

15 March 2022

Attn: Future Pathways Policy Team  
Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment  
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## **Submission on Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper 2021**

This submission is a personal reflection based on around 40 years working in, or close to, the NZ science system. As Chair of the Antarctic Science Platform Steering Group and a member of the Governance Board of the Our Land and Water, Toitū te Whenua, Toiora te Wai, National Science Challenge, I support the submission from these two entities and will not repeat the detailed comment they have provided.

My experience in the science sector spans DSIR, the National Research Advisory Council (NRAC), Establishment Unit Convenor for the Crop and Food CRI, Director of the NZ Antarctic Programme and Chief Executive of Antarctica New Zealand, and CEO of Cawthron Institute. Alongside this I have had a number of associated roles including on the Board and Decisions Making Committees of the EPA, chairing several of the review panels for the initial NSC proposals, Selection Advisory Committee Member for the Australian Research Council Special Research Initiative in Excellence in Antarctic Science, Chair of IRANZ (Independent Research Association of New Zealand), Strategic Advisory Group member for the Conservation and Environment Science Roadmap, and Chair of the Council of Managers of National Antarctic Programs (COMNAP).

My comment here is focussed on the benefits I have seen from the devolved funding model and independent science leadership and governance model in the Antarctic Science Platform and OLW NSC. This model has enabled strong leadership and governance teams to contract and manage research programmes/projects involving a range of research providers and stakeholders, to deliver to specific strategic outcomes.

The key success factors in the ASP and OLW NSC have included:

- devolved medium-long term (7 years) funding managed by leadership teams with strong science/sector credentials who have been pro-actively involved in designing and reviewing research programmes/projects
- strong strategic goals developed through consultative/workshop processes involving scientists, sector representatives and policy organisations and individuals
- co-design of research with key stakeholders, and particularly for the OLW NSC with Māori
- collaborative teams from a range of research providers (research institutes and universities) building on existing research capabilities and collaborations
- a Governance/Steering Group independent from research providers, logistics provider and host, with members with strong science and sector backgrounds, plus te ao Māori expertise

and, in the case of the ASP, senior representation from the key policy agencies (MBIE and MFAT) and Antarctica NZ

- an Independent Science Advisory Panel of highly connected/respected scientists who have provided ongoing robust reviews of science plans and science outputs
- flexibility in the way funds can be allocated – eg to long term “core” research projects, specific research translation initiatives, shorter term “opportunistic” research projects, and scoping studies
- in the case of the ASP, a seven-year science plan has attracted international interest, collaboration and funding, as well providing information to Antarctica NZ on multi-year logistics needs

If science system is to “support and build on the excellent and impactful research already underway on addressing New Zealand’s significant environmental challenges, such as climate change..... and leverage future economic opportunities” the NSC and Antarctic Science Platform models provide a way forward, alongside ongoing, long term funding for key research capability and infrastructure, on which targeted strategic programmes can draw.

If MBIE is looking to use a panel(s) with expertise to critique possible future scenarios for the NZ science system arising from the current consultative process, I would be happy to participate. I would provide insight from an involvement in various aspects and iterations of the system since the late 1970s.

Ngā mihi nui

Gillian Wratt (MNZM)