Review of last part year of delivery, with up to 90 trainees having completed training programmes, and up to 50 trainees having obtained employment, for a minimum of 270 trained including 150 employed during the term of the contract.	30 June 2022
Monthly reports during the term of the contract, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enrolment details● Student demographics● Progress on outcomes (achieved versus expected)● Major risks or issues	Monthly during contract term
Quarterly progress reports and a final report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● A dashboard summary of key project information such as budget, resourcing etc● Confirmation that the recipient is carrying out the necessary criminal checks on staff● Achievements for the reporting period● A summary of cross collaboration that has occurred to support delivery● Plans for the next reporting period● Expenditure incurred against budget● Major risks or issues	Quarterly during contract term

2.8 Other information

- We estimate the quantity to be delivered is a minimum of 270 successful completions of training over 18 months.
- We encourage suppliers to work collaboratively where relevant and partner in their response to bring in specialist skills and experience where required and appropriate.
- Payment will be on successful delivery of the agreed milestones and monthly thereafter on invoice during the delivery phase.
- New Intellectual Property arising as a result of the Contract will be the property of Kaiaka.



SECTION 3: Our Evaluation Approach

3.1 Evaluation model

The evaluation model that will be used is weighted attribute (weighted criteria). Price is a weighted criterion. This means that all Proposals that are capable of full delivery on time (or specified parts of development and / or delivery) will be shortlisted.

3.2 Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on their merits according to the following evaluation criteria and weightings. All sub-criteria are equally weighted in contributing to the overall weighting for each criterion.

Criterion	Weighting
1. Proposed solution (fit for purpose)	25%
Degree to which services meet or exceed requirements	
Degree of innovation, and any additionality offered	
Understanding of wool harvesting sector and associated challenges with development of approach and delivery to this sector	
2. Capability of the Respondent to deliver	25%
Track record in developing training models, ideally in and for the primary sector	
Track record of successful delivery of training programmes for the primary sector	
Credible networks and relationships within the wool harvesting sector	
Proven ability to engage, retain and support the successful completion of qualifications by highly transient students with few or no formal educational qualifications	
3. Capacity of the Respondent to deliver	25%
Sufficient size and structure to meet capacity requirements	
Sufficient geographic spread (or approach to mitigate this) to ensure cost-effectiveness in delivery	
Track record in engaging industry and potential trainees, particularly Māori	
4. Price	25%
Total cost of whole of life for 18-month contract period	
Cost of ongoing delivery of training approach through alternative funding pathway	
Total weightings	100%



3.3 Scoring

The following scoring scale will be used in evaluating Proposals. Scores by individual panel members may be modified through a moderation process across the whole evaluation panel.

Rating	Definition	Score
EXCELLENT significantly exceeds the criterion	Exceeds the criterion. Exceptional demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Proposal identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	9-10
GOOD exceeds the criterion in some aspects	Satisfies the criterion with minor additional benefits. Above average demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion. Proposal identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	7-8
ACCEPTABLE meets the criterion in full, but at a minimal level	Satisfies the criterion. Demonstration by the Respondent of the relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource, and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with supporting evidence.	5-6
MINOR RESERVATIONS marginally deficient	Satisfies the criterion with minor reservations. Some minor reservations of the Respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	3-4
SERIOUS RESERVATIONS significant issues that need to be addressed	Satisfies the criterion with major reservations. Considerable reservations of the respondent's relevant ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	1-2
UNACCEPTABLE significant issues not capable of being resolved	Does not meet the criterion. Does not comply and/or insufficient information provided to demonstrate that the Respondent has the ability, understanding, experience, skills, resource and quality measures required to meet the criterion, with little or no supporting evidence.	0

3.4 Price

We wish to obtain the best value-for-money over the whole-of-life of the Contract. This means achieving the right combination of fit for purpose, quality, on time delivery, quantity and price.

