



## **Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (Incorporated)**

### **Submission on Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Green Paper**

16 March 2022

#### **I. Introduction**

1. The Meat Industry Association ('MIA') is the voluntary trade association representing processors, marketers, and exporters of New Zealand red meat, rendered products, and hides and skins. MIA members represent 99 percent of domestic red meat production and export, making the meat industry New Zealand's second largest goods exporter with exports of \$10 billion for the 2021 calendar year. It is New Zealand's largest manufacturing industry employing some 25,000 people in about 60 processing plants, mainly in the regions.
2. A list of Association members is attached as Appendix 1.
3. MIA invests approximately \$1.5-2M per annum in Research, Science and Technology on behalf of its members, in the fields of product safety and integrity, nutritional science, the development of new products, engineering, automation and processing efficiencies and improving compliance and animal welfare.
4. The industry is committed to a coordinated and sustained program of research and development that ensures continued progress for the sector and supports the development of R&D capability to deliver on R&D needs that cannot or cannot easily be provided from overseas.
5. Investment vehicles such MIA Innovation Limited (2015-present day) and the New Zealand Food Safety Science and Research Centre (2015-present day) have been used by the industry to partner in R&D projects with government and each other. These partnerships have been the backbone of progressing technological advances that have a whole of sector impact and aid the future of the industry and its ability to contribute to the New Zealand economy.

#### **II. Research Priorities**

6. MIA Agrees that the RSI system is unnecessarily complex and that simplifying the funding mechanisms and structures would help to future proof national science investment. It also agrees that the national science challenges have been one effective mechanism for

coordinating programmes of public good research and therefore agrees in principle with the concept of setting national research priorities, with the following qualifiers:

- a. Research priorities need to recognise and support the core strengths of the New Zealand economy. For instance; food and fibre research must be an essential priority for investment. Food and fibre export revenue in 2022 is forecast to exceed \$50 billion. The success of the sector and its contribution to the economy is highly dependent on ongoing programmes of research that continue to position the sector for higher quality products, greater efficiencies and higher yield and revenue. Genetics, food science and safety, nutrition, application of data to production and product, and automation are key future areas that need to be supported.
  - b. Research priorities need to include “global good” research (i.e. climate change) where NZ has a duty as a global citizen to provide credible and leading science to formulate solutions for issues of concern. Our investment in science ensures NZ is seen as a credible and active participant in international issues.
  - c. The system needs to be flexible enough to allow for funding of science that is “not fashionable” or a priority to be supported.
  - d. The concept of research priorities being agile enough to respond to changing issues may have unintended negative consequences for advancement of science. Scientific advancement often happens over extended timeframes (10-20 years) and therefore research priorities will need to be broad enough in depth and long enough in duration to ensure meaningful outcomes can be achieved.
7. For meat industry, our specific priorities are outlined in the Red Meat Processing Sector R&D Strategy and include:
- a. Innovation – to ensure that New Zealand is a world leader in technology, by investing in projects with a strong future focus.
  - b. Value – to grow value from New Zealand production systems, backed by scientific research, credible assurance and evidence.
  - c. Sustainability – to prioritise environmental sustainability, in particular scientific research aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions (especially in those areas where New Zealand can take global leadership and where New Zealand has a particularly unique emission profile)
  - d. Capability – ensuring New Zealand maintains sufficient investment in core food and fibre research capability to support growth of the Red Meat Sector and match industry goals as described in the [2020 Red Meat Sector Strategy](#).

### **III. Funding**

8. MIA agrees that dedicated funding allocated from the RSI system to support core functions including critical research, high priority services, databases, collections and monitoring is a key requirement for the RSI system to ensure critical functions are maintained.
9. MIA supports the concept of providing a base grant for funding of CRIs (or an equivalent) for infrastructure, overhead and salary costs, that matches the size of the resource that is held and must be maintained by the organisation. Base grant funding for workforce capability should be based on scientific excellence and integrity.

### **IV. Industry Investment in R&D**

10. MIA notes that the R&D Tax Credit Scheme has been an inefficient mechanism for driving industry investment in scientific research. Our members have noted the gains from the credit do not exceed the cost of participation in the scheme and it is therefore not driving up science investment.

11. MIA is supportive of funding partnership models between industry and government to support increased industry investment in research science and technology and drive science investment to the goal of 2% of GDP. Co-investment mechanisms (such as the Ministry for Primary Industries Sustainable Food and Fibre Futures (SFFF) and the defunct Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment Research Partnership Scheme) have been strong and profitable investment models that drive and encourage R&D from fundamental to applied science under specific industry identified research priorities that result in growth in revenue for the economy.

## **V. Research Workforce**

12. The document looks to produce a workforce that is diverse, honours Maori, and provides secure careers. While important considerations, MIA strongly believes the primary objective of the RSI system should be to produce research of the highest quality science with regard to excellence, credibility and integrity from an expert and globally recognised scientific workforce. Diversity and equality are means to achieve and underpin that objective but are not the objectives themselves.

## **VI. MIA Contact**

Kaylene Larking, MIA Innovation Manager

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Meat Industry Association of New Zealand (Inc)  
16 March 2022

## Appendix 1: MIA members and affiliate members as at March 2022

Members	Affiliate members
Advance Marketing Ltd	Abattoirs Association of New Zealand
AFFCO New Zealand Ltd	AgResearch Ltd
Alliance Group Ltd	Alfa Laval New Zealand Ltd
Ample Group Ltd	Americold New Zealand Ltd
ANZCO Foods Ltd	AON New Zealand Ltd
Auckland Meat Processors Ltd	Auspac Ingredients Pty Ltd
Bakels Edible Oils (NZ) Ltd	Centreport Ltd
Ballande New Zealand Ltd	CMA-CGM Group Agencies (NZ) Ltd
Blue Sky Meats (NZ) Ltd	Cooltranz 2014 Ltd
BX Foods Ltd	G-Tech New Zealand Ltd
Columbia Exports Ltd	Haarslev Industries Ltd
Crusader Meats New Zealand Ltd	Hamburg-Sud New Zealand Ltd
Davmet (New Zealand) Ltd	Hapag-Lloyd
Farmlands Mathias International Ltd	Intralox Ltd
Fern Ridge Ltd	Kemin Industries NZ Ltd
Firstlight Foods Ltd	Liqueo (HB) Ltd
Garra International Limited	Maersk NZ Ltd
Global Life Sciences Solutions NZ Ltd t/a Cytiva	MJI Universal Pte Ltd
GrainCorp Commodity Management NZ Ltd	Moda Systems New Zealand Ltd
Greenlea Premier Meats Ltd	Oceanic Navigation Ltd
Harrier Exports Ltd	Port of Napier Ltd
Integrated Foods Limited	Port Otago Ltd
Kintyre Meats Ltd	PrimeXConnect
Lowe Corporation Ltd	Pyramid Trucking Ltd
Ovation New Zealand Ltd	Rendertech Ltd
Peak Commodities Ltd	Rockwell Automation (NZ) Ltd
Prime Range Meats Ltd	SCL Products Ltd
Progressive Meats Ltd	Scott Technology Ltd
PVL Proteins Ltd	Sealed Air (New Zealand)
SBT Group Ltd	SHICO Limited
Silver Fern Farms Ltd	Visy Industries Australia Pty Ltd
Standard Commodities NZ Ltd	Wiley New Zealand Limited
Taylor Preston Ltd	
Te Kuiti Meat Processors Ltd	
UBP Ltd	
Value Proteins Ltd	
Wallace Group	
Wilbur Ellis (NZ) Ltd	
Wilmar Gavilon Pty Ltd	