

# Summary: The impact and potential role of Curious Minds Taranaki

In 2015, Venture Taranaki was contracted by Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) to run a pilot of the Participatory Science Platform (PSP). This programme was designed to bridge the gap between community groups, schools, iwi, businesses and science providers, and to encourage young people to become more involved with science. The Taranaki PSP programme was branded as 'Curious Minds Taranaki' and has been delivered by Venture Taranaki in partnership with the Taranaki Regional Council. In June 2020, a strategic review into the impact and potential role of Curious Minds Taranaki was carried out.

# How has the platform engaged the Taranaki community:



PROJECTS FUNDED

\$680,000

DISTRIBUTED IN TARANAKI



48/97

OF TARANAKI SCHOOL'S PARTICIPATED



97

SCIENCE EXPERTS



22

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY DISCIPLINES UNDER INVESTIGATION



STRONG KAUPAPA MĀORI ENGAGEMENT



MORE THAN

3000

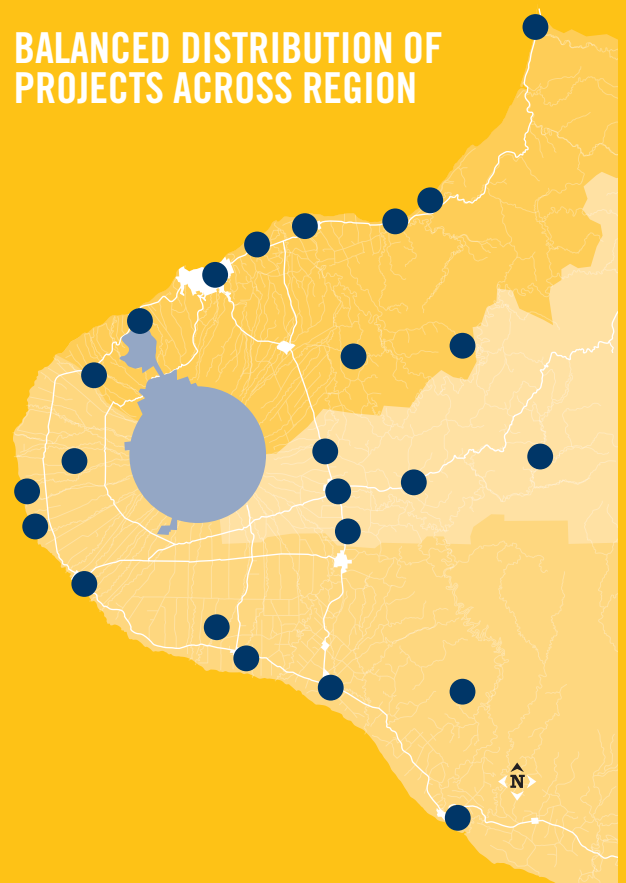
PARTICIPANTS

INCLUDING MORE THAN

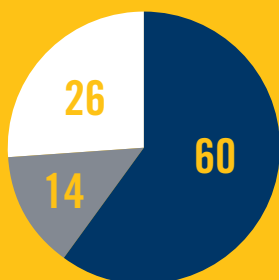
1,700

YOUNG PEOPLE

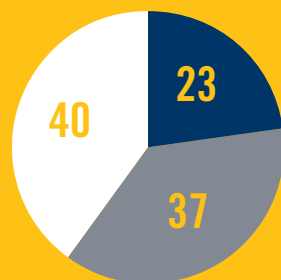
BALANCED DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS ACROSS REGION



PARTICIPANT LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT REGION %



■ New Plymouth District  
■ Stratford District  
■ South Taranaki District



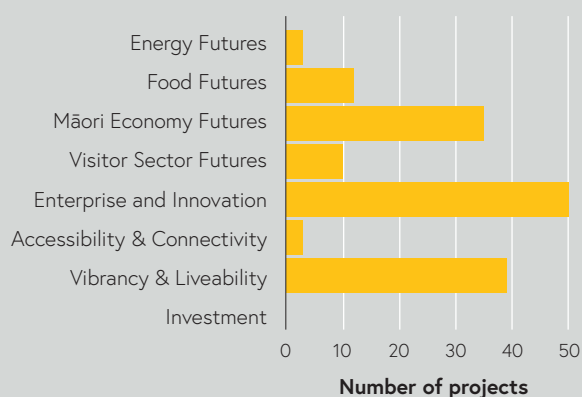
■ City  
■ Town  
■ Rural

Data taken from project reporting 2015–June 2020.

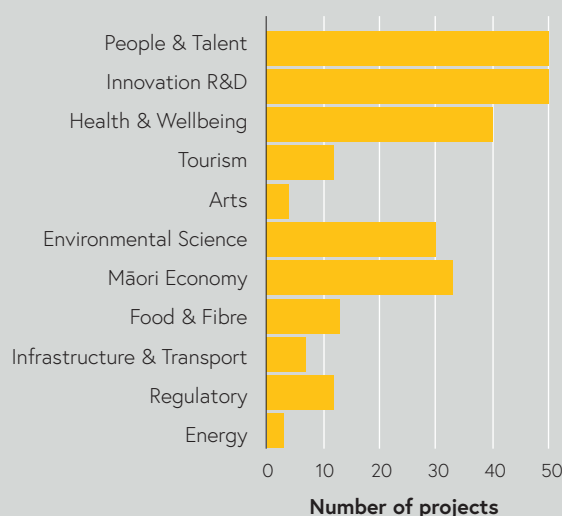
# How Curious Minds Taranaki projects support regional outcomes:

Curious Minds Taranaki has established a network of champions throughout the region, developing new and existing relationships that strengthen the fabric of science and technology engagement to be accessible to all. From documenting how our waterways and coastal reefs are changing, understanding more about our rich volcanic landscape and how to help our native fauna thrive, to exploring alternative energies, wireless connectivity challenges and waste minimisation approaches, Taranaki is rich with curious minds. Influencing decision making and improving collaboration, Curious Minds Taranaki projects are addressing real community needs and the community involved is developing a better understanding and appreciation of science in practice.

## TAPUAE ROA FUTURES/FOUNDATIONS



## TARANAKI 2050 PATHWAYS



Please note that a project can support more than one area.

Overall, Curious Minds Taranaki has performed well in helping participating community groups implement better engagement with science and technology for locally relevant research.



School Yard Blues – Stratford High School students making cheese to understand micro-organisms and impact on end product



*Te Moeone – Participants sorting kumara to improve understanding of heirloom cultivars*

## Identified opportunities to further enhance the programme impact in Taranaki:

### **1. ENCOURAGE MORE SECTOR DIVERSITY IN APPLICATIONS.**

Leverage opportunities to support key innovation intensive areas of Tapuae Roa and Taranaki 2050 such as Energy, and Food and Fibre.

### **2. PROVIDE FURTHER SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT PROCESS.**

Develop resources to make application more accessible and strengthen incorporation of Mātauranga Māori.

### **3. STRONGER LINKS BETWEEN PROJECTS AND KEY PEOPLE COULD BE ENCOURAGED.**

Facilitate cross project networking and engagement with potential mentors.

### **4. ENCOURAGE STRONGER RESEARCH PROVIDER PRESENCE AND ENGAGEMENT IN TARANAKI.**

Explore opportunities for increased engagement leveraging regional strategies.

### **5. ENCOURAGE BETTER MANAGEMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.**

Leverage expertise to support projects with advice on intellectual property and commercialisation, and support for any subsequent commercial development.

### **6. SURVEY PARTICIPANTS AND SURVEY THEM SOME MORE.**

Survey both current and past projects, including focus on relationship to broader strategic development of the region.

To read the full report, visit [curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz](https://curiousmindstaranaki.org.nz)

Report prepared June 2020 for Venture Taranaki Trust by Absolute Certainty Limited following extensive consultation with key stakeholders. Their contribution was appreciated and provided vital insights.