If a Respondent offers a price that is substantially lower than other Proposals (an abnormally low bid), the Buyer may seek to verify with the Respondent that the Respondent is capable of fully delivering all of the Requirements and meeting all of the conditions of the Proposed Contract for the price quoted.



3.5 Evaluation process and due diligence

In addition to the above, we will undertake the following process and due diligence in relation to shortlisted Respondents. The findings will be taken into account in the evaluation process.

- a. reference check the Respondent organisation and named personnel
- b. interview Respondents
- c. request Respondents make a presentation

3.6 Optional evaluation process and due diligence

In addition to the above, we may undertake the following process and due diligence in relation to shortlisted Respondents. The findings will be taken into account in the evaluation process. Should we decide to undertake any of these we will give shortlisted Respondents reasonable notice.

- a. reference check the Respondent organisation and named personnel
- b. other checks against the Respondent e.g. Companies Office
- c. interview Respondents
- d. request Respondents make a presentation
- e. arrange site-visits
- f. test products
- g. inspect audited accounts for the last three financial years
- h. undertake a credit check
- i. undertake a Police check for all named personnel



SECTION 4: Pricing information

4.1 Pricing information to be provided by respondents

Respondents are to provide their price as part of their Proposal. In submitting the Price the Respondent must meet the following:

- a. Respondents are to use the pricing schedule template provided.
- b. the pricing schedule is to show a breakdown of all costs, fees, expenses and charges associated with the full delivery of the Requirements over the whole-of-life of the Contract, including all travel costs. It must also clearly state the total Contract price exclusive of GST.
- c. where the price, or part of the price, is based on fee rates, all rates are to be specified, either hourly or daily or both as required.
- d. in preparing their Proposal, Respondents are to consider all risks, contingencies and other circumstances relating to the delivery of the Requirements and include adequate provision in the Proposal and pricing information to manage such risks and contingencies.
- e. respondents are to document in their Proposal all assumptions and qualifications made about the delivery of the Requirements, including in the financial pricing information. Any assumption that the Buyer or a third party will incur any cost related to the delivery of the Requirements is to be stated, and the cost estimated if possible.
- f. prices should be tendered in NZ\$. Unless otherwise agreed, the Buyer will arrange contractual payments in NZ\$. [If there are foreign exchange implications explain how risk in foreign exchange will be dealt with here.]
- g. where a Respondent has an alternative method of pricing (i.e. a pricing approach that is different to the pricing schedule) this can be submitted as an alternative pricing model. However, the Respondent must also submit a pricing schedule that conforms.
- h. where two or more Respondents intend to lodge a joint or consortium Proposal the pricing schedule is to include all costs, fees, expenses and charges chargeable by all Respondents.



SECTION 5: Our Proposed Contract

5.1 Proposed Contract

Attached is the Proposed Contract that we intend to use for the purchase and delivery of the Requirements.

In submitting your Proposal you must let us know if you wish to question and/or negotiate any of the terms or conditions in the Proposed Contract, or wish to negotiate new terms and/or conditions. The Response Form contains a section for you to state your position. If you do not state your position you will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions in the Proposed Contract in full.



SECTION 6: RFP Process, Terms and Conditions

Note to suppliers and Respondents

- In managing this procurement the Buyer will endeavour to act fairly and reasonably in all of its dealings with interested suppliers and Respondents, and to follow due process which is open and transparent.
- This section contains the government's standard RFP Process, Terms and Conditions (shortened to RFP-Terms) which apply to this procurement.
- Words and phrases that have a special meaning are shown by the use of capitals e.g. Respondent, which means *'a person, organisation, business or other entity that submits a Proposal in response to the RFP. The term Respondent includes its officers, employees, contractors, consultants, agents and representatives. The term Respondent differs from a supplier, which is any other business in the market place that does not submit a Proposal.'* [Definitions](#) are at the end of this section.
- If you have any questions about the RFP-Terms please email our [Point of Contact](#).

Standard RFP process



Preparing and submitting a proposal

6.1 Preparing a Proposal

- a. Respondents are to use the Response Form provided and include all information requested by the Buyer in relation to the RFP.
- b. By submitting a Proposal the Respondent accepts that it is bound by the RFP Process, Terms and Conditions (RFP-Terms) contained in Section 6 (as varied by Section 1, paragraph 1.6, if applicable).
- c. Each Respondent will:
 - i. examine the RFP and any documents referenced in the RFP and any other information provided by the Buyer
 - ii. consider all risks, contingencies and other circumstances relating to the delivery of the Requirements and include adequate provision in its Proposal to manage such risks and contingencies
 - iii. document in its Proposal all assumptions and qualifications made about the delivery of the Requirements, including any assumption that the Buyer or a third party will deliver any aspect of the Requirements or incur any cost related to the delivery of the Requirements
 - iv. ensure that pricing information is quoted in NZ\$ exclusive of GST
 - v. if appropriate, obtain independent advice before submitting a Proposal
 - vi. satisfy itself as to the correctness and sufficiency of its Proposal, including the proposed pricing and the sustainability of the pricing.
- d. There is no expectation or obligation for Respondents to submit Proposals in response to the RFP solely to remain on any prequalified or registered supplier list. Any Respondent on such a list will not be penalised for failure to submit a Proposal.



6.2 Offer Validity Period

- a. Proposals are to remain valid and open for acceptance by the Buyer for the Offer Validity Period.

6.3 Respondents' Deadline for Questions

- a. Each Respondent should satisfy itself as to the interpretation of the RFP. If there is any perceived ambiguity or uncertainty in the RFP document/s Respondents should seek clarification before the Deadline for Questions.
- b. All requests for clarification must be made by email to the Buyer's Point of Contact. The Buyer will endeavour to respond to requests in a timely manner, but not later than the deadline for the Buyer to answer Respondents' questions in Section 1, paragraph 1.2.a, if applicable.
- c. If the Buyer considers a request to be of sufficient importance to all Respondents it may provide details of the question and answer to other Respondents. In doing so the Buyer may summarise the Respondent's question and will not disclose the Respondent's identity.
- d. In submitting a request for clarification a Respondent is to indicate, in its request, any information that is commercially sensitive. The Buyer will not publish such commercially sensitive information. However, the Buyer may modify a request to eliminate such commercially sensitive information, and publish this and the answer where the Buyer considers it of general significance to all Respondents. In this case, however, the Respondent will be given an opportunity to withdraw the request or remove the commercially sensitive information.



6.4 Submitting a Proposal

- a. Each Respondent is responsible for ensuring that its Proposal is received by the Buyer at the correct address on or before the Deadline for Proposals. The Buyer will acknowledge receipt of each Proposal.
- b. The Buyer intends to rely on the Respondent's Proposal and all information provided by the Respondent (e.g. correspondence and negotiations). In submitting a Proposal and communicating with the Buyer each Respondent should check that all information it provides to the Buyer is:
 - i. true, accurate and complete, and not misleading in any material respect
 - ii. does not contain Intellectual Property that will breach a third party's rights.
- c. Where the Buyer requires the Proposal to be delivered in hard and soft copies, the Respondent is responsible for ensuring that both the hard and soft copies are identical.
- d. Where the Buyer stipulates a two envelope RFP process the following applies:
 - i. each Respondent must ensure that all financial information and pricing components of its Proposal are provided separately from the remainder of its Proposal
 - ii. financial information and pricing must be contained either in a separate sealed envelope or as a separate soft copy file (whichever option has been requested by the Buyer)
 - iii. the pricing information must be clearly marked 'Financial and Pricing Information.' This is to ensure that the pricing information cannot be viewed when the package containing the other elements of the Proposal is opened.





Assessing Proposals

6.5 Evaluation panel

- a. The Buyer will convene an evaluation panel comprising members chosen for their relevant expertise and experience. In addition, the Buyer may invite independent advisors to evaluate any Proposal, or any aspect of any Proposal.

