

28 March 2022

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

15 Stout Street

WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Future Pathways Policy Team Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment

TE ARA PAERANGI FUTURE PATHWAYS GREEN PAPER SUBMISSION

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Green Paper. The research, science and innovation system is critically important to the primary sector and changes are needed to the system to maximise the benefits for the sector and for New Zealand. We would also like to acknowledge that this is just the start of the process and MPI are keen to continue to provide further input as the process continues.

Key points are summarised below, against the themes identified in the green paper.

TE ARA PAERANGI RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Research priorities need to be mission-led and outcome driven with a strong focus on the needs of the end-users. The process for their identification should include input from key end-users, including relevant government agencies. The priorities must be clearly articulated at a system level and should support a dynamic and agile RSI system, in which research that is relevant both now and in the future is supported.

How priorities are delivered will also be critical, and this also must take into account end-user needs. The RSI system needs to ensure that research across the continuum, from operational to blue-skies, is monitored and flexible with functioning feedback loops which inform and allow for changes in research and resources as appropriate.

TE TIRITI, MĀTAURANGA MĀORI AND SUPPORTING ASPIRATIONS

Considerable work needs to be done within this space to embed Te Tiriti and Mātauranga Māori within the RSI system, from research identification and design through to delivery and implementation, in a respectful way. We need to better understand how we can honour Te Tiriti and ensure we have genuine engagement and partnerships in system governance and in the RSI workforce. The RSI system needs to be reconfigured to support Māori-led research, including the way in which projects are evaluated, and how both impact and excellence are defined.

TE TUKU PŪTEA FUNDING

We need a funding system that is more balanced across the continuum from blue skies to operational or applied research. We need a funding model which better ensures core capability, functions, and infrastructure are built and sustained over the long term. This is in line with the goal of lifting public and private sector investment in research and development to 2 percent of the GDP. Along with the need to provide greater stability for core needs, the model must also provide for greater flexibility to allow our institutions to adapt to changing national priorities and respond to emerging opportunities or needs including extreme events or emergencies.

This will still require a role for investor-led basic research, such as that supported by Endeavor, but this must be balanced with strategic mission-led science. Funding must be transparent with clear accountability for delivering to the national priorities with maximum impact for the end-users.

NGĀ HINONGA INSTITUTIONS

Our institutions need to have a clear and well understood role and structure which enables them to respond to national priorities. These institutions must be collaborative, adaptive and agile. Along with working together, these institutions need to have stronger partnerships and relationships with Māori, and with end-users, including industry and internationally.

HUNGA MAHI RANGAHU WORKFORCE

Māori capability and capacity in the science workforce needs to be increased and existing knowledge and capability better supported. Related to this is the need to broaden pathways into the RSI system and to recognise that the science workforce is much broader than has been traditionally considered (i.e., scientists within government, industry, and Māori organisations).

The workforce also needs to be more agile allowing for rapid transitions to support changing needs and priorities and, also to allow for greater flexibility of career pathways.

The RSI workforce needs to start with attracting young people to science, supporting transitions through the education system, and then providing careers in which there is job security, development is supported, and remuneration is appropriate and more equitable across the system addressing the imbalance for example between scientists and mātauranga Māori experts.

TE HANGANGA RANGAHAU RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

Available research infrastructure must be better understood, coordinated, and maintained to minimise unnecessary duplication, and maximise investment benefits, and identify critical gaps. Significant investment is needed to restore, expand, and maintain collections and databases to meet the needs of the RSI system and end-users, and ultimately support national priorities.

Long term planning is needed to ensure that infrastructure needs, including buildings and land, will be maintained and replaced into the future. Decision making about infrastructure needs to include both those with expertise related to the infrastructure and those who are most likely to use it. We support some centralisation of decision-making with regard to infrastructure where there is a need for a strong national view and where the expertise to inform the decisions sits across multiple parties.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide this submission. Should MBIE wish to discuss any part of the submission or have any questions please contact Jonathan Rudge on [Privacy - 9\(2\)\(a\)](#)

We look forward to having further conversations on this important mahi.

Yours sincerely,

Naomi Parker

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Ministry for Primary Industries