



COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Dr Shane Reti	Portfolio	Science, Innovation and Technology
Title of Cabinet paper	Science System Advisory Group Report A pathway to the future: New Zealand's science and innovation system	Date to be published	13 November 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released

Date	Title	Author
22 August 2025	A national Intellectual Property management policy for universities and Public Research Organisations	Office of the Minister for Science, Innovation and Technology
17 September 2025	A National IP Management Policy for Universities and PROs ECO-25-MIN-0147 Minute	Cabinet Office

Information redacted

YES / NO

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 Confidential advice to Government and Free and frank opinions.



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.

A National IP Management Policy for Universities and PROs

Portfolio **Science, Innovation and Technology**

On 17 September 2025, the Cabinet Economic Policy Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in December 2024, Cabinet agreed to introduce a national Intellectual Property (IP) policy for research generated from universities and Public Research Organisations (PROs), with the policy for universities to be based on the model used at Waterloo University in Canada, which vests ownership of IP with the researchers who create it [CAB-24-MIN-0504.02];
- 2 **noted** that discussions with experts highlighted that:
 - 2.1 a drawback of the Waterloo model is that it enhances the risk that the IP is not adequately protected and/or the contributions of all the inventors are not recognised;
 - 2.2 this problem could be remedied by the university taking responsibility for protecting and managing the IP, even while the inventors commercialise it;
- 3 **agreed** to introduce a national IP management policy for research in universities and PROs, based on the settings outlined in Appendix 1 under ECO-25-SUB-0145;
- 4 **agreed** that research organisations be required to apply the IP management policy to any IP generated from projects that receive funding from the following sources:
 - 4.1 the Commercialisation Partner Network, Pre-Seed Accelerator Fund, and MedTech Research Translator / Te Tītoki Mataora programmes;
 - 4.2 any contestable research funding aimed at domestic research, including the Endeavour Fund, the Health Research Council, and the Marsden Fund, and contestable funds under the new research funding system;
 - 4.3 other research funding through the Science, Innovation and Technology (SI&T) portfolio, as determined by the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology on a case-by-case basis;
- 5 **noted** that the requirement in paragraph 4 above will apply to contracts issued from 1 July 2026, meaning that the requirement will come into effect incrementally;

- 6 Confidential advice to Government
- 7 Confidential advice to Government
- 8 **noted** that the IP management policy will not be a condition of other government sources of research funding, such as those implemented through the various primary industries portfolios, which typically have their own IP policies;
- 9 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology (or a person they delegate) to determine:
- 9.1 whether the rules of the IP management policy apply to each of the other research funding programmes in the SI&T portfolio, other than those explicitly specified in paragraph 4 above;
 - 9.2 whether the rules of the IP management policy apply to a research project that also draws on funding from other sources;
 - 9.3 which set of rules will apply to a research project covered by the IP management policy when there is ambiguity;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to make decisions, consistent with the decisions above, on any issues that arise in the implementation of this policy;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology to amend the statement of IP policy, attached as Appendix 1 under ECO-25-SUB-0145, to address any issues that arise in the implementation of this policy, provided it remains consistent with the decisions above;
- 12 **noted** that the IP management policy will be accompanied by a set of national guidelines on terms of engagement between inventor(s), the research organisation, and others, which will be developed in consultation with the sector based on best practice in New Zealand and internationally;
- 13 **noted** that the Minister of Science, Innovation and Technology will consider options for ensuring researchers have access to high-quality commercialisation support as part of the broader work on the science, innovation and technology and tertiary education systems;
- 14 Confidential advice to Government

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present: (see over)

Present:

Hon David Seymour (Chair)
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Shane Jones
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Simon Watts
Hon Chris Penk
Hon Andrew Hoggard
Hon Nicola Grigg
Hon James Meager
Simon Court MP

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Dr Shane Reti
Office of Hon Simon Watts
Officials Committee for ECO