6.6 Third party information

- a. Each Respondent authorises the Buyer to collect additional information, except commercially sensitive pricing information, from any relevant third party (such as a referee or a previous or existing client) and to use that information as part of its evaluation of the Respondent's Proposal.
- b. Each Respondent is to ensure that all referees listed in support of its Proposal agree to provide a reference.
- c. To facilitate discussions between the Buyer and third parties each Respondent waives any confidentiality obligations that would otherwise apply to information held by a third party, with the exception of commercially sensitive pricing information.

6.7 Buyer's clarification

- a. The Buyer may, at any time, request from any Respondent clarification of its Proposal as well as additional information about any aspect of its Proposal. The Buyer is not required to request the same clarification or information from each Respondent.
- b. The Respondent must provide the clarification or additional information in the format requested. Respondents will endeavour to respond to requests in a timely manner. The Buyer may take such clarification or additional information into account in evaluating the Proposal.
- c. Where a Respondent fails to respond adequately or within a reasonable time to a request for clarification or additional information, the Buyer may cease evaluating the Respondent's Proposal and may eliminate the Proposal from the RFP process.

6.8 Evaluation and shortlisting

- a. The Buyer will base its initial evaluation on the Proposals submitted in response to the RFP. The Buyer may adjust its evaluation of a Proposal following consideration of any clarification or additional information as described in paragraphs 6.6 and 6.7.
- b. In deciding which Respondent/s to shortlist the Buyer will take into account the results of the evaluations of each Proposal and the following additional information:
 - i. each Respondent's understanding of the Requirements, capability to fully deliver the Requirements and willingness to meet the terms and conditions of the Proposed Contract
 - ii. except where the price is the only criterion, the best value-for-money over the whole-of-life of the goods or services.
- c. In deciding which Respondent/s, to shortlist the Buyer may take into account any of the following additional information:
 - i. the results from reference checks, site visits, product testing and any other due diligence
 - ii. the ease of contracting with a Respondent based on that Respondent's feedback on the Proposed Contract (where these do not form part of the weighted criteria)
 - iii. any matter that materially impacts on the Buyer's trust and confidence in the Respondent





- iv. any other relevant information that the Buyer may have in its possession.
- d. The Buyer will advise Respondents if they have been shortlisted or not. Being shortlisted does not constitute acceptance by the Buyer of the Respondent's Proposal, or imply or create any obligation on the Buyer to enter into negotiations with, or award a Contract for delivery of the Requirements to any shortlisted Respondent/s. At this stage in the RFP process the Buyer will not make public the names of the shortlisted Respondents.

6.9 Negotiations



- a. The Buyer may invite a Respondent to enter into negotiations with a view to contract. Where the outcome is unsatisfactory the Buyer may discontinue negotiations with a Respondent and may then initiate negotiations with another Respondent.
- b. The Buyer may initiate concurrent negotiations with more than one Respondent. In concurrent negotiations the Buyer will treat each Respondent fairly, and:
 - i. prepare a negotiation plan for each negotiation
 - ii. advise each Respondent, that it wishes to negotiate with, that concurrent negotiations will be carried out
 - iii. hold separate negotiation meetings with each Respondent.
- c. Each Respondent agrees that any legally binding contract entered into between the Successful Respondent and the Buyer will be essentially in the form set out in Section 5, the Proposed Contract.

6.10 Respondent's debrief



- a. At any time after shortlisting Respondents the Buyer will offer all Respondents who have not been shortlisted a debrief. Each Respondent will have 30 Business Days, from the date of offer, to request a debrief. When a Respondent requests a debrief, the Buyer will provide the debrief within 30 Business Days of the date of the request, or of the date the Contract is signed, whichever is later.
- b. The debrief may be provided by letter, email, phone or at a meeting. The debrief will:
 - i. provide the reasons why the Proposal was or was not successful
 - ii. explain how the Proposal performed against the pre-conditions (if applicable) and the evaluation criteria
 - iii. indicate the Proposal's relative strengths and weaknesses
 - iv. explain, in general terms, the relative advantage/s of the successful Proposal
 - v. seek to address any concerns or questions from the Respondent
 - vi. seek feedback from the Respondent on the RFP and the RFP process.



