Tēnā koe,

Here is the submission from Ngā Hapū e Toru Trust – Ngāti Hurungaterangi, Ngāti Taeotu and Ngāti Te Kahu. The Trustees who are making this submission are Veronica Butterworth and Hokimate Kahukiwa. You can contact them through me for further discussions.

Submission

We are Nga Hapū e Toru Trust – Ngāti Hurungaterangi, Ngāti Taeotu and Ngāti Te Kahu. Our hapū are the tāngata whenua and the mana whenua in Rotorua where the Scion main campus is located. That land has been part of our traditional rohe for hundreds of years.

Tāngata whenua partnership with Scion

We are forging a strong relationship with Scion. At a governance level we have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding/Kawenata with the Scion Board. This contains our mutual commitment to principles of whakapapa, kotahitanga, rangatiratanga, manaakitanga and tiakina te mana o te whenua. We have strong interactions on governance and operational matters that relate to the land, the hapū and our tikanga and kawa. Scion have employed an Operations Manager from our hapū who reports jointly to Scion and the hapū, to facilitate this communication and the growth of our partnership.

This unique partnership is a fundamental expression of embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the research system, namely by building meaningful relationships with the tāngata whenua in the places where research, science and innovation (RS&I) organisations operate. Whenua is fundamental to Māori. Research, science and innovation cannot be practiced in a vaccuum without an acknowledgment and connection to the land on which these things happen.

The Green Paper has various goals relating to embeding Te Tiriti o Waitangi. To achieve this you must start directly with the whenua and the tāngata whenua. To ignore the tāngata whenua, our tikanga and kawa is to also ignore the partnerships of Te Tiriti.

It is vital to us that our growing partnership with Scion be preserved and enhanced by any future changes to the RS&I system.

Engagement with hapū in the review

The Green Paper highlights a number of current issues regarding Māori, including:

- The current system's responsiveness to Māori is weak and models of engagement are poor
- The process of setting research priorities needs to be co-designed with Māori and the sidelining of Māori priorities should be avoided
- Lack of recognition of Te Tiriti and protection and support for mātauranga Māori
- Undervaluing, misappropriation and mismanagement of mātauranga Māori

We are interested in engaging on all these matters. It is critical that the review actively includes hapū, as hapū are the cornerstone of Māori society.

The review should look deeper than pan-tribal groups or Māori who work in the sector. It is important that the review understands who they are speaking to and what capacity they are speaking in. Whose voices do they carry? Where is the voice of hapū in this review?

Request for direct discussions

We request the opportunity to engage directly as hapū on all these issues above. In-person discussions in Rotorua is preferred.