

7 March 2022

**Research and Education  
Advanced Network New Zealand**

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Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Associate Minister of Research, Science and Innovation  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Dear Minister

### **ANNUAL LETTER OF EXPECTATIONS FOR 2022/2023**

Thank you for your letter outlining your strategic and performance expectations for REANNZ over the coming year.

We acknowledge the Government's commitment to an inclusive, sustainable and productive Aotearoa New Zealand and the role that a modern, future-focused research system has in driving and supporting this.

REANNZ is proud to play a critical part in New Zealand's eResearch infrastructure and will continue to actively contribute to key initiatives underway including the eResearch Infrastructure report and Te Ara Paerangi – Future Pathways. We have been working with our members and the international NREN community and are developing a response that aligns to the areas where we can support a sector that is adaptable, resilient and most importantly, globally connected.

In line with your expectations, our long term strategic and annual business plans will focus on:

- **Embedding Te Tiriti across REANNZ and supporting Mātauranga Māori**

Supporting the aspirations of the Māori research and education community is an integral part of our strategic planning. We will work with the community to determine our role, build our capability to meet our Te Tiriti obligations, support Mātauranga Māori and increase access for tāngata whenua. This will be integrated into all the focus areas of our strategy.

- **National Network Strategic Review**

REANNZ's focus is to ensure that the future Network is designed with the needs of researchers at its core. Management have established a CEO forum with members to understand how researchers will be working in the future. This forum has representatives from across the membership, from multiple disciplines including Mātauranga Māori researchers and a range of experience

levels. The output will provide key use cases that we can test our network design against to ensure that we are delivering what our membership needs. We will provide you and MBIE with regular updates as we make progress with the National Network Strategic Review and ensure that the network is fit for purpose and meets the current and future needs of the research and education community.

- **New approaches to eResearch infrastructure and investment**

We will continue to contribute to and actively participate in the processes underway to ensure that REANNZ is better positioned to support the RSI system.

Through our response to the eResearch infrastructure review, REANNZ has outlined the importance of looking at infrastructure from a global and local perspective. The global NREN community connects researchers to science infrastructure across over 122 countries. A key focus for this year is to understand what global science infrastructure (including collections of significance) are connected to the NREN community. This will enable national science investment to be more targeted to Aotearoa New Zealand's specific needs.

As we write this response, we are finalising our strategy that will inform our performance measures and programmes of work for the year ahead. We look forward to sharing this in due course and continuing to work with MBIE to ensure that the sector has access to a high performing, affordable and sustainable REANNZ business.

We note your expectations about good governance. The Board is continuing to work well, with a diverse range of skills. We will continue to work with yourself and MBIE, providing regular and timely updates on our progress and early advice on any issues.

We look forward to another successful year as REANNZ continues to build on its strong foundations and extend our reach, turn our expertise into impact and increase our global participation to connect and serve Aotearoa New Zealand's research, science, innovation and education sectors.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Smith', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

**Janine Smith MNZM**  
Chair