



Ref: OI/20/00643

29 October 2020

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Tēnā koe John

Thank you for your request, received on 7 September 2020, for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I noted on your website, <https://www.tec.govt.nz/rove/coves/construction-cove-roi/> "An independent panel of industry experts evaluated submissions at each stage, and put forward a recommendation to the TEC Board."

May I have the name and bio of the member's of this independent panel, what is this panel's term of reference, job descriptions and pay rate. How you select these members from the public and how you call for public application to these positions.

How many recommendations they have provided to TEC board so far and I would like to request all the meeting minutes this independent panel had so far.

There were four industry experts who evaluated submissions for the construction CoVE. I have attached a biography for each member and an extract of the description of services from the contacts with the panel members. The expert panel members received a rate of \$125 per hour for their work on the panel, with fees capped at a maximum of \$5000. The chief executive of BRANZ waived her fee as she considered that supporting this work was part of BRANZ's contribution to the industry.

The panel members were selected following a search by the TEC's Monitoring and Crown Ownership (MCO) team. MCO are TEC's primary team responsible for recommending panel and board candidates across the tertiary education sector. Panel members were identified based on an agreed set of criteria:

- › Industry expertise and experience
- › Tertiary expertise and experience
- › Standard setting expertise and experience
- › Innovation, recognised for introducing new ways of meeting opportunities in the context of their industry
- › Professional links, for example membership on boards and associations

It was not intended that all candidates have expertise and experience across all these areas but that the panel, as a whole, will reflect these.

There was no public application process for selecting panel members.

The panel has made one recommendation to the TEC Board.



I am refusing your request for meeting minutes as they contain evaluations of the tenders we received for setting up the construction COVE. This decision is consistent with section 9(2)(ba)(i) of the act which allows the TEC to withhold information which is subject to an obligation of confidence.

I am satisfied, in terms of section 9(1) of the Act, that the need to withhold the information referred to above is not outweighed by other considerations that render it desirable, in the public interest, to make the information available.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

The TEC intends to publish its response to this request on our website with your personal details removed. Consistent with the Act, we are publishing responses in the interests of transparency and accountability, and to improve access to official information.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Fowler', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Fowler
Chief Executive
Tertiary Education Commission

Biographies of Construction Cove Selection Panel

Name	Biography
<p>Richard Merrifield Member Standards NZ Board</p>	<p>Richard is the owner of a building company in the Nelson region undertaking project management and consulting work on housing projects. He is Deputy Chairman of the Building Practitioners Board and a member of the Plumbers Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board. He is a former Director of the Building Research Association New Zealand and former chairman of the Building Research Advisory Council. Mr Merrifield is a member of the Construction Strategy Group and a former Chair of the Certified Builders Association. He was also a member of the Minister of Building and Housing Task Force on Productivity and the Building Act Review Advisory Group.</p>
<p>Chelydra Percy BRANZ Chief Executive</p>	<p>Chelydra has been CE of BRANZ since 2013. Prior to starting with BRANZ, Chelydra held a range of leadership roles with science and innovation organisations such as Callaghan Innovation, KiwiStar Optics and Scion. Chelydra has also worked in the electricity supply and telecommunication industries. She is a graduate of Victoria University of Wellington and a Companion of the Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand.</p>
<p>Jenny Parker Architectural Consultant - T&R Interior Systems NZ President - National Association of Women in Construction NZ</p>	<p>Jenny is passionate about promoting the benefits of New Zealand's construction sector and NAWIC to young women. During her time as NAWIC President, Jenny has focused on education by creating awareness of how NAWIC can support students and guide them through their careers. She is also keen to support women in trades and would like to see NAWIC expand its membership base in this growing area. NAWIC is committed to inspiring women to take up leadership roles in construction and is fostering strong relationships with industry partners to grow our active role across the industry. At T&R, Jenny works alongside architects and designers to provide innovative building design recommendations and solutions for commercial acoustic and seismic ceiling designs.</p>
<p>Verena Maeder https://www.earthbuildingschool.com/about.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › 28 years' experience in the construction of earth buildings › Business owner since 2002: SolidEarth Ltd › Trained in Building Biology and Ecology in Switzerland, also trained in architecture › 2007-2014 Chairwoman of the Earth Building Association NZ › Currently on the committee to revise NZ Earth Building Standards › Awarded 2017 Tradeswoman of the Year by National Association of Women in Construction › Runs workshops and community projects to share her knowledge of natural building

Description of Services

Background

In 2018 the Minister of Education (the Minister) announced a review of the Vocational Education and Training (VET) System. This was followed by a proposal for system reform in February 2019, and consultation on the proposed changes as part of the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) programme. One of the fundamental changes in the new VET system is the introduction of Centres of Vocational Excellence (CoVEs).

CoVEs will be part of the fabric of New Zealand's new vocational education system. CoVEs will play a key role in driving innovation and excellence in vocational teaching and learning in areas of strategic importance to New Zealand by strengthening links with industry and communities.

In August 2019, the Minister announced that the first two pilot CoVEs to be established will be for the Primary Sector and the Construction Sector. A dedicated CoVE project was established within the Reform of Vocational Education (RoVE) Programme in mid-August 2019, to establish the first two pilot CoVEs for Primary Sector and Construction and develop the framework for selecting future CoVEs. It is intended that each CoVE will be made up of a consortium of interested parties, funded under an agreement with government for a specific period (up to five years). It is intended that CoVEs are an enduring part of the vocational education system.

CoVE applications will be evaluated by an independent Expert Evaluation Panel (the Panel), including industry experts in the relevant sectors. There will be one Panel for the Primary Sector CoVE, and another Panel for the Construction CoVE.

Description of Services

The Panels will review and evaluate applications to establish a CoVE. Specifically, to provide expert, independent advice about the most appropriate challenges and opportunities for the CoVE to address, shortlist applications, and recommend the preferred applicants based on pre-agreed selection criteria to the TEC Board of Commissioners (the TEC Board). The TEC Board holds the delegated decision authority in relation to the CoVEs funding.

The table below provides the time commitments which will involve up to five days of Panel meetings in person, and some additional reading and briefing time.

Date	Time	Activity	Location
Monday 24 February 2020	11:00AM -1:00PM	Panel Briefing (lunch will be provided)	Tertiary Education Commission Level 9, 44 The Terrace Wellington Room: 9.2 Māia (or Skype if you are unable to attend in person)
Friday, 20 March 2020	12:00PM	Registrations of Interest due*	
Monday, 23 March 2020	As required	Evaluate registrations of interest. These will be packaged together and emailed to you. Email your evaluations back to CoVEs@tec.govt.nz as soon as you have completed your evaluation, so that these can be collated for the moderation meeting.	Your base location
Thursday, 26 March 2020	9:00AM-5:00PM	Meet with other Panel members to moderate evaluations and shortlist applicants.	Tertiary Education Commission Level 9, 44 The Terrace Wellington Room: 9.6 Pono

Friday, 27 March 2020	To be confirmed		
Friday, 20 March 2020	12:00PM	Selected applicants invited to submit detailed proposals*	
Friday, 15 May 2020	12:00PM	Detailed proposals due*	
Friday 15 May 2020	As required	Evaluate detailed proposals from shortlisted applicants. These will be packaged together and emailed to you.	Your base location
Monday 18 May 2020	As required	Email your evaluations back to CoVEs@tec.govt.nz as soon as you have completed your evaluation, so that these can be collated for the moderation meeting.	
Tuesday 19 May 2020	9:00AM- 5:00PM	Attend and evaluate in-person presentations from shortlisted applicants.	TEC Head Office Level 9, 44 The Terrace Wellington Room: 9.1 Mārie
Wednesday, 20 May 2020	To be confirmed	Meet with other Panel members to moderate evaluations and recommend a preferred applicant.	
Thursday, 21 May 2020	To be confirmed	Placeholder for additional moderation if required (depending on number of applications)	
Monday, 8 June 2020	-	TEC Board selects successful proposal*	
Wednesday, 22 July 2020	-	TEC negotiate funding letter with successful consortium*	
Monday, 27 July 2020	-	CoVEs announcement* Please do not communicate with anyone outside the Panel or Project Team about who the selected applicant is until the CoVEs announcement has been made.	

Deliverables

1. At the RoI stage, evaluate Registrations of Interest and shortlist Applicants to progress to the RfP stage.
2. At the RfP stage, evaluate written Proposals and in-person presentations provided by shortlisted Applicants, and make a recommendation about the preferred Applicant(s) to the TEC Board of Commissioners.

Specific code of conduct / health & safety / legislative requirement

The Supplier is expected to comply with the TEC's Code of Conduct, Conflict of Interest Policy, and Health and Safety Policies and Procedures.