6.11 Notification of outcome

- a. At any point after conclusion of negotiations, but no later than 30 Business Days after the date the Contract is signed, the Buyer will inform all unsuccessful Respondents of the name of the Successful Respondent, if any. The Buyer may make public the name of the Successful Respondent and any unsuccessful Respondent.

6.12 Issues and complaints



- a. A Respondent may, in good faith, raise with the Buyer any issue or complaint about the RFP, or the RFP process at any time.
- b. The Buyer will consider and respond promptly and impartially to the Respondent's issue or complaint.



- c. Both the Buyer and Respondent agree to act in good faith and use their best endeavours to resolve any issue or complaint that may arise in relation to the RFP.
- d. The fact that a Respondent has raised an issue or complaint is not to be used by the Buyer to unfairly prejudice the Respondent's ongoing participation in the RFP process or future contract opportunities.

Standard RFP conditions

6.13 Buyer's Point of Contact

- a. All enquiries regarding the RFP must be directed by email to the Buyer's Point of Contact. Respondents must not directly or indirectly approach any representative of the Buyer, or any other person, to solicit information concerning any aspect of the RFP.
- b. Only the Point of Contact, and any authorised person of the Buyer, are authorised to communicate with Respondents regarding any aspect of the RFP. The Buyer will not be bound by any statement made by any other person.
- c. The Buyer may change the Point of Contact at any time. The Buyer will notify Respondents of any such change.
- d. Where a Respondent has an existing contract with the Buyer then business as usual communications, for the purpose of managing delivery of that contract, will continue using the usual contacts. Respondents must not use business as usual contacts to lobby the Buyer, solicit information or discuss aspects of the RFP.

6.14 Conflict of Interest

- a. Each Respondent must complete the Conflict of Interest declaration in the Response Form and must immediately inform the Buyer should a Conflict of Interest arise during the RFP process. A material Conflict of Interest may result in the Respondent being disqualified from participating further in the RFP.

6.15 Ethics

- a. Respondents must not attempt to influence or provide any form of personal inducement, reward or benefit to any representative of the Buyer in relation to the RFP.
- b. A Respondent who attempts to do anything prohibited by paragraphs 6.13.a. and d. and 6.15.a. may be disqualified from participating further in the RFP process.
- c. The Buyer reserves the right to require additional declarations, or other evidence from a Respondent, or any other person, throughout the RFP process to ensure probity of the RFP process.

6.16 Anti-collusion and bid rigging

- a. Respondents must not engage in collusive, deceptive or improper conduct in the preparation of their Proposals or other submissions or in any discussions or negotiations with the Buyer. Such behaviour will result in the Respondent being disqualified from participating further in the RFP process. In submitting a Proposal the Respondent warrants that its Proposal has not been prepared in collusion with a Competitor.
- b. The Buyer reserves the right, at its discretion, to report suspected collusive or anti-competitive conduct by Respondents to the appropriate authority and to give that authority all relevant information including a Respondent's Proposal.

6.17 Confidential Information

- a. The Buyer and Respondent will each take reasonable steps to protect Confidential Information and, subject to paragraph 6.17.c. and without limiting any confidentiality





undertaking agreed between them, will not disclose Confidential Information to a third party without the other's prior written consent.

