

Chief Executive



The establishment of Earth Sciences NZ on 1 July 2025, through the merger of GNS and NIWA, and the upcoming acquisition of MetService, creates a leading-edge science organisation that excels in earth, environmental and natural resources science.

It will become a globally recognised powerhouse in its field, leveraging multidisciplinary science and advanced technology to address natural resource and environmental opportunities and challenges through its six primary science areas: Geological Hazards, Weather and Climate Hazards, Energy, Land and Freshwater, Atmosphere and Climate, and Oceans.

With a broad customer base across the public and private sectors, it will provide innovative solutions for a sustainable future and contribute significantly to New Zealand's economic growth.

The creation of Earth Sciences NZ is part of the largest reforms to New Zealand's science and innovation system in over three decades aimed at a more dynamic, responsive, productive and collaborative science system. It provides a unique opportunity to shape the future of a key science organisation and play a pivotal role in redefining how science is delivered for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Following the acquisition of MetService, Earth Sciences NZ will have a complement of approximately 1,500 staff located across 22 sites, assets of circa \$400 million and revenues of circa \$370 million, including significant commercial revenue streams.

The Earth Sciences NZ Board is seeking an outstanding Chief Executive with strong credentials across strategic, commercial, operational and people leadership, and stakeholder engagement preferably in a science, engineering or technology organisation.

This role offers an opportunity to build and lead a large, high-impact science organisation that will enhance resilience, sustainability, and prosperity while positioning New Zealand as a leader in earth science research and innovation.

As Chief Executive you will create a unified vision, that draws on the strengths and 'connective tissue' of the founding organisations. This will support effective strategic, cultural, operational, scientific and commercial cohesion, and enable the organisation to be greater than the sum of its original parts. You will work with other leaders in the science system to ensure that collective impact for New Zealand is maximised.

Your leadership will allow the organisation to navigate the competing demands of achieving improved commercial outcomes while delivering public good activity that supports New Zealand's ability to plan, forecast and respond to major weather, seismic, volcanic and other events.

To be credible and effective in this role, you will require:

- Proven capability to develop and execute strategy in large, complex operating environments
- Experience leading transformational change across cultural and operational domains
- A visible leadership style with exceptional communication, collaboration and influencing skills
- Significant commercial acumen and experience, with exposure to technology transfer and leveraging the innovation cycle to commercialise real-world applications of the organisation's science

- A track record of ensuring robust financial and risk management
- Capacity to work with a broad range of stakeholders including industry, government, Māori, emergency management and the global and domestic science sector
- The capacity to lead through leaders to develop a positive, engaged, thriving organisational culture.

Confidential enquiries and applications should be directed to Guy Brew or Vishnu Nair at Ichor Leadership Search by 5.00pm NZT on Monday 15 September 2025. Contact us via email at search@ichor.co.nz or call: +64 4 499 8230.