

**From:** no-reply@mbie.govt.nz  
**To:** [Research, Science and Innovation Strategy Secretariat](#)  
**Subject:** Late submission on draft RSI strategy  
**Date:** Sunday, 24 November 2019 2:25:31 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [Online-submission-form-uploadsdraft-research-science-and-innovation-strategy-submissionsRSi-Strategy-submisson.docx](#)

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

Organisation

**Name**

Agnes Walker

**Name of organisation or institutional affiliation**

Te Aitanga a Mate Te Aowera & Te Whanau a Hinekehu Takutai Kaitiaki Trust

**Role within organisation**

Trustee

**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)**

Other

**If you selected other, please specify here:**

whanau hapu

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

Nil

**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**

RSi-Strategy-submisson.docx - [Download File](#)

Ko Kokai te Maunga  
Ko Whareponga te Awa  
Mai Rahuimanuka ki Mataahu te rohe moana  
Ko Te Aitanga a Mate te hapu  
Ko Te Aowera me Te Whanau a Hinekehu nga hapu hononga  
Ko Ngati Porou te Iwi

Kokai is the mountain  
Whareponga is the river  
Mataahu to Rahuimanuka is the coastal marine area  
Te Aitanga a Mate is the hapu  
Te Aowera and Te Whanau a Hinekehu are affiliated hapu.

#### Overview statement for this submission on the Draft NZ RSI Strategy

1. The RSI sector is inherently racist by design and therefore unable to deliver impact or transformation for Māori.
2. The nature of contestable funding and competition is pulling on the already stretched and limited capacity and capability of Maori already in the sector;
  - a. The lack of resourcing for Maori, and entry points to enter into research, science, technology and innovation sector (the sector), limits the innovation and creativity of the sector by promoting bad behaviour in the sector.
3. Maori are quite clear under WAI262 that knowledge or value derived from Mātauranga Maori or Maori knowledge belongs to Maori. The sector is neglectful of this position and therefore ignores the Maori in this space.
4. The RSI sector largely ignores its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi and fails to respect the intellectual property rights of Māori.

#### Contribution of Research, Science and Innovation

- Whanau, Hapu, Iwi and Roopu Maori welcome the opportunity to comment on the draft New Zealand Research, Science and Innovation Strategy. We are pleased to see a review of New Zealand's Research, Science & Innovation Strategy (henceforth the Strategy) and a commitment towards an extended Vision Mātauranga. There is much to like about the Strategy but equally much that could be done to strengthen it to ensure it is much more equitable, responsive to Māori and inclusive of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and that it aims to resource Maori to deliver benefit for the whole of Aotearoa New Zealand.

**Whanaungatanga & hononga for Maori is about connections:** we like the emphasis on 'connections' in addition to the usual 'excellence' and 'impact' in the Strategy. We agree that the greatest opportunity for strengthening the sector and its system lies in building stronger connections with and beyond the system. We note though that in the 'summary' building connections with the Treaty partner or Tangata Whenua is not included. This is wrong and needs correcting.

The focus on 'connections' in the Strategy is somewhat contradicted by many other parts in the Strategy including the focus on 'excellence' and 'H1 and competitive investment' both of which act to encourage behaviours that promote exclusion of Māori, and others, and fragmentation of investment (see point 1 above).

Building connections, or whanaungatanga, is an important concept to Māori and an underlying principle in Kaupapa Māori research. It is often seen as 'soft' or 'not science' and carries a high transactional cost. The costly front-end investment required to create connections needs to be reflected in the Strategy. Investment in relationships with Māori is consistent with Te Arawhiti Guidelines for engagement with Māori (<https://tearawhiti.govt.nz/assets/Maori-Crown-Relations-Roopu/6b46d994f8/Engagement-Guidelines-1-Oct-18.pdf>).

### **Maori in Aotearoa New Zealand**

Maori see the world differently to non-Maori and with the following points in mind, set out to respond to the Draft RS&I Strategy.

- Whanau, Hapu, Iwi and Roopu Maori are caring for almost 14 % of Aotearoa New Zealand's population (Stats NZ).
- Less than 5% of Aotearoa New Zealand's land base is in Maori ownership.
- The Maori economy is contributing over \$50billion to Aotearoa New Zealand's economy (Chapman Tripp, 2017)
- Maori make up less than 2% of the science sector (Vision Maturanga Leadership Hui, 2019)
- Our numbers are high in the social science sector where "Maori are less into the physical and pure sciences because our numbers are really high in the social sciences" (Gary Evans, Chief Science Advisor, MBIE, Vision Maturanga Leadership Hui, 2019)
- Maori are interested in research, science, technology and innovation that is relevant to Maori, is Maori designed, is Maori connected and is Maori led;
- Maori have a sense of purpose because whakapapa gives us purchase to people and place;
- Through whakapapa Maori, like many other Indigenous people, consider ourselves as part of the environment, land, ocean, and place ourselves within the context of the ecosystem – and not apart from it;
- Pakeha are interested in working with Maori to conduct research and science that is of interest and relevance to pakeha;
- Maori are interested in research, science, technology and innovation that uses the power of Maori knowledge to tackle critical challenges facing New Zealand in the areas of public health, food safety and water quality and are keen to collaborate more in the justice sector.
- Maori are looking to partner with organisations that support their aspirations and goals and are also looking to provide answers around the link between human and environmental health;

- *With kaitiakitanga in mind, how will the direction set by the Strategy support the health and wellbeing of whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori who call Aotearoa New Zealand?*
- Maori are particularly mindful of the New Zealand Government's commitment to transitioning to a low emission, and climate resilience economy, with the obvious benefits this will bring nationally and globally, as well as the unfair burden this will place not only on Maori, but other families who live in lower socio-economic conditions.
- *Anything that the Research and Science sector in Aotearoa New Zealand proposes must ensure that no burdens are placed on whanau, hapu, iwi in the post settlement Aotearoa New Zealand that we live in.*
- This means working with whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori and tackling the urgent challenges and ensuring Maori are a part of the design of systemic responses on issues like (but not limited to) food sovereignty and food security, water rights and interests, and sustainable development.

***What's good for Maori will be good for Aotearoa New Zealand;***

- Maori see an opportunity to be Tiriti o Waitangi partners to MBIE;
- Whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori are their opportunities to ensure Maori success in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths areas;
- While MBIE has had the Vision Maturanga policy of innovating matauranga Maori to seek transformation of Maori and New Zealand; no one iwi or roopu Maori can attest to the success of Maori under this policy;
- Maori see the opportunity to contribute to this RS&I Strategy, as an opportunity to ensure and improve Maori successes, and increasing Maori capacity and capability Maori to ensure Maori are participating in the sector as Maori, confident, secure and connected to people and place – supporting purpose to work collaboratively across sectors and agencies;
- Maori knowledge and systems will be placed at the forefront of these successes; Maori are interested in leading research, science, technology and innovation initiatives that are about us, for us and most importantly with us!
- Maori are confident that we can have a role in leading globally connected research and science that will play a significant role in supporting Aotearoa New Zealand's response to current and future critical challenges.
- Maori are equally confident that a Kaupapa Maori Research focus on harnessing research and innovation will advance the wellbeing of all who call Aotearoa New Zealand home by:
  - Advancing and embedding Kaupapa Maori Research in our research and science practice to deliver impact *by Maori, with Māori, for Maori*. Our work through our Vision Maturanga and Sustainable Seas projects is working *with* Maori to advance *their* aspirations for people and place – giving our work purpose.
  - Encouraging our diverse talent pool to connect with communities to bring insight to relevant science questions and the potential solutions. Some CRIs are already connected with Maori and working to develop long-term sustainable relationships

where both Maori and the organisations can learn from each other on both mātauranga Māori and Western science.

#### Actions – Towards an Extended Vision Mātauranga

This section of the draft Strategy signals our intention to consult and collaborate further with Māori stakeholders to co-design our responses and initiatives. From that perspective, we consider the signals in the draft Strategy to be a start, rather than a set of final decisions. Nonetheless, we are keen on initial feedback in the following areas.

- Question 34:** Does our suggested approach to extending Vision Mātauranga focus in the right five areas? If not, where should it focus?
- Question 35:** How can we ensure the RSI system is open to the best Māori thinkers and researchers?
- Question 36:** How can we ensure that Māori knowledge, culture, and worldviews are integrated throughout our RSI system?
- Question 37:** How can we strengthen connections between the RSI system and Māori businesses and enterprises?

The approach taken in the document reflects MBIEs lack of engagement with whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori.

Maori already in the sector are committed to delivering worldclass knowledge and research to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand maximises its return on its investment in the sector. Whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori are looking to build research and science *with* the sector that drives and delivers on outcomes and outputs that deliver impact *with, to and for* whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori.

Q34

No – your proposed extension of Vision Mātauranga does not account for what Maori are asking for and wanting to do. It is still about MBIEs priorities and aspirations.

MBIE need to actually talk with Maori in order to hear and understand *what* Maori aspirations and are and devolving resource for Maori to do for Maori, “not about us, without us”.

