



18 March 2022

Submission to:

Future Pathways Policy Team
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
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Submitter:

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Submission on Te Ara Paerangi

This is a submission by FOMA Innovation on behalf of the Federation of Maori Authorities Incorporation (FOMA) on the Te Ara Paerangi Green Paper (“the Submission”).

Background

Established in 1987, FOMA represents Māori Authorities and entities with a collective asset base of around \$11billion. Our membership ranges from single farm operations to large primary industry enterprises with diverse interests. FOMA is the first and long standing self-determined Māori Collective entity, established under the guidance of Sir Hēpi Te Heuheū and Waaka Vercoe and represents whenua taonga tuku iho – historic lands in Māori Freehold Title. There is no other collective entity like FOMA.



FOMA exists to help our members prosper and grow, and we do that by working with Government and industry to ensure the voice and interests of Māori landowners, land managers and land users are included in decision making on strategy, policy, legislation, and regulations affecting our land.

FOMA recognized that science and innovation are key drivers for economic transformation in Aotearoa and has developed an innovation strategy to build on FOMA's leadership in this area. They have formed a team to guide the development of FOMA's research and development capabilities.

FOMA Innovation was developed in 2019 to provide guidance, partnerships, and opportunities in Aotearoa's research, science, and innovation (RSI) system for FOMA members and its wider Māori business and enterprise community. We also want to acknowledge the support of National Science Challenge - Science for Technological Innovation (SiFTI) providing baseline support for FOMA Innovation. This submission is to address concerns we have with the RSI sector and recommendations for the future of FOMA in RSI sector.

Executive Summary

Continuing with the purpose of FOMA, we would like to be included in the future reform of the RSI sector as we feel there is a large gap around connecting Māori business and enterprises to the RSI sector. Furthermore, we would like to help develop the mechanism pathway of research to innovation to whenua.

Key points:

- Research needs a strong practical application pathway. Māori business or end users need to be part of the reform to ensure there is a direct pathway.
- The RSI sector needs to define what is a Tiriti partner
- Resource and funding needs to be provided so Māori can build science infrastructure and capacity This funding must include the need to build more innovators and connectors to Māori business industries.
- Produce action and implementation plan of creating the space for Māori in institutions- no more recommendations of what is needed.
- Development of Māori connectors and Māori chief technician officers that are our own so that we can drive our own research and innovation.

Submission

FOMA supports the Crown's initiative to reform the RSI sector and agree that this is needed to progress Aotearoa New Zealand's economic, environmental, social, and cultural wellbeing. Whilst we are interested in the entirety of the reform, we can only speak to the limited experience we have had with the RSI sector and the barriers that have not allowed us to fully be involved and invested in the sector. Our response will therefore be overarching instead of answering specific questions posed by Te Ara Paerangi.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Research needs a strong practical application pathway. Māori business or end users need to be part of the reform to ensure there is a direct pathway.

FOMA represents landowners, shareholders, and wider Māori business enterprises. Our focus is on what will be impactful and long lasting to support FOMA members. Therefore, research priorities will need to have a strong practical application pathway. What we have found is that there is a lack of translation for Māori businesses from research to innovation to commercialization or use. This is due to a lack of partnership with Māori business and enterprise and lack of governance when partnered with Māori business. FOMA already have a long track record of connecting business with innovation and whenua. As we have not had the time or resource to put forth further mechanisms to speak to the system as a whole, we would like to extend the opportunity to work on this in the upcoming reform as we believe we have the best understanding to coordinate the interaction between innovative research and Māori business partners.

TE TIRITI, MĀTAURANGA MĀORI AND MĀORI ASPIRATIONS

The RSI sector needs to define what is a Tiriti partner

As we are landowners with ahi kā and have differing Māori enterprises across New Zealand, there is confusion around how we are considered a Tiriti partner as it is not similar across the board. We refer to the recommendations stated in the Hierarchy of Māori Rights and Responsibilities prepared by Te Tai Kaha Māori Collective¹. We cannot drive tikanga or Mātauranga Māori across projects or the regions we are in however, we have responsibility and rights to speak to property rights, IP, statute, and Crown policy. There needs to be definition of treaty partnerships and relationships within the RSI sector as we are not all iwi or hapū and have different requirements around engagement, management, and responsibilities.

FUNDING

Resource and funding needs to be provided so Māori can build science infrastructure and capacity. This funding must include the need to build more innovators and connectors to Māori business industries.

As established, FOMA has been around for over 30 years and is only now able to begin an invested opportunity to connect to the RSI sector. This is due to a lack of infrastructure, resourcing, and capacity from a sector, industry and institution bias. We do not have access to government funding when it comes to the RSI sector, and we are already aware that generally Māori in science do not get

¹ Te Tai Kaha Māori Collective (2021) *Māori Rights and Responsibilities relevant to the Resource Management Reforms*.

funded for a lot of their time or Mātauranga. As a form of Tiriti partner (as it has not yet been defined in the RSI sector) there needs to be proper resourcing of the te ao Māori/mana motuhake space, at least 50% of funding. If funding on an equity basis it would be more than that because the Crown has had a very long time to build its own infrastructure and we're playing catch up as noted previously. As much as Māori researchers and scientists need to be invested in so do innovators and connectors to the Māori business industries. They need to be part of building the pathway in this reform.

INSTITUTIONS

Produce action and implementation plan of creating the space for Māori in institutions- no more recommendations of what is needed.

As stated before, Māori have been alienated from RSI space by government, industry opportunity and capacity development. Currently, there is no space in institutions for mana Motuhake, epistemology and Māori practice as stated in numerous reports and recommendations produced by government. Our position is that government produce too many reports with no action plan of implementing spaces for Māori into its institutions. CRI's as a crown institution that is here to support all of New Zealand and its research, generally do not like to give up resource or data and have their own agenda around commercialization. It is easier to connect with and establish partnership with overseas institutions and funding mechanisms.

RESEARCH WORKFORCE

Development of Māori connectors and Māori chief technician officers that are our own so that we can drive our own research and innovation.

"Science take our Mātauranga and try and sell it back to you"

Although there needs to be more spaces for our own members to connect to the RSI sector, there needs to be development of Māori connectors and Māori chief technician officers that are our own so that we can drive our own research and innovation.

RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE

We cannot speak to this.

Conclusion

We would like to be included in the future reform of the RSI sector as we feel there is a large gap around connecting with Māori business and enterprises and the translation of research to innovation to whenua.