
Statement

Reform for a future-focused science system

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Over a year ago the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) started an open, deliberative and wide-ranging discussion with the research, science and innovation sector on the future of Aotearoa New Zealand's public research system.

The release of the Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways White Paper on 6 December marks a major milestone in the Te Ara Paerangi programme.

The White Paper sets out the Government's vision for our research, science and innovation (RSI) system. It signals the start of a multi-year reform programme to reshape Aotearoa New Zealand's research system and provides an enduring policy reference point for the programme.

The White Paper was strongly influenced by feedback following the release of the Te Ara Paerangi Green Paper in October 2021. MBIE received 885 written submissions and welcomed around 2,500 participants to webinars and workshops held during consultation on the Green Paper.

Feedback from the sector showed a strong appetite for change. That feedback has been summarised in three reports available on the MBIE website: mbie.govt.nz/futurepathways

MBIE has also worked closely with the Te Ara Paerangi Reference Group. This group comprises members from a range of peak bodies and professional organisations within the sector who contributed their time and expertise to help test ideas, choices and trade-offs throughout the policy development process. Their rich contributions added nuance and clarified policy directions.

The Te Ara Paerangi reforms signal large-scale change that will have a significant impact for the RSI system and the people who work in it. Transformational change is needed so the RSI system can deliver a better future for all New Zealanders. This White Paper communicates our position and commitments on how Te Ara Paerangi – Future Pathways will position our RSI system for the future.

The Te Ara Paerangi programme has four key objectives: Creating New Futures, Embedding Te Tiriti, Valuing Our People and Building System Agility.

The first phase of the reform will begin to make significant changes for the workforce and start embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the RSI system in 2023.

A workforce package, eventually including an expansion of research fellowships, applied training schemes and an international talent attraction scheme, will ensure our RSI workforce is supported through the reform, beginning in 2023.

The Government's obligations, expectations and aspirations for the RSI system will be outlined in an RSI Te Tiriti o Waitangi statement. This will guide MBIE in its role as system steward and set expectations for research institutions across the sector.

In 2023 we will also start the process of determining National Research Priorities and expect to begin the conversation about the best way to structure and fund our government research organisations.

We will continue to engage widely with the sector as we develop detailed policies and implementation plans in line with these commitments.

Mā te mahi tahi ka taea e tātau te mahi i ngā mea nunui.
By working together we can do great things.

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