- b. The Buyer and Respondent may each disclose Confidential Information to any person who is directly involved in the RFP process on its behalf, such as officers, employees, consultants, contractors, professional advisors, evaluation panel members, partners, principals or directors, but only for the purpose of participating in the RFP.
- c. Respondents acknowledge that the Buyer's obligations under paragraph 6.17.a. are subject to requirements imposed by the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA), the Privacy Act 1993, parliamentary and constitutional convention and any other obligations imposed by law. The Buyer will not be in breach of its obligations if Confidential Information is disclosed by the Buyer to the appropriate authority because of suspected collusive or anti-competitive tendering behaviour. Where the Buyer receives an OIA request that relates to a Respondent's Confidential Information the Buyer will consult with the Respondent and may ask the Respondent to explain why the information is considered by the Respondent to be confidential or commercially sensitive.

6.18 Confidentiality of RFP information

- a. For the duration of the RFP, to the date of the announcement of the Successful Respondent, or the end of the RFP process, the Respondent agrees to keep the RFP strictly confidential and not make any public statement to any third party in relation to any aspect of the RFP, the RFP process or the award of any Contract without the Buyer's prior written consent.
- b. A Respondent may disclose RFP information to any person described in paragraph 6.17.b. but only for the purpose of participating in the RFP. The Respondent must take reasonable steps to ensure that such recipients do not disclose Confidential Information to any other person or use Confidential Information for any purpose other than responding to the RFP.

6.19 Costs of participating in the RFP process

- a. Each Respondent will meet its own costs associated with the preparation and presentation of its Proposal and any negotiations.

6.20 Ownership of documents

- a. The RFP and its contents remain the property of the Buyer. All Intellectual Property rights in the RFP remain the property of the Buyer or its licensors. The Buyer may request the immediate return or destruction of any or all RFP documents and any copies. Respondents must comply with any such request in a timely manner.
- b. All documents forming the Proposal will, when delivered to the Buyer, become the property of the Buyer. Proposals will not be returned to Respondents at the end of the RFP process.
- c. Ownership of Intellectual Property rights in the Proposal remain the property of the Respondent or its licensors. However, the Respondent grants to the Buyer a non-exclusive, non-transferable, perpetual licence to retain, use, copy and disclose information contained in the Proposal for any purpose related to the RFP process.

6.21 No binding legal relations

- a. Neither the RFP, nor the RFP process, creates a process contract or any legal relationship between the Buyer and any Respondent, except in respect of:
 - i. the Respondent's declaration in its Proposal
 - ii. the Offer Validity Period
 - iii. the Respondent's statements, representations and/or warranties in its Proposal and in its correspondence and negotiations with the Buyer





- iv. the Evaluation Approach to be used by the Buyer to assess Proposals as set out in Section 3 and in the RFP-Terms (as varied by Section 1, paragraph 1.6, if applicable)
 - v. the standard RFP conditions set out in paragraphs 6.13 to 6.26
 - vi. any other matters expressly described as binding obligations in Section 1, paragraph 1.6.
- b. Each exception in paragraph 6.21.a. is subject only to the Buyer's reserved rights in paragraph 6.23.
- c. Except for the legal obligations set out in paragraph 6.21.a. no legal relationship is formed between the Buyer and any Respondent unless and until a Contract is entered into between those parties.

6.22 Elimination

- a. The Buyer may exclude a Respondent from participating in the RFP if the Buyer has evidence of any of the following, and is considered by the Buyer to be material to the RFP:
- i. the Respondent has failed to provide all information requested, or in the correct format, or materially breached a term or condition of the RFP
 - ii. the Proposal contains a material error, omission or inaccuracy
 - iii. the Respondent is in bankruptcy, receivership or liquidation
 - iv. the Respondent has made a false declaration
 - v. there is a serious performance issue in a historic or current contract delivered by the Respondent
 - vi. the Respondent has been convicted of a serious crime or offence
 - vii. there is professional misconduct or an act or omission on the part of the Respondent which adversely reflects on the integrity of the Respondent
 - viii. the Respondent has failed to pay taxes, duties or other levies
 - ix. the Respondent represents a threat to national security or the confidentiality of sensitive government information
 - x. the Respondent is a person or organisation designated as a terrorist by New Zealand Police.



