

From: no-reply@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Research, Science and Innovation Strategy Secretariat](#)
Subject: Late submission on draft RSI strategy
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Attachments: [Online-submission-form-uploadsdraft-research-science-and-innovation-strategy-submissions2019.11.24_Rauika-Mangai-Submission-to-RSI-Strategy.pdf](#)

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

Organisation

Name

Jessica Hutchings

Name of organisation or institutional affiliation

Rauika Mangai

Role within organisation

Chair

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)

Research , Interface of research and industry, Other

If you selected other, please specify here:

Rauika Mangai is comprised of Vision Matauranga leaders from across the National Science Challenges

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

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 consult Rauika Mangai before making public any of the information in our submission.

Please upload your submission document here

2019.11.24_Rauika-Mangai-Submission-to-RSI-Strategy.pdf - [Download File](#)

Submission of
Rauika Māngai
on
New Zealand's Research, Science & Innovation Strategy

21 November 2019

Addressed to:

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Copies to: RAUIKA MĀNGAI

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Rauika Māngai Submission to MBIE on the Draft RSI Strategy

November 2019

Preamble:

Rauika Māngai is a term that means, an 'assembly of representatives'. Through our collective efforts across the National Science Challenges, the Rauika Māngai works for the wellbeing of whānau, hapū, iwi and diverse Māori communities in ways that uphold tikanga and wairuatanga and extends the mātauranga continuum.

Purpose of Group:

- Share and extend best practice approaches to Vision Mātauranga
- Seek opportunities for alignment across the National Science Challenges (NSCs)
- Build collective knowledge that contributes gains and benefits to whānau, hapū, iwi, and diverse Māori communities from NSC engagement
- Provide a collective Māori voice on NSC matters

Objectives of the Rōpu:

- Innovate and advance mātauranga Māori
- Accelerate RS&I benefits for Aotearoa NZ benefit
- Influence science policy to deliver wide ranging benefits to whānau, hapū, iwi, and diverse Māori communities.

Introduction

The Rauika Māngai called a Vision Mātauranga Leadership Hui at Te Wai o Horotiu Marae, AUT, Auckland, 30-31 Oct 2019. The hui was organised by the Rauika Māngai, with support from the NSCs, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga, AUT and the MacDiarmid Institute. There were approx. 100 attendees. Bringing together (primarily) Māori scientists working across the NSCs, the event enabled attendees to hear from a range of speakers, including Sir Mason Durie, Dr Charles Te Ahukaramū Royal, Aroha Te Pareake Mead, Melanie Mark-Shadbolt (Director Māori, NZ's Biological Heritage), and Gary Evans (MBIE Chief Science Advisor) who shared different perspectives on how Māori are experiencing New Zealand's science system. On Day 2, delegates were invited to discuss priorities for action in terms of progressing participation and positive outcomes/impacts for Māori within the NSCs and extending out to the wider science and innovation ecosystem.

Presentations, discussions and key themes have been recorded in order to support the ongoing work of Rauika Mangai, and feed into upcoming meetings with Minister Megan Woods; these will be provided in a full report. Please note that this full report from the hui will be available in late December 2019 and we will share this with MBIE as further information to support this submission.

This submission draws on the collective kōrero and consensus from the hui. The following is a summary highlight of the kōrero from the hui, collated under five headings:

1. Now and Then – A Vision for the Future
2. Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Moving Towards a Partnership Approach in the RSI System
3. Vision Mātauranga
4. RSI and Māori Empowerment
5. Where To From Here

Now and Then - A Vision for the Future

Hui delegates shared their vision for the future. It is quite different from the status quo and describes a scenario where Māori are well-represented as scientists, decision-makers and funding recipients, where Mātauranga Māori is fully embraced and enabled as a valuable knowledge system that sits alongside Western Science, and where Māori communities are supported by New Zealand's science system to realise their aspirations. Specific points include:

1. The **number of Māori** scientists working in pure science (and as social scientists) falls well short of being representative of the population; it needs to increase significantly. What can we do to attract more Māori into studying STEAM and, just as importantly, how do we prepare organisations to be places where Māori want to work, where they can make the impacts they desire, and where their contributions are valued and rewarded?
2. Outside of basic statistics on Māori students and active scientists, there is very little evidence of how the science system is benefiting Māori. We need to be resourced to lead and carry out **measurement and evaluation** activities that clearly show outcomes and impacts of the science system for Māori communities. Only then can we collect the evidence that proves what works and what needs to change.
3. Māori are currently under-represented in **leadership** roles and this reduces our ability to define what counts; we aim to hold more decision-making power within the science system in the future. While this includes ensuring more Māori hold specific leadership roles, it also relates to collectively defining how Mātauranga Māori should best be integrated into the science and innovation ecosystem, what is valuable, how 'excellence' is defined, how impacts are measured, and where funding will be allocated, among other priorities.
4. Enhanced partnership within the science system should in the future be explicitly founded on **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** and the Crown's long-awaited whole-of-government response to the WAI-262 claim. It was noted that MBIE's current review of New Zealand's Research, Science and Innovation Strategy/System makes scant reference to the Treaty in its suggested process for consulting with Māori and elsewhere; this is considered to be a significant oversight.
5. **Vision Mātauranga** as a policy, and in its application, has some significant shortcomings. There are a number of issues here, including the policy's wording and definitions, and the lack of an underlying understanding of Mātauranga Māori and its value as a knowledge system by the Crown and its representatives. As was noted during the hui, this is a structural problem that requires a structural solution and in order for Māori to be a true partner in New Zealand's science and innovation ecosystem we need systemic change. Whether VM should be reviewed or completely replaced was a topic of much discussion.
6. **Tick-boxing** VM criteria was an issue mentioned frequently during the hui; Pākehā scientists often take a very shallow view of how Mātauranga Māori can inform their practice but may still attempt to access VM funding. Further, Māori scientists report

not applying for funding for kaupapa-led research as they expect to be unsuccessful under the current system. Better criteria for assessing VM funding proposals, and heavier involvement by Māori in decision-making, is needed to ensure this limited funding is allocated to the right projects.

7. Strongly kaupapa Māori- and Mātauranga Māori-based research projects receive proportionally less **funding** than other science to a degree which is out of balance for New Zealand. We want to reset funding criteria to ensure Māori are well-resourced to carry out research based on Mātauranga Māori and/or Western science as best meets our aspirations.
8. The **fractionation** experienced by a high proportion (all/most??) of Māori scientists needs to be explicitly recognised as a limiting factor, both in terms of an individual's career progression and the ability for Māori to have meaningful input into, and beneficial outcomes/impacts from, science research. Additionally, this and the double-shift (below) lead to high levels of stress, which is a health and safety issue. Allocating sufficient work time to a smaller number of projects for Māori scientists is vital to better outcomes.
9. Closely related to fractionation is the **double-shift** many of the attending scientists have to perform as cultural connectors, often pulled into new projects to support tokenistic consultation with Māori communities. When Māori scientists are performing these other duties, they have less time to undertake their core work, which limits career progression; and situations arise where individuals are asked to perform duties they are not equipped to carry out, for example, where a high level of Mātauranga Māori knowledge is needed. We want Māori scientists to be able to focus on science, while cultural support is properly and separately resourced.
10. While the above list of limiting realities is clearly evident, delegates also noted some bright spots within the ecosystem, particularly inside the stable of **National Science Challenges**. The Challenges have built into them a flexibility to experiment without too many standard rules. Having this level of freedom has created a space where Māori researchers have been able to develop research that is fit for purpose, applies kaupapa Māori methodologies, and meets the needs of iwi, hapū and whānau. Flexible contracting mechanisms have also been appreciated by Māori scientists as a way of balancing multiple work commitments. Having said this, there are still shortcomings that could usefully be rectified. For example, better inter-Challenge connectivity for Māori, greater consistency within and between NSCs in how Mātauranga Māori is embraced, enabled and resourced, and potentially a twelfth Challenge set up by Māori, for Māori, could have better impacts for Māori communities and New Zealand as a whole.

Our Vision for the Future RSI system is:

- A Science Innovation System that is Treaty-led.
- A Mātauranga or Māori Science NSC
- A Mātauranga commission

Te Tiriti o Waitangi – Moving Towards a Partnership Approach in the RSI System

At the heart of our submission is a call for MBIE to address Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership obligations within the RSI system. Collectively, we are very concerned that the Draft RSI Strategy fails to uphold any notion of partnership in its development nor in the content that it presents. While the Treaty of Waitangi is mentioned in two places (in the context of Vision Mātauranga), it is not considered, upheld and carried through the document in any meaningful way that allows for partnership or Treaty framing, and therefore we see the process of consultation with Māori on this strategy as flawed and inconsistent with the principles of The Treaty of Waitangi. We request that a Treaty of Waitangi audit on RSI strategy be undertaken and that this be conducted within a genuine partnership approach with diverse Māori stakeholders.

Of further concern is the lack of resource sharing with Māori in the RSI system to share ideas and build collective thinking with regard to the RSI strategy. This has resulted in fragmentation amongst Māori within the RSI system and does not support a partnership approach to the way in which MBIE has engaged with Māori. We are concerned that there has been no specific Māori engagement methods to bring Māori concerns and opportunities together.

We recommend that MBIE work with Māori scientists and researchers in ways that:

- Enact Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership
- Share resources to support better co-ordination of Māori across the RSI system
- Build internal capacity at MBIE to work with Māori

Vision Mātauranga

There was robust kōrero at the hui about the negligence on the Crown's part in not having reviewed the Vision Mātauranga policy, which many felt is no longer fit for purpose. There was also strong concern expressed about the lack of commitment to understanding the effectiveness of this policy; it is our understanding that there has been no formal evaluation of this policy since it was enacted in 2005. This therefore means that there is no data to understand what aspects of the policy may be working well, what is not working well and what needs to change. Hui participants felt very strongly that this was a breach of Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership and that Māori needed to be leading and setting the terms of a review of Vision Mātauranga. In particular, there was discussion at the hui that **Mātauranga Māori was not something for the Crown to manage** and that an agency similar to Te Taura Whiri may be better placed to manage and care for Mātauranga Māori. These views are particularly relevant in the light of WAI-262 and the current work across all of government to respond to *Ko Aoteaora Tenei*.

With respect to Vision Mātauranga:

- Rauika Māngai will support MBIE to review Vision Mātauranga
- There is an urgent call for an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Vision Mātauranga policy

RSI and Māori Empowerment

Collectively we are calling for changes in the science system that address the following three areas of:

1. Empowering Māori People.
2. Empowering Māori Knowledge.
3. Empowering Māori Resources.

Empowering Māori People.

There was a strong call from the Vision Mātauranga Leadership hui to ensure Māori scientists and researchers:

- are empowered to be decision makers
- have leadership roles in research projects, programmes, and organisations
- are “in the room” and in high number
- have adequate FTE for the size and nature of their contribution
- particularly Junior and Emerging Māori Scientists, are supported to grow as scientists within their teams, engaging with cultural elements only as they feel comfortable
- including Māori community experts, are paid for their contributions of time, effort and knowledge to a project, programme, or organisation

Our experience in the current RSI system that is incentivised through policies such as Vision Mātauranga and has an inherent lack of Te Ao Māori expertise guiding Māori RSI policy development is in summary as follows:

- Māori are consulted as a ‘tick box’ exercise
- Māori are consulted after plans have already been decided
- there are few or no Māori “in the room”
- Māori researchers are required to do ‘double-shift’ whereby the science may be adequately resourced but the cultural labour required is not resourced
- Junior and Emerging Māori Scientists are required to do all Vision Mātauranga aspects of a collaborative project
- Māori community contributions are unpaid

Empowering Māori Knowledge.

There was a strong call from the Vision Mātauranga Leadership hui to ensure:

- Māori Scientists are allowed to exert their scientific skill
- Mātauranga Māori is recognised as an important and valuable knowledge system
- Māori with a strategic understanding of the wider Vision Mātauranga context are consulted as experts on Vision Mātauranga

Currently within the RSI system our experience as Māori scientists and researchers is that:

- Māori Scientists are seen only as cultural advisors
- the Western Scientific method is accepted as being the only knowledge system of any value
- non-Māori are consulted as experts on Vision Mātauranga

Empowering Māori Resources

There was a strong call from the Vision Mātauranga Leadership hui to ensure:

- Māori share in the benefits of IP generation that they have helped to develop
- Mātauranga Māori is appropriately protected
- measurements of excellence and impacts incorporate a Māori lens and allow for understanding of collective impact
- project outcomes benefit Māori aspirations and academic interest

Our current experience in the system with regard to empowering Māori resources is that:

- IP benefits are retained in most cases by the academic institution alone
- the protection of Mātauranga Māori is not considered, understood, and assured
- Western Scientific KPIs and publications are the primary measurement of excellence and impact
- project outcomes primarily benefit academic interest

Where To From Here

While the hui did serve to highlight across the board agreement about existing shortcomings in the science system, most importantly it was also an opportunity to think about the way forward. **We want to stress that this kōrero is about *Leaping to the Next Stage*.**

The way forward will be achieved through **multiple approaches** and **acting collectively**. We need people both within and outside the science system to push for change. Some contributing solutions will be short-term, while others are more complex and foundational, and will take longer to achieve.

Without question, our work in this area needs to be **properly resourced**, as it will take time and energy, and the expertise of many. We must act now, and act decisively, or we will be repeating this same kōrero again in the future.

Ngā mihi
Dr Jessica Hutchings
Chair – Rauika Māngai