What Maori want and need from the sector is support for *our* aspirations for research and science

Q35

Early engagement, from the womb to the tomb and investing in Maori initiatives, people and communities to ensure that Aotearoa New Zealand grows its own.

Q36

This would mean MBIE has an understanding of its obligations as a Tiriti partner, and currently this is not evidenced in the document. Collaborating and investing in Maori whanau, hapu and iwi and roopu Maori will need to occur before access is granted to Maori communities and *their* knowledge systems.

Q37

As above.

Q3.

Early engagement with Maori has lacked in this entire approach and therefore, the need to increase this partnership will be necessary to accelerate progress towards the government priorities the RS&I system needs to support science requirements across the full research spectrum.

Q6.

Maori are keen to work with the system to deliver worldclass knowledge and research. Maori want to work with the sector to really drive and deliver on Kaupapa Maori Research and knowledge that belongs to Maori as an opportunity to innovate and work to deliver on outcomes and outputs that deliver impact *with* and *for* whanau, hapu, iwi and roopu Maori.

This includes research and science *with* and from Indigenous peoples that is about caring for the environment – which is inclusive of the land, water, sea and people and is exclusively the domain of Maori (WAI262).

The opportunity for western science to learn from the intersections of both knowledge systems will create the opportunity for Aotearoa New Zealand to become world leaders across a number of research and science sectors. This includes the environmental, marine, human health, water and biosecurity spaces – as this informs sustainable economic development.

Q8:

Reducing Maori disparities across the health, education and justice sector has been front and centre for New Zealand policy for the last 10 years and the gaps are only increasing.

Funding new and innovative ways to increase Maori success is a unique opportunity for RS&I in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Guiding Policy – Excellence

**Question 11:** Do you agree with the definition of excellence presented here as the best thing possible in its context? Why or why not?

**Question 12:** How can we achieve diversity within our research workforce? What are the current barriers preventing a diverse range of talent from thriving in the RSI system?

**Question 13:** Do you agree that excellence must be seen in a global context, and draw from the best technology, people, and ideas internationally? Why or why not?

**Question 14:** Do you agree that excellence is strengthened by stronger connections?

Guiding Policy – Impact

**Question 15:** How can we improve the way we measure the impact of research?

#### Guiding Policy – Connections

**Question 16:** Where do you think weak connections currently exist, and what are the barriers to connections at present?

**Question 17:** What actions will stimulate more connectivity between parts of the RSI system?

**Question 18:** How could we improve connections between people within the RSI system and people outside it, including users of innovation, and international experts, business communities, and markets?

#### Actions – Making New Zealand a Magnet for Talent

**Question 19:** How can we better nurture and grow emerging researchers within New Zealand and offer stable career pathways to retain young talent in New Zealand?

**Question 20:** How could we attract people with unique skills and experience from overseas to New Zealand?

**Question 21:** What changes could be made to support career stability for researchers in New Zealand? What would be the advantages and disadvantages of these approaches?

**Question 22:** Do you agree with the initiatives proposed in the Strategy to support and attract talented researchers and innovators? Are any changes needed for these initiatives to be successful? Are there any other initiatives needed to achieve these objectives?

#### Q19

Growing our own people, especially Maori and Pacific, is essential to ensuring young people that live and stay in Aotearoa New Zealand and call it “home” have opportunities to participate at all levels of the research, science, technology and innovation sector. This means supporting initiatives like the [Puhoro STEM Academy](#).

The Puhoro Academy works with Maori high school students to ensure they are on an STEM academic pathway and mentors them into tertiary STEM pathways. A recent cost benefit analysis by ESR for the

Puhoro Academy demonstrates that early investment for Maori into STEM pathways increases the individual earning potential for these student 9 times more when compared to 7 times of other degrees.

Resourcing with funding and capacity groups like Te Ara Putaiao, the Maori General Managers network from across the Crown Research Institutes; Te Rauika Mangai, the Maori directors from across the 11 National Science Challenges.

Increasing the number of Maori into research and science means that organisations have access to people who come equipped with knowledge of their culture and their environment – as well as the western science academy.

Q20

Attracting the *right* people to Aotearoa New Zealand is about the welcome and the care and respect we afford them. If we can't do this for people who already live here; why would we want others to come.

Bring people with unique skills and experiences is also about ensuring the people recognise and acknowledge the Crowns Tiriti o Waitangi commitments in the first place.

Reourcing local problems appropriately, will help at global level. Supporting local researchers and scientists is also important to attract world class people to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Q22

No – more needs to be done to ensure Maori, as Tiriti Partners are included and included early, *before* strategies, pathways, initiatives etc are implemented. The proposed initiatives do little to increase Maori, capability, capacity and participation in the sector.