



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Megan Woods	Portfolio	Research, Science and Innovation
Title of Cabinet paper	Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System; and Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System: Release of discussion document	Date to be published	28 October 2021

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
May 2021	Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System	Office of the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation
19 May 2021	Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System DEV-21-MIN-0099 Minute	Cabinet Office
September 2021	Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System: Release of discussion document	Office of the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation
29 September 2021	Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System: Release of discussion document DEV-21-MIN-0193 Minute	Cabinet office

Information redacted

NO

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Cabinet Economic Development Committee

Minute of Decision

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Future Pathways for the Research, Science and Innovation System

Portfolio **Research, Science and Innovation**

On 19 May 2021, the Cabinet Economic Development Committee (DEV):

- 1 **noted** that meeting the challenges and opportunities of the future will require harnessing the collective capability of the research, science and innovation (RSI) system, to tackle the complex and interdependent challenges that are central to New Zealand's future;
- 2 **noted** that while researchers and research organisations continue to produce excellent research, the current RSI system is fragmented and is not well configured to meet these challenges and opportunities;
- 3 **noted** that while a number of reforms have been made to the RSI system over the past ten years to sharpen the system's focus on excellence and impact, the system still lacks connectivity and is not responsive to priorities;
- 4 **noted** that:
 - 4.1 more work needs to be done to explore how the RSI system will seek to understand and respond to Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations and opportunities and the interface between Mātauranga Māori and science;
 - 4.2 there will be extensive and meaningful consultation with Māori as this work is developed;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation intends to develop a work programme to reform the RSI system so that it is adaptable for the future, resilient to changes, and well connected;
- 6 **noted** that the key areas the work programme will focus on are:
 - 6.1 giving the system priorities that focus what is done and ensuring complex challenges (eg. climate change) have a clear locus of activity and dedicated resourcing;
 - 6.2 reshaping the funding system to be able to give effect to those priorities, as well as building the system's capability needs now and into the future;
 - 6.3 shaping the institutions in a way that they are able to give effect to those priorities and are adaptable in a fast changing world;

- 7 **agreed** to the development of a green paper consultation document that will set out a range of options for possible reform, with the main areas being:
- 7.1 developing a system to establish a clear set of national research priorities;
 - 7.2 reforming the funding system to give effect to those priorities;
 - 7.3 ensuring the research institutions are equipped to deliver on those priorities;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation has instructed officials to work across government agencies to develop the green paper to ensure that the reconfigured RSI system better delivers to government priorities;
- 9 **invited** the Minister of Research, Science and Innovation to report back to DEV on the progress of the green paper by 31 July 2021;
- 10 **noted** that while the proposals could represent the most significant reform for the public research system since the early 1990s, the process is intended to be inclusive and deliberative;
- 11 **invited** the Minister and Associate Minister of Research, Science and Innovation and Climate Ministers to undertake work on an environmental and climate research strategy as part of the future pathways programme, and report back to DEV by the end of 2021 on this work.

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Grant Robertson (Chair)
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon David Parker
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Stuart Nash
Hon Willie Jackson (part of item)
Hon Michael Wood
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Meka Whaitiri
Hon Phil Twyford
Dr Deborah Russell, MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for DEV

Hard-copy distribution:

Minister of Research, Science and Innovation