

From: no-reply@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Research, Science and Innovation Strategy Secretariat](#)
Subject: Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy submission
Date: Friday, 8 November 2019 3:20:07 p.m.
Attachments: [Online-submission-form-uploadsdraft-research-science-and-innovation-strategy-submissionsSubmission-NZ-RIS-Strategy-ChristchurchNZ-Nov19.pdf](#)

Submission on Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy received:

Are you making your submission as an individual, or on behalf of an organisation?

Organisation

Name

Anna Elphick

Name of organisation or institutional affiliation

ChristchurchNZ

Role within organisation

GM Strategy, Insights & Policy

Email address (in case we would like to follow up with you further about your submission)

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**Which of the below areas do you feel represents your perspective as a submitter?
(Please select all that apply)**

If you selected other, please specify here:

Gender

Ethnicity

Name of organisation on whose behalf you are submitting, if different to the organisation named above

In which sector does your organisation operate: (Please select all that apply)

Government

If you selected other, please specify here:

How large is your organisation (in number of full-time-equivalent employees)?

75

Please indicate if you would like some or all of the information you provide in your submission kept in confidence, and if so which information.

Please upload your submission document here

Submission-NZ-RIS-Strategy-ChristchurchNZ-Nov19.pdf - [Download File](#)

Research, Science & Innovation Policy
MBIE Labour, Science and Enterprise Group

8 November 2019

Re: Submission – Draft New Zealand’s Research, Science and Innovation Strategy

Thank you for providing the opportunity for ChristchurchNZ to comment on the draft New Zealand Research, Science and Innovation Strategy.

ChristchurchNZ is the economic development and city promotion agency for Christchurch city and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Christchurch City Council.

ChristchurchNZ welcomes the stronger emphasis on focus and connections in the draft strategy. However, we believe the strategy does not adequately reflect the existing and potential ways to enhance the impact of research and innovation in New Zealand.

Specific feedback:

Our Investment System

The definitions of research and innovation on page 17 would benefit from a more explicit articulation of the importance of all three phases of innovation: idea generation or adoption, application / commercialisation, and benefit realisation in achieving societal outcomes from investment research and innovation. This would assist in more clearly identifying how the system could be improved to realise more impact from the government’s investment and incentivisation of research and innovation.

Strengthening Connections

A lack of evaluation or mapping of existing mechanisms to support the translation of research into impact is a significant omission in the strategy. The most obvious of these is the Commercialisation Partner Network (CPN), which is a critical component of the government’s research, science and innovation toolkit. Reference is made to NZTE and Callaghan Innovation, but a more thorough mapping of these functions, including CPN, and how they support research, innovation and the translation of these functions into benefit (economic, social, cultural and environmental) would significantly enhance the understanding of the range of tools available to government to enhance outcomes.

The strategy could also benefit from reflecting on the strong international research into the importance of a spatial context for innovation and commercialisation. Innovation and commercialisation often happens in the context of existing business and personal networks. These

networks exist at the national level through, for example, Kiwinet, Callaghan Innovation's "Scale Up NZ" initiative and industry groups. New Zealand's local economic development agencies and Council economic development functions are important connectors of tertiary, business, research and government in a local context.

For example, ChristchurchNZ's "Supernodes" bring together government, local industry, tertiaries and research around four strategic growth areas for the Canterbury region.

Success is when research results in economic, environmental and social outcomes. This requires investment not just in research, but in the pathways to commercialise or apply the research to deliver outcomes. Explicitly recognising and considering the potential of these existing local and national connectors to reduce transactions costs, increase connections and build innovative momentum to achieve greater benefit realisation from research and innovation is an important part of the solution.

ChristchurchNZ would like to see explicit consideration given to how existing local and national connectors could be utilized (and funded) to help achieve the government's impact aspirations for research and innovation investment.

There is a missed opportunity for the strategy to provide a clearer and more prioritised connection to MBIE's Industry Transformation Plans. Industry Transformation Plans have significant long-term ambition for the country, and they need more "how" action required to realise the vision – there is a clear need and opportunity for the research, science and innovation community to add value to these Plans.

Growing Our System

ChristchurchNZ is supportive of the "towards the frontier" research focus. However, this is not just about being "unique", but rather identifying where we have comparative strengths which can be leveraged. An example of this is aerospace, which is not a unique opportunity for NZ, but is an area where our comparative (e.g. open skies, good data systems and innovative regulation; small, nimble, connected; strong environmental focus/requirement; Antarctic gateway), means we could become a global centre for aerospace research.

Innovating in the Public Sector

There is a growing intersection of commercial interests and wider wellbeing objectives. The public sector has the potential to gain from collaborating and partnering with the private sector to achieve public-benefit outcomes, rather than viewing businesses purely as a vehicle for private benefit.

International trends towards "open innovation" or "crowd sourcing" innovation provide opportunities for both public research and the private sector to provide solutions to societal problems.

New Zealand could also gain more value from its investment in research by providing a framework which distinguishes between the generation of data which can be provided open sourced as a platform for further innovation and research, and the creation of intellectual property which is held privately. The creation of open data platforms, which build off the significant investment of public funds in research also provide an opportunity for New Zealand to build scale and momentum in particular areas of focus and be a point of attraction for international researchers.

There are many examples internationally of the public sector more proactively engaging the private sector to solve national and global problems, and for the public sector to support open data platforms.

Magnet for Talent

The current focus of the strategy is on research talent. However, talent development and attraction are required across all aspects of the innovation and commercialisation journey. In particular, there is potential to improve pathways for entrepreneurship, integrated talent marketing, and incentives for highly talented people to migrate. An integrated approach to talent development and attraction is necessary across government agencies (MBIE, Immigration NZ, Education NZ, Tertiary Education Commission) with a future focused evaluation of the gaps and a coordinated approach to address these.

Yours sincerely,



Joanna Norris
Chief Executive Officer

PROACTIVELY RELEASED