

#75

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Page 2: Section 1: submitter contact information

Q1

Name

Nick Main

Q2

Email address

Privacy - 9(2)(a)

Q3

No

Can MBIE publish your name and contact information with your submission?
Confidentiality notice: Responding "no" to this question does not guarantee that we will not release the name and contact information your provided, if any, as we may be required to do so by law. It does mean that we will contact you if we are considering releasing submitter contact information that you have asked that we keep in confidence, and we will take your request for confidentiality into account when making a decision on whether to release it.

Q4

Yes

Can MBIE contact you in relation to your submission?

Page 3: Section 2: Submitter information

Q5

Individual

Are you submitting as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

Page 4: Section 2: Submitter information - individual

Q6

No

Are you a researcher or scientist?

Privacy - 9(2)(a)

Q7

Age

Q8

Gender

Q9

In which region do you primarily work?

Q10

Ethnicity

Page 5: Section 2: Submitter information - individual

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

What is your iwi affiliation?

Page 6: Section 2: Submitter information - individual

Q12

Respondent skipped this question

If you wish, please specify to which Pacific ethnicity you identify

Page 7: Section 2: Submitter information - individual

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

What type of organisation do you work for?

Q14

Respondent skipped this question

Is it a Māori-led organisation?

Q15

Respondent skipped this question

Which disciplines are most relevant to your work?

Q16

Respondent skipped this question

What best describes the use of Mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) in your work?

Page 8: Section 2: Submitter information - organisation

Q17

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation name

Q18

Respondent skipped this question

Organisation type

Q19

Respondent skipped this question

Is it a Māori-led organisation?

Q20

Respondent skipped this question

Where is the headquarters of the organisation?

Q21

Respondent skipped this question

What best describes the use of Mātauranga Māori
(Māori knowledge) in your organisation?

Q22

Priorities design: What principles could be used to determine the scope and focus of research Priorities?(See page 27 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Science system purpose:

The first question seems to me to be 'what is the purpose of the science system?'. Why should a taxpayer invest in science and what benefits are we seeking to achieve?

The answers seem to include:

- To identify opportunities and risks from emerging science and scientific discovery;
- Science based information to inform government strategy and national policy setting and laws;
- To measure performance in a way that is independent of interference and is reliable;
- To help improve performance of actors in New Zealand's economic system; and
- To help create national wealth and wellbeing

These point to a system that should have an element of long term stability (for example the information informing today's responses to climate change started being recorded decades ago) and be independent of business and government (for example information about the state of the fisheries is valuable as it is free from interference).

Long term stability is also important for those trying to build careers in science.

Having said that the system needs to be flexible enough to deal with changing priorities and avoid being locked into a framework that made sense decades ago.

Research Priorities and Te Tiriti, Mātauranga Māori and Māori aspirations

I think a Science Council should be established to identify national research priorities. This should be led by a scientist (the Prime Ministers Chief Science Advisor is an obvious candidate) and include the Chief Scientist (or equivalent) from the CRIs, other research institutions, Universities etc. There would also be Māori representation from those recognised with expertise in Mātauranga Māori. It should be informed by key industry organisations, Iwi interests and Ministry officials. Its purpose is to develop a science strategy with a 25-year view but split into 5 year plans (the Climate Change Commission gives some idea of how this might work). It would advocate for funding and report to Cabinet. Funding would be divided into longer term core function funding and shorter-term opportunities.

The Council would provide advice on the funding of core functions on a 5 year rolling budget basis. Core functions are those that support the national science strategy public good elements. They are public good because the scientific outputs are shared widely and publicly available. They have limited commercially exploitable value but are the building blocks to achieving the national science strategy and create national wealth.

New ideas would flow up through the Council (which would meet probably 3 times a year) and inform the budgeting and allocation to shorter term opportunistic or responsive funding.

Q23

Priority-setting process: What principles should guide a national research Priority-setting process, and how can the process best give effect to Te Tiriti?(See pages 28-29 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

See above.

Q24

Operationalising Priorities: How should the strategy for each national research Priority be set and how do we operationalise them?(See pages 30-33 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Governance Boards for each research priority is an inefficient process. The Council should be able to review progress against its targets with reporting from the entity or entities receiving the funding

Q25

Engagement: How should we engage with Māori and Treaty Partners?(See page 38 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

See above at a strategic level

It is vital