



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Judith Collins KC	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet papers	The Science System Advisory Group and the University Advisory Group Driving Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology Further Decisions to Drive Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology	Date to be published	23 January 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
March 2024	The Science System Advisory Group and the University Advisory Group	Offices of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology, and of the Minister for Tertiary Education and Skills
20 March 2024	The Science System Advisory Group and the University Advisory Group ECO-24-MIN-0030 Minute	Cabinet Office
September 2024	Driving Economic Growth through Science Innovation and Technology	Office of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
September 2024	Appendix Two FINAL SSAG Report	MBIE
31 October 2024	Driving Economic Growth through Science Innovation and Technology ECO-24-MIN-0242 Minute	Cabinet Office
November 2024	Further Decisions to Drive Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology	Office of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
5 November 2024	Further Decisions to Drive Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology ECO-24-MIN-0302 Minute	Cabinet Office
16 December 2024	Further Decisions to Drive Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology CAB-24-MIN-0504.02 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / ~~NO~~ *(please select)*

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Some information has been withheld for the reason of confidentiality



Cabinet Economic Policy Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Driving Economic Growth through Science, Innovation and Technology

Portfolio **Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 13 November 2024, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

Science System Advisory Group's report

- 1 **agreed** to the release of the report of the Science System Advisory Group, *An Architecture for the Future*, attached as Appendix Two to the paper under ECO-24-SUB-0242;

Strategic direction and priority setting

- 2 **agreed** to:
 - 2.1 establish a Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council; and
 - 2.2 its Terms of Reference, as outlined in Appendix Three to the paper under ECO-24-SUB-0242;
- 3 **noted** that further advice from the Science System Advisory Group is expected in early 2025 that will consider other components of the science system and include:
 - 3.1 the shape of New Zealand's innovation system;
 - 3.2 how to best support start-up and scale-up, technology transfer, and transitioning to a new mode of operating;
 - 3.3 the Government's use of and expenditure on science, innovation and technology;

Investment attraction and enabling commercial outcomes

- 4 **agreed** to progress work to establish an investment attraction agency, Invest New Zealand and for the Minister for Science, Innovation & Technology (the Minister) to report back to ECO with options in the first quarter of 2025;
- 5 **agreed** to progress work to refocus New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) to prioritise strong export outcomes;
- 6 **directed** officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to work closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on how best to achieve a refocused NZTE;

- 7 **noted** that the Minister for Trade and the Minister for Economic Development will report back to ECO in early 2025 on the refocus of NZTE;

Increase ability of research organisations to respond to priorities

- 8 **agreed** to progress work to establish the following public research organisations:
- 8.1 *Bio-economy*: formed by consolidating the following Crown Research Institutes: AgResearch, Plant and Food Research, Scion, and Manaaki Whenua;
- 8.2 *Earth science*: formed by consolidating NIWA and GNS (noting that, in September 2024, the Cabinet Expenditure and Regulatory Review Committee agreed in principle to NIWA acquiring the MetService, subject to further work being completed [EXP-24-MIN-0051]);
- 8.3 *Health and forensic science services*: formed by re-purposing Environmental Science Research;
- 9 **noted** that the first step of establishing the above public research organisations will be through the merger of Crown Research Institutes under current regulatory settings;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister will report back to ECO with the details for establishing the public research organisations in early 2025;

Enable New Zealand to keep pace with technological advances

- 11 **agreed** to progress work to establish a public research organisation focused on advanced technologies;
- 12 **agreed** to progress work to establish a platform of advanced technologies research and capability under the Strategic Science Investment Fund as the first step of establishing a public research organisation focused on advanced technologies;

Re-align business research and development and innovation functions

- 13 **agreed** to disestablish Callaghan Innovation and redistribute its most important functions to other parts of the system, and to stop other functions;
- 14 **authorised** the Minister to make decisions about existing research and development and innovation-related funding products including transfer to other entities;
- 15 **noted** that the Minister will explore commercial solutions to retain the Gracefield Innovation Quarter as a centre for science, innovation and technology;
- 16 **noted** that the Minister will seek further Cabinet decisions in early 2025 relating to the future of the Gracefield Innovation Quarter and disestablishment of Callaghan Innovation;

Better use of intellectual property

- 17 **noted** that the Minister will investigate and report back to ECO in early 2025 with changes to the settings around intellectual property and technology transfer organisations in the science, innovation and technology and tertiary education sectors;
- 18 **noted** the complementary work being undertaken by the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to improve the intellectual property and copyright law and maximise the value captured;

Funding

- 19 **noted** that the changes proposed above will be funded by reprioritising funding from the science, innovation and technology appropriation and other appropriations yet to be determined.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon Andrew Bayly
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Mark Patterson

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Judith Collins KC
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
Officials Committee for ECO