

**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 2:19:49 p.m.  
**Attachments:** [Online-submission-form-uploadsdraft-research-science-and-innovation-strategy-submissionsWRC-feedback-to-MBIE-Research-Science-and-Innovation-Strategy-10-November-2019.docx](#)

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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**

Ruth Buckingham

**Name of organisation or institutional affiliation**

Waikato Regional Council

**Role within organisation**

Manager Social and Economic Science

**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)?**

400+

**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**

WRC-feedback-to-MBIE-Research-Science-and-Innovation-Strategy-10-November-2019.docx - [Download File](#)

## Waikato Regional Council feedback on the draft Research, Science and Innovation Strategy

Contact: Ruth Buckingham, Manager Social and Economic Science

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The draft strategy provides an indication of where MBIE will focus investment in research and while we appreciated the opportunity to attend the presentation and give feedback, we support the submission made by the Regional Council's Science Advisory Group.

We only have a few other minor points to highlight which I have added below.

The five guiding principles of the proposed strategy do provide a clear focus on the areas to be addressed however we consider #1 should further emphasise the need to retain our best researchers who understand local issues and mentor new researchers with a passion for the environment.

#5 building firm foundations should come first and #1 becomes #5 looking to the future.

#3: Start-up^Scale-up – Innovating for the public would be enhanced by changing the title to one that more clearly articulates the focus on building depth and scale across sectors and research disciplines. Furthermore rather than supporting more startups, support for existing research facilities would be more advantageous. Similarly revising the existing funding barriers caused by the bidding process would enable more targeted 'pure research' which is more useful to regional councils than applied research, especially in relation to adoption of new systems and processes.

In regards to #3 we recommend an increased focus of this action for local government. Innovation at the local government level would benefit from the RSI Strategy making the right links between its aims and the recent reintroduction of the four well-beings into the LGA. Having an LGA lens informing the development of the Research and Innovation System will provide an opportunity for enhanced social science, which would be useful for local government decision makers and investment in innovation and research. This links strongly with Vision Mātauranga, whereas currently the strategy has a very strong global focus and does not emphasise the contribution made by regional councils in the area of environmental sustainability.

Principle #4: Towards an extended 'Vision Mātauranga' - The Strategy should consider additional initiatives that lead to an increased understanding of Mātauranga Māori (actually understanding what it means in the context of science and research). Opportunities to engage and harness Mātauranga Māori and promote new research is supported.

As drafted, the Strategy paints a picture of Mātauranga Māori as something separate from science and research, and it seems to rely too much on fostering, resourcing and protecting. While this approach is important, it may be counterproductive when working with tangata whenua as equal treaty partners.

In relation to the Research and Innovation system we would like to see local government included under the Government heading, and the title 'Institutions' changed to "Organisations" which is more inclusive.

In response to the questions in your consultation document we offer comments on Q20 and Q33.

**Q 20 – How could we attract people with unique skills and experience from overseas to NZ?**

First the strategy must acknowledge that if NZ wants to attract talent from overseas, NZ's immigration settings will (currently the strategy uses the word may) be a key factor on how well we do this.

Immigration NZ need to liaise closely with RSI in order to identify the type of talent the country is trying to attract and design appropriate policy changes and amendments to the INZ Operational Manual. The immigration system should be appropriately informed by the RSI Strategy and should look at changes in the system that will make increase NZ's value proposition compared to other countries also trying to attract overseas talent.

**Question 33 – Do the initiatives proposed in the Strategy to build scale in focused areas need to be changed? Are there any other initiatives needed to build scale?**

The Strategy should consider the decarbonisation of the economy and the just transition to a low emissions economy as key areas of focus. Although these could be understood to fall within "ways in which the RSI system can accelerate progress towards the government's goals," the suggested areas are current global challenges/imperatives. Having the suggested areas of focus in the Strategy would signal the willingness of New Zealand to lead the way in the international context.