

Senior Advisor – GeoNet Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement

Reports to:	Service Delivery Manager	Position Status:	Permanent
Unit:	Science Operations – Geological Systems	Location:	Avalon
Department:	Data Science & Geohazards Monitoring	Team:	Service Delivery
Direct Reports:	Nil	Budget & Delegated Authority:	Refer DFA policy
Career Step:	8	Job Family:	Business Performance
Career Path:	Corporate	Date:	February 2025

Our Organisation

Earth Sciences New Zealand was established on 1 July 2025, through the merger of GNS Science and NIWA, with the upcoming acquisition of MetService further strengthening its capabilities. As part of the most significant reform to New Zealand's science and innovation system in over 30 years, Earth Sciences NZ is positioned as a leading-edge organisation that excels in earth, environment and natural resources science.

With six core science missions – Geological Hazards, Weather and Climate Hazards, Energy, Land and Water, Atmosphere and Climate, and Oceans and Fisheries – Earth Sciences New Zealand is set to become a globally recognised science leader. By integrating multidisciplinary expertise and advanced technologies, the organisation will tackle complex environmental challenges and unlock opportunities for sustainable growth and development.

Following the MetService acquisition, Earth Sciences New Zealand will comprise approximately 1500 staff across 22 sites, managing \$400 million in assets and generating \$370 million in annual revenue. Serving both the public and private sectors, Earth Sciences New Zealand plays a vital role in enhancing national resilience to natural hazards, in supporting economic growth and in delivering innovative science for a sustainable future.

Role Purpose

The Senior Advisor – GeoNet Strategy and Stakeholder Engagement supports the Service Delivery Manager in providing leadership and strategic oversight of the GeoNet Head Operating Agreement. The role leads the development of GeoNet strategy, stakeholder engagement and ensures alignment with wider science mission initiatives across Earth Sciences NZ and the science sector.

Position Priorities and Responsibilities

GeoNet Strategy & Alignment

- Drive the ongoing development and implementation of GeoNet strategy, collaboratively capturing funder and stakeholder needs, ensuring this is reflected in strategic and business plans & artefacts.
- Ensure GeoNet alignment with Earth Science NZ strategic organisational objectives and key stakeholder requirements, ensuring strategic coherence between science missions, wider science system and operational realities.
- Lead strategic review processes and ensure plans are adapted as necessary to address challenges or opportunities.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Establish and nurture effective relationships with key stakeholders including government, industry, iwi, communities, and research partners, aligning programme priorities with stakeholder expectations.
- Support robust assurance and oversight by preparing material for reviews, steering groups, advisory panels and internal oversight bodies.
- Contribute to positioning of GeoNet as a nationally recognised and trusted contributor to hazard understanding and risk management.
- Represent GeoNet and Earth Sciences NZ at relevant forums, conferences, and working groups, including in the media where appropriate.

Funding & Delivery

- Collaborate effectively with the Service Delivery Manager to deliver GeoNet, aligning strategic priorities with operational realities, resource management and balancing risks with service delivery commitments.
- Develop artefacts and engage with processes to secure and manage sustainable funding streams, working closely with the Service Delivery Manager to align funding strategies with operational capabilities and programme objectives.
- Pursue funding and partnership opportunities with key stakeholders and the wider science system.

Responsibilities of all Employees

- Comply with all Earth Sciences New Zealand policies, procedures and frameworks, and act in line with the organisational values.
- Contribute to our healthy and safe workplace by following HSW expectations outlined in and integrated into our operational practises and HSW frameworks, including undertaking HSW training and participating in health-monitoring programmes relevant to your work.
- Work effectively as a team member by fostering good relationships and supporting others, providing coverage of other functions as required and ensuring workloads are evenly spread.
- Have the flexibility to adapt and develop as the organisation and its environment evolves.

Key Working Relationships

Internal	External
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service Delivery Team • Data Science & Geohazard Monitoring Department • Science General Managers & Flagship Leads • Strategic Advisor (Government) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) • National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) • Land Information New Zealand (LINZ) • Natural Hazards Commission Toka Tū Ake (NHC) • Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade (MFAT) • Department of Conservation (DoC) • Regional CDEM sector • Research community (including universities)

Person Specification

Qualifications and Experience

Essential

- Advanced relationship and programme management expertise are required to ensure fit for purpose alignment and contribution to positioning GeoNet as a nationally recognised hazard monitoring and science service.
- Relevant tertiary qualification in business, science or engineering or extensive equivalent experience.
- Demonstrated success in contributing to large-scale, strategically significant programmes with high stakeholder complexity

Desirable

- A full driver licence
- Experience and understanding of New Zealand's science and research system

Skills, Knowledge and Attributes

Essential

- Proven experience in delivering complex, multi-year operational, science or innovation programmes.
- Strong skills in financial management, stakeholder engagement, and strategic risk management.
- Excellent strategic thinking, planning, and problem-solving skills.
- Exceptional communication and relationship-building skills across diverse stakeholder groups.
- Excellent communication skills with the ability to influence at senior levels.
- Strong skills in business case and funding bid development.

Desirable

- Knowledge of the research and/or emergency management landscapes in Aotearoa New Zealand is an advantage.