**Where did the concept for the National New-Energy Development Centre come from?**

Venture Taranaki, Taranaki’s economic development agency, first prepared a concept for a centre focused on energy technology research following a Calls for Proposals for MBIE’s Regional Research Institute (RRI) initiative which invested in new, independently governed, private or private not-for-profit regional research institutes. MBIE was impressed with the application but chose to proceed with other concepts that better aligned with the objectives of that particular initiative.

In April 2018, the [Provincial Growth Fund invested $100,000 towards a feasibility investigation of establishing a New Energy Development Centre](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/investing-clean-energy-future-taranaki). The application was led by Venture Taranaki and involved extensive collaboration with industry and research organisations. These efforts resulted in a business case for establishing a National New-Energy Development centre.

**Why do we need this centre?**

As governments, businesses and communities around the world take action to address climate change challenges, we know the global energy system must make fundamental changes.

Here in New Zealand, the research and development of new energy technologies has been happening in our research and innovation communities for decades but these pockets of activity aren’t going to be enough to support the changes we need to make.

The centre will focus on working with stakeholders to demonstrate and deploy near commercial new energy technologies.

Our Productivity Commission found that there is no one hub supporting and directing the development of new energy forms in the country and argued that one was badly needed.

There’s huge demand for a dedicated centre for new energy technologies. While basing the centre in Taranaki to capitalise on this region’s talent and other assets, the centre will serve as a national energy system integrator and work across multiple organisations, agencies and locations.

**How many years is the funding over and who are the responsible Ministers?**

The funding will be allocated over four years. Ministers for Energy and Resources and Economic Development are the responsible Ministers for the Centre.

**Is there a confirmed site or host for the Centre?**

No. These details will be worked through by MBIE and Venture Taranaki, the lead applicant for the centre, during the establishment phase.

**Will the Centre focus on any type of petroleum research such as how natural gas could be used in new energy technologies?**

The Centre will not itself be a research centre, but will rather coordinate and support opportunities for new energy technologies to be tested and further developed for commercial or larger-scale use.

While the centre and its future project partners will predominately support a wide range of renewable energy options, there may also be opportunities to explore how existing petroleum infrastructure and technologies could be repurposed to support new energy initiatives.

**Have any** **energy companies or research organisations expressed interest in collaboration or support for the Centre?**

Yes. The centre will be established on a strong foundation with pledges of collaboration and support already existing from the energy sector, research organisations and supply chain businesses - both local to Taranaki and beyond.

**How do energy companies or research organisations get involved?**

Venture Taranaki, as lead applicant for the centre, has already engaged extensively with industry and research organisations and will continue to do so through the establishment phase and until such time as the new centre becomes operational. If an energy company or research organisation is keen to get involved, please contact Venture Taranaki directly.

**Will the Centre bring together and replace the new energy work being undertaken in Crown Research Institutes, independent research organisations and other government fund research centres?**

The centre will fill a gap in the new energy innovation system by serving a coordination function across industry and research organisations and across locales, providing opportunities for testing and trialling of new technologies. It is not replacing the new energy work of Crown Research Institutes, Independent Research Organisations or other government research organisations.