



PMSITAC Informal Meetings – Summary Notes

Dates: 18, 19, 24 and 26 June¹

Chair: Dr John Roche (Deputy Chair)

Attendees:

- PMSITAC members: Dr John Roche, Russell Frew, Komal Mistry-Mehta, Sir Peter Gluckman, Professor Merryn Tawhai, Malcolm Johns, Craig Piggott
- MBIE representatives: Iain Cossar, Privacy of natural persons

1. Introductions and Opening Remarks

- All attendees provided brief introductions and opening remarks.

2. Role of PMSITAC

- Dr Roche confirmed agreement on the Terms of Reference. No concerns were raised.
- Members emphasised that investment should be viewed beyond just funding allocation—considering effort, strategy, priorities, and structure.
- MBIE clarified that PMSITAC's role is to develop priorities for the SI&T system (including identifying areas to be deprioritised), with awareness of other funding streams.
- The Secretariat is preparing an overview of current SI&T investments. However, MBIE noted the absence of a robust tracking investment process, which may lead to data inconsistencies.

3. Overview of the system

- MBIE presented a general overview of New Zealand's current SI&T system, including its intended future structure and investment direction.
- It was noted that current investments are heavily weighted toward the environment and primary industries.
- To shift toward advanced technologies and other emerging areas, prioritisation and deprioritisation will be essential, particularly as the reforms are being delivered within existing budgets.
- MBIE acknowledged that the priority-setting process will be iterative and cyclical, and that changes to the funding system are expected.

4. Current thinking about priorities

- MBIE shared early-stage materials being developed to support PMSITAC in developing a list of focussed investment priorities for the SI&T system, along with areas that could be deprioritised, in time to inform advice for Budget 26. The material includes:
 - **Section 1:** strategic context and investment landscape – which sets the stage by providing a high-level overview of the current state of Government investment in R&D, both domestically and internationally.

¹ Members met with the Deputy Chair and MBIE officials at different times due to scheduling difficulties

- **Section 2:** Insights and Prioritisation Framework – **which** presents key insights and introduces a structured approach to guide prioritisation.
- **Section 3:** Decision support and next steps - Provide practical tools and guidance to support decision-making and advisory processes.
- The Council emphasized the importance of integrating the four principles of public investment into the prioritisation process:
 - Public good
 - Advancement of public policy
 - Knowledge development
 - Commercialisation
- Members also highlighted the need for expertise in advanced and emerging technologies to support the Council's work.
- The importance of national and global connectivity was discussed—particularly in identifying:
 - What science New Zealand wants to lead
 - What can be done in partnership with international collaborators

5. Wrap up

- MBIE advised that members will soon receive communications regarding remuneration for their time.
- The Deputy Chair suggested the value of PMSITAC members meeting key stakeholders in the SI&T system. **Action:** Secretariat to identify and coordinate stakeholder engagement opportunities.
- Iain Cossar outlined suggested communication lines for members if approached about PMSITAC activities. General message: PMSITAC has met informally and will convene formally in July.
- Members inquired about the availability of SSAG 1 & 2 reports. SSAG report 1 is publicly available. SSAG report 2 is currently undergoing Ministerial review.
Action: Secretariat to distribute SSAG 1 and SSAG 2 reports (once available).

Action Item Summary

Action	Responsible	Status
Identify key stakeholders for PMSITAC engagement	Secretariat	To be actioned
Distribute SSAG 1 and SSAG 2 reports	Secretariat	Pending (SSAG 2)