



5 April 2019

Hon Dr Megan Woods  
Minister of Research, Science and Innovation  
Parliament  
Wellington.

Dear Minister

### **ANNUAL LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS FOR 2019/2020**

Thank you for your letter outlining your strategic and performance expectations of REANNZ over the coming year.

We acknowledge the Government's priorities in building a productive, sustainable and inclusive economy and to improve the wellbeing of New Zealanders and their families. REANNZ is proud to be a key part of New Zealand's e-research infrastructure, and to enable and support the work of New Zealand's science, research, innovation and education community to connect, collaborate and contribute, both nationally and globally.

We also appreciate your recognition of the challenging work undertaken by REANNZ over the last year in building ongoing support for New Zealand's research and education network.

Following on from our work last year with MBIE and our core membership (ie universities and Crown Research Institutes), we will continue to work alongside both to develop and consider options to deliver data-intensive network capability on a sustainable basis. We will also provide the appropriate supporting forecasts of costs and service levels within MBIE's timeframes.

In 2018, our core members agreed to a three-year renewal of service contracts for the advanced network services provided by REANNZ. Importantly, as part of the process, core members and REANNZ committed to establish a Community Collaboration Framework (CCF) to provide more open and transparent engagement. Under the CCF, a working group will also recommend the establishment, function and structure of a strategic advisory body to engage with the REANNZ Board.

Meanwhile we continue to operate prudently to slow the consumption of reserves to fund the operating shortfalls, whilst we work on the above strategic priorities.

We note your expectations about good governance. The new Board is working well, and we will continue to work with you and MBIE, providing regular and timely updates on our progress and early advice on any issues. We do however raise the issue of Board representation. While this is an external matter between core members and yourself, based on the correspondence we have been a party to it could potentially see core members terminating their REANNZ membership, leaving REANNZ financially unsustainable.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a successful year which will set REANNZ on a strong and sustainable footing to serve New Zealand science, research, education and innovation into the future.

Yours sincerely,  
**Janine Smith MNZM**  
Chair