6.23 Buyer's additional rights

- a. Despite any other provision in the RFP the Buyer may, on giving due notice to Respondents:
- i. amend, suspend, cancel and/or re-issue the RFP, or any part of the RFP
 - ii. make any material change to the RFP (including any change to the timeline, Requirements or Evaluation Approach) on the condition that Respondents are given a reasonable time within which to respond to the change.
- b. Despite any other provision in the RFP the Buyer may:
- i. accept a late Proposal if it is the Buyer's fault that it is received late
 - ii. in exceptional circumstances, accept a late Proposal where it considers that there is no material prejudice to other Respondents. The Buyer will not accept a late Proposal if it considers that there is risk of collusion on the part of a Respondent, or the Respondent may have knowledge of the content of any other Proposal
 - iii. in exceptional circumstances, answer a question submitted after the Deadline for Questions, if applicable
 - iv. accept or reject any Proposal, or part of a Proposal



- v. accept or reject any non-compliant, non-conforming or alternative Proposal
 - vi. decide not to accept the lowest priced conforming Proposal unless this is stated as the Evaluation Approach
 - vii. decide not to enter into a Contract with any Respondent
 - viii. liaise or negotiate with any Respondent without disclosing this to, or doing the same with, any other Respondent
 - ix. provide or withhold from any Respondent information in relation to any question arising in relation to the RFP. Information will usually only be withheld if it is deemed unnecessary, is commercially sensitive to a Respondent, is inappropriate to supply at the time of the request or cannot be released for legal reasons
 - x. amend the Proposed Contract at any time, including during negotiations with a shortlisted Respondent
 - xi. waive irregularities or requirements in or during the RFP process where it considers it appropriate and reasonable to do so.
- c. The Buyer may request that a Respondent/s agrees to the Buyer:
- i. selecting any individual element/s of the Requirements that is offered in a Proposal and capable of being delivered separately, unless the Proposal specifically states that the Proposal, or elements of the Proposal, are to be taken collectively
 - ii. selecting two or more Respondents to deliver the Requirements as a joint venture or consortium.

6.24 New Zealand law

- a. The laws of New Zealand shall govern the RFP and each Respondent agrees to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the New Zealand courts in respect of any dispute concerning the RFP or the RFP process.

6.25 Disclaimer

- a. The Buyer will not be liable in contract, tort, equity, or in any other way whatsoever for any direct or indirect damage, loss or cost incurred by any Respondent or any other person in respect of the RFP process.
- b. Nothing contained or implied in the RFP, or RFP process, or any other communication by the Buyer to any Respondent shall be construed as legal, financial or other advice. The Buyer has endeavoured to ensure the integrity of such information. However, it has not been independently verified and may not be updated.
- c. To the extent that liability cannot be excluded, the maximum aggregate liability of the Buyer, its agents and advisors is \$1.

6.26 Precedence

- a. Any conflict or inconsistency in the RFP shall be resolved by giving precedence in the following descending order:
 - i. Section 1, paragraph 1.6
 - ii. Section 6 (RFP-Terms)
 - iii. all other Sections of this RFP document
- b. If there is any conflict or inconsistency between information or documents having the same level of precedence the later information or document will prevail.



Definitions

In relation to the RFP the following words and expressions have the meanings described below.

