



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Science, Innovation and Technology Reforms	Date to be published	6 October 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
June 2025	Science, Innovation and Technology Reforms	Office of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
4 June 2025	Science, Innovation and Technology Reforms ECO-25-MIN-0088 Minute	Cabinet Office
3 April 2025	Regulatory Impact Statement: Driving economic growth through Science, Innovation and Technology	MBIE

Information redacted

YES

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 reasons of Commercial Information, Confidential advice to Government, Confidentiality and Negotiations.



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.

Science, Innovation and Technology Reforms

Portfolio Science, Innovation and Technology

On 4 June 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in November and December 2024, Cabinet agreed to a suite of policies that would strengthen the science, innovation and technology system and its contribution to New Zealand's economic growth [ECO-24-MIN-0242 and CAB-24-MIN-0504.02];
- 2 **noted** that the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology (the Minister) intends to progress legislative change to support the science, innovation and technology reforms;
- 3 **agreed** to create a Science, Innovation and Technology Bill (the Bill) that gives effect to a package of proposals enabling:
 - 3.1 the Prime Minister's Science, Innovation and Technology Advisory Council to be provided for within a legislative framework;
 - 3.2 funding decision-making bodies to be rationalised and required to respond to Government priorities;
 - 3.3 Crown Research Institutes to be transitioned to public research organisations, with stronger steering mechanisms;
 - 3.4 Callaghan Innovation to be disestablished as an innovation agency; and
 - 3.5 Gracefield Innovation Quarter to be managed in the event a commercial solution is not completed before Callaghan Innovation is disestablished;
- 4 **directed** officials to take all steps necessary to expedite the creation of a commercial solution for Gracefield Innovation Quarter;
- 5 **agreed** to the proposals in Annexes Four and Five under ECO-25-SUB-0088;
- 6 **rescinded** the in-principle decision that public research organisations be Crown agents [CAB-24-MIN-0504.02];
- 7 **agreed** to update the purpose of public research organisations to be to undertake research that supports economic growth and positions New Zealand for the future;
- 8 **noted** that the Bill has a **Confidentiality**

- 9 **agreed** that the Bill will bind the Crown;
- 10 **agreed** that the Bill provide for the policy detail for all consequential and related amendments to legislation that are needed to give effect to the decisions under ECO-25-SUB-0088;
- 11 **agreed** that, if required, the Measurement Standards Regulations 2019 be amended ahead of the Bill to enable the transfer of the Measurement Sciences Laboratory to its new host and make minor updates to remain consistent with international standards;
- 12 **invited** the Minister to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the decisions above;
- 13 **authorised** the Minister to make decisions on minor and technical matters that may arise during the drafting process;
- 14 **authorised** the Minister to make decisions, consistent with the decisions above, on any issues that arise, including decisions:
- 14.1 on what matters should carry over and updates to the Research, Science and Technology Act 2010 and the Crown Research Institutes Act 1992;
 - 14.2 to support the amalgamation of Crown Research Institutes, such as addressing tax issues (for which the Minister of Revenue will be consulted);
 - 14.3 on the transition of existing Crown Research Institutes to public research organisations, including consolidation if necessary (for which the Minister of Finance will be consulted, in their role as shareholding Minister);
 - 14.4 on operating principles, governance, and the scope of immunity, for public research organisations;
 - 14.5 on the transfer of Callaghan Innovation’s responsibilities to public research organisations and MBIE;
 - 14.6 on legislative provisions for the Callaghan Innovation legal entity that will have responsibility for the Gracefield Innovation Quarter, including any exemptions from sections 161 to 165 of the Crown Entities Act 2004;
- 15 **authorised** the Minister to release the draft legislation to Crown Research Institutes and Callaghan Innovation pre-introduction and on an in-confidence basis subject to legal professional privilege.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Attendance: (See over)

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Judith Collins KC
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Hon Scott Simpson
Hon Mark Patterson
Simon Court, MP

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for ECO
Prime Minister's Office
Office of the Leader of the House
Office of the Attorney-General
Office of the Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety
Office of the Minister of Science, Innovation and
Technology
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment