

## Expressions of Interest Sought: PhD Candidate in Ecosystem Services / Ecological Economics or Environmental Economics

We are pleased to advertise the following opportunity for an outstanding PhD Candidate to be involved in an innovative project to assess and value, in economic terms, the provision of selected ecosystems services in New Zealand. This project is fully funded by the Ministry for Primary Industries via a Sustainable Food and Fibres Futures grant, the Tindall Foundation, and Pāmu Landcorp. The successful candidate will be provided with extra remuneration for any Doctoral Scholarship awarded by Massey University.

<b>Position title</b>	PhD Candidate in Ecosystem Services/ Ecological Economics or Environmental Economics
<b>Primary study unit</b>	School of People, Environment and Planning, Massey University, New Zealand
<b>Primary Supervisor</b>	Emeritus Professor Murray Patterson (Massey University)
<b>Secondary Supervisor</b>	Associate Professor Peter Tait (Lincoln University), Dr Clint Cameron
<b>Project Lead</b>	Dr Clint Cameron
<b>Position status</b>	Full time, fixed term
<b>Remuneration</b>	Massey Doctoral Scholarship, \$90,000 stipend and full payment of tuition and non-tuition Fees (three-years) Standalone contract to contribute to Objective 2 of the Project, \$15,000 (5 months) Extra remuneration (\$45,000) contingent on the applicant being awarded a Massey University Doctoral Scholarship.

### Massey University

Massey University (Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa) based in Palmerston North, New Zealand, with significant campuses in Albany and Wellington. Massey University has approximately 31,000 students. It has a long and proud tradition in breaking new ground particularly in applied research with strong stakeholder engagement. Originally an Agricultural College, Massey University is now diverse with Colleges in Business, Creative Arts, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences, and Science.

### Project Summary

The PhD research will be embedded in a broader project that has the goal:

*To develop an ecosystem quality and ecosystem service valuation framework, specific to New Zealand, which provides a means for assessing the economic benefits derived from improving the condition of ecosystems harbouring indigenous biodiversity on private land. The project will focus is on three Pāmu Landcorp farms in Northland, New Zealand.*

The project involves 5 interlinked Objectives:

- *Objective 1:* An evaluation of the relative quality of each ecosystem classification (or class of natural capital asset) that is assessed.
- *Objective 2:* An economic assessment of ecosystem service benefits specific to the New Zealand context.
- *Objective 3:* Application of both frameworks across Kapiro, Takakuri and Omamari farms.
- *Objective 4:* Demonstration of the economic value provided by land management activities which improve the condition of selected ecosystems using a Before-After/Control-Impact methodology.
- *Objective 5:* Development of a prototype smart phone application and on-line tool. This can be used by iwi, landowners, and farmers to determine the potential economic value provided by implementing activities which improve the condition of ecosystems on private land.

The PhD candidate will undertake ‘contracted work’ to contribute to these objectives to the value of \$60,000. This is in addition to \$90,000 that can be obtained from a successful Massey University Doctoral Scholarship application, bringing the total remuneration package to \$150,000 over 3 years. In addition, the Massey University Scholarship covers the payment of tuition and non-tuition fees, for both domestic and international students. Full details of the Massey University Doctoral Scholarship are available at: <https://www.massey.ac.nz/study/scholarships-and-awards/massey-university-doctoral-scholarship/>

It should be noted:

- The PhD candidate can use material from the ‘contracted work’ to form part of their PhD thesis (e.g. a literature review section).
- The exact topic of the PhD research is open to negotiation, will draw on and extend the successful candidates background, and will be expected to contribute to the overall goal of the project.

### PhD Scope and Due Dates

Given that the Project has already commenced, and Doctoral Scholarship applications are due on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023, the project will offer a standalone contract of \$15,000 between June 2023 and November 30<sup>th</sup> 2023. This standalone contract will summarise the environmental nonmarket valuation studies previously undertaken in New Zealand. The expectation is that this will form part of the literature review for the PhD thesis. The remaining \$45,000 allocated from the Project to the PhD Candidate will be used as extra remuneration for the three years of any successful Scholarship – refer to the following Table:

<b>Scope</b>	<b>Due date</b>	<b>Award amount from the Project</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
Standalone contract commencement date	30 November 2023	\$15,000	Technical Report reviewing environmental nonmarket valuation studies previously undertaken in New Zealand and making recommendations on how these studies could be utilised in the project ‘Valuing the Provision of New Zealand’s Ecosystem Services’
Massey University Doctoral Scholarship Application	1 October 2023	N/A	Submission of Doctoral Scholarship application to Massey University
PhD Research	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025	\$90,000	PhD thesis submitted
Extra Remuneration	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025	\$45,000	Leading the field application of methodologies developed under Objective 1 to compare how ecosystem service provision varies as a function of ecosystem quality (Objective 3); and assess how ecosystem service provision changes as a function of the implementation of management activities under Objective 4.

## Position Location

Location at Massey University's Palmerston North campus is highly desirable; but location at Massey University's Wellington campus may be considered under some circumstances.

Please note: It is not necessary to relocate Palmerston North for the standalone project (\$15,000).

## Competencies and Experience

Essential Competencies	Demonstrated by
Education/experience	A MSc or equivalent qualification in ecology or resource/environmental economics or ecological economics or environmental management or related fields.
Self-management and initiative	Effectively plans and organises work to achieve desired outcomes; proactive, remains focused, takes action to overcome obstacles and follows through to completion
Ecosystem Services	Demonstrated understanding and outputs in the field of ecosystem services and how this relates to environmental management.
Interdisciplinary skills	Demonstrated ability to work across disciplinary boundaries and integrate information from different knowledge domains.

  

Desirable Competencies	Demonstrated by
GIS skills	Demonstrated experience using GIS platforms like the NZ LCDB (v5), Google Earth Engine, and ArcGIS Pro.
Modelling skills	Demonstrated experience in dynamic modelling and/or statistical analysis.

## Application

Interested candidates are invited to email through an application package consisting of:

- A Cover Letter, including but not limited to, providing an outline of your skills and experience against the required competencies of the position and an indication of when the candidate can commence the standalone project (\$15,000) and availability to commence PhD studies. Please indicate, if the candidate is unable to undertake the standalone project (\$15,000), but wishes to be considered for the remainder of the project.
- Your Curriculum Vitae

**By 23 May 2023 (late applications may be accepted, at the discretion of the Project Leader)**

Please address correspondence to:

Emeritus Professor Murray Patterson: [m.g.patterson@massey.ac.nz](mailto:m.g.patterson@massey.ac.nz)

With copies to:

Associate Professor Peter Tait: [peter.tait.economist@gmail.com](mailto:peter.tait.economist@gmail.com)

Dr. Clint Cameron: [clint.cameron@uq.edu.au](mailto:clint.cameron@uq.edu.au)

**Caveat**

The application processes for the standalone contract (\$15,000) and the Massey Doctoral Scholarship are independent processes. This means that success in procuring the standalone contract, does not guarantee that a Doctoral Scholarship application to Massey University will be successful.