Advance Notice	A notice published by the buyer in advance of publishing the RFP. An Advance Notice alerts the market to a contract opportunity. Where used, an Advance Notice forms part of the RFP.
Business Day	Any week day in New Zealand, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, New Zealand (national) public holidays and all days from Boxing Day up to and including the day after New Year's Day.
Buyer	The Buyer is the government agency that has issued the RFP with the intent of purchasing the goods or services described in the Requirements. The term Buyer includes its officers, employees, contractors, consultants, agents and representatives.
Competitors	Any other business that is in competition with a Respondent either in relation to the goods or services sought under the RFP or in general.
Confidential Information	Information that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. is by its nature confidential b. is marked by either the Buyer or a Respondent as 'confidential', 'commercially sensitive', 'sensitive', 'in confidence', 'top secret', 'secret', classified' and/or 'restricted' c. is provided by the Buyer, a Respondent, or a third party in confidence d. the Buyer or a Respondent knows, or ought to know, is confidential. Confidential information does not cover information that is in the public domain through no fault of either the Buyer or a Respondent.
Conflict of Interest	A Conflict of Interest arises if a Respondent's personal or business interests or obligations do, could, or be perceived to, conflict with its obligations to the Buyer under the RFP or in the provision of the goods or services. It means that the Respondent's independence, objectivity or impartiality can be called into question. A Conflict of Interest may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. actual: where the conflict currently exists b. potential: where the conflict is about to happen or could happen, or c. perceived: where other people may reasonably think that a person is compromised.
Contract	The written Contract/s entered into by the Buyer and Successful Respondent/s for the delivery of the Requirements.
Deadline for Proposals	The deadline that Proposals are to be delivered or submitted to the Buyer as stated in Section 1, paragraph 1.2.
Deadline for Questions	The deadline for suppliers to submit questions to the Buyer as stated in Section 1, paragraph 1.2, if applicable.
Evaluation Approach	The approach used by the Buyer to evaluate Proposals as described in Section 3 and in Section 6 (as varied by Section 1, paragraph 1.6, if applicable).



GST	The goods and services tax payable in accordance with the New Zealand Goods and Services Tax Act 1985.
Intellectual Property	All intellectual property rights and interests, including copyright, trademarks, designs, patents and other proprietary rights, recognised or protected by law.
Offer Validity Period	The period of time when a Proposal (offer) is held open by the Respondent for acceptance by the Buyer as stated in Section 1, paragraph 1.6.
Point of Contact	The Buyer and each Respondent are required to appoint a Point of Contact. This is the channel to be used for all communications during the RFP process. The Buyer's Point of Contact is identified in Section 1, paragraph 1.3. The Respondent's Point of Contact is identified in its Proposal.
Price	The total amount, including all costs, fees, expenses and charges, to be charged by the Successful Respondent for the full delivery of the Requirements. Each Respondent's Proposal must include its Price.
Proposal	The response a Respondent submits in reply to the RFP. It comprises the Response Form, the Respondent's bid, financial and pricing information and all other information submitted by a Respondent.
Proposed Contract	The Contract terms and conditions proposed by the Buyer for the delivery of the Requirements as described in Section 5.
RFP	Means the Request for Proposal.
Registration of Interest	A formal request by a Buyer asking potential suppliers to register their interest in a procurement. It is the first step in a multi-step tender process.
Request for Proposal (RFP)	The RFP comprises the Advance Notice (where used), the Registration of Interest (where used), this RFP document (including the RFP-Terms) and any other schedule, appendix or document attached to this RFP, and any subsequent information provided by the Buyer to Respondents through the Buyer's Point of Contact.
RFP-Terms	Means the Request for Proposal - Process, Terms and Conditions as described in Section 6.
RFP Process, Terms and Conditions (shortened to RFP-Terms)	The government's standard process, terms and conditions that apply to RFPs as described in Section 6. These may be varied at the time of the release of the RFP by the Buyer in Section 1, paragraph 1.6. These may be varied subsequent to the release of the RFP by the Buyer on giving notice to Respondents.
Requirements	The goods and/or services described in Section 2 which the Buyer intends to purchase.
Respondent	A person, organisation, business or other entity that submits a Proposal in response to the RFP. The term Respondent includes its officers, employees, contractors, consultants, agents and representatives. The term Respondent differs from a supplier, which is any other business in the market place that does not submit a Proposal.



Response Form	The form and declaration prescribed by the Buyer and used by a Respondent to respond to the RFP, duly completed and submitted by a Respondent as part of the Proposal.
Successful Respondent	Following the evaluation of Proposals and successful negotiations, the Respondent/s who is awarded a Contract/s to deliver all or part of the Requirements.