

From: no-reply@mbie.govt.nz
To: [Research, Science and Innovation Strategy Secretariat](#)
Subject: Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy submission
Date: Sunday, 10 November 2019 3:10:43 p.m.
Attachments: [Online-submission-form-uploadsdraft-research-science-and-innovation-strategy-submissionsSubmission-to-Research-Science-and-Innovation-Strategy-November-2019-final.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

Michael Bassett-Foss

Name of organisation or institutional affiliation

Te Waka

Role within organisation

CEO

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

mbf@tewaka.nz

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

Te Waka and Waikato Innovation Park Ltd

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

Industry, Professional services, Interface of research and industry

If you selected other, please specify here:

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

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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-to-Research-Science-and-Innovation-Strategy-November-2019-final.pdf - [Download File](#)

INTRODUCTION

1. This submission is made on behalf of Te Waka, Waikato's Regional Economic Development Agency and Waikato Innovation Park Limited.
2. Te Waka:
 - Formally established on 6 July 2018, Te Waka is a business-led and governed organisation established to drive economic growth in the Waikato.
 - Te Waka is all about helping the Waikato reach its full potential. Our objectives are to:
 - Lift economic performance across the Waikato region.
 - Attract, retain and grow investment, talent and business across the region.
 - Champion and lead the region's collective voices for economic and business needs and opportunities.
 - We work in partnership with existing economic development, iwi, business, government and community organisations to get things done and to unearth opportunities that will lead to jobs, prosperity and sustainable economic growth for everybody, thereby improving well-being for all communities.
3. Waikato Innovation Park Limited:
 - Is an independently governed organisation established to be the home of business connectivity, resources and innovation
 - An export-focused company, Waikato Innovation Park provides services, tenancies and access to food innovation technology
 - Its purpose, to contribute to economic development through supporting business growth in the export value chain

Both Te waka and Waikato Innovation Park Limited would like to thank MBIE for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy.

We commend the development of a strategy and delivery of a consultation process that offers New Zealand businesses the opportunity to have a say in how we grow a productive, sustainable and inclusive future for New Zealand businesses and communities.

This submission reflects an ongoing partnership between MBIE, Te Waka, Waikato Innovation Park and the Waikato Business Community. We believe in the value of science and innovation to create enhanced productivity and value for New Zealand Businesses.

THE WAIKATO REGION

The Waikato region could be considered the quiet giant of New Zealand's growth story. The foundation of our country's agriculture, manufacturing, minerals and food technology industries. A place of tourism success and hot-bed of digital and ICT innovation. We are home to Industry leaders in education, aviation and technology, health services and construction and we are the Cultural and spiritual epicentre of Aotearoa – home of Kingitanga.

A region of rapid change with areas of high growth and pockets of deprivation, the Waikato is a destination, a place to live, learn, invest, study and visit.

We are home to young, hi-tech and outward looking business as well as high value, well established export manufacturers. We are rich in hi-tech and value add food production, manufacturing and exporting and the home of a new cosmopolitan city. Major Industries and significant businesses are relocating to the Waikato for greater opportunities for development, transport, housing infrastructure and employee opportunities.

THE WAIKATO ECONOMIC ACTION PROGRAMME 2018-2022

In August 2018 we gathered together 250 of the region's top business, government, iwi and community leaders and asked them what the most important priorities were for the Waikato region.

November 2018, Waikato's 2018-2022 Regional Economic Growth Programme was launched. The Programme has 53 projects across 5 cross cutting priorities and 8 sectors.

We've condensed this down to a critical few:

1. Powering up the Growth Engine – the Hamilton to Auckland Corridor
2. Getting more connected by Road, Air and Rail
3. Better Housing ... and more of it
4. Unleashing Southern Waikato
5. Developing our Unique Cultural Tourism
6. Getting the Funds Flowing to Grow our Region

FEEDBACK ON NEW ZEALAND'S RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

Our reflections on the Strategy have been condensed below to provide key highlights where we provide support or offer opportunities to enhance the strategy. Where no comment is made, we have no strong preference or opinion on either our support or opportunity for improvement.

Areas of Support	Opportunities to Enhance Strategy
<p><u>Ideas to Innovation</u> – we share the perspective and sentiment that ideas are not innovation</p>	<p><u>Commercialisation of Ideas</u> - Important to increase the emphasis on the commercialisation of concepts versus creation of ideas</p>
<p><u>Digitisation of Agribusiness</u> – we support the focus on improving the digitisation of Agribusiness with an emphasis on improving productivity and finding solutions for markets beyond New Zealand. Identifying the customer need in extended markets prior to investigating and designing solutions is a critical component of this approach.</p>	<p><u>Connection to Customers</u> – the strategy in its current form lacks connection to customers and identification of opportunities to verify ideas that the market values and will invest in</p>
<p><u>Indicators of Success</u> – we support the proposed indicators of success. We propose an addition of focus on volume to value. We propose a reversed focus of the Impact Statements. Priority should be given to ensure that outcomes are achieved beyond product innovation and design to include commercialisation, development and connections with market and high value returns. Emphasis should be on selling to markets at scale, which will include the investigation of markets prior to innovation and the development of skilled and experienced workforces.</p>	<p><u>Improved focus on Established Businesses</u> – whilst we support the focus on start-ups, we believe the strategy should have a greater emphasis on established businesses. Start-ups require investment in the entire value chain (design to sale plus operational support mechanisms). Emphasis should be placed on medium sized and/or established businesses that can scale innovative products and concepts with an ability to provide value in export markets.</p>
<p><u>Climate Change and Environmental Focus</u> New Zealand companies operate in a society that expects more in relation to environmental considerations. The inclusive approach of the strategy is a must in this focus and any funding and investment decisions should connect to this theme.</p>	<p><u>Delivering Change</u> For the strategy to have real impact further discussion and investigation needs to occur at the grassroots to build a connection to commerce and outcomes at the ground level.</p>
<p><u>Partnership with Maori</u> - New Zealand has many unique opportunities to celebrate Natural resources and our indigenous culture. These must be done in partnership and with a focus on intergenerational wealth and wellbeing. Consultation targeted to Maori will be important in gaining buy-in to the impact proposed by the strategy if this has not already occurred.</p>	<p><u>Improving how we measure the impact of research</u> – our preference would be for the advancement of measures that monitor the impact of investment as well as impact of research. An emphasis beyond the 'idea' to include an emphasis on the value produced. Scalable commercial products of higher value that add to a skilled labour workforce and the wellbeing of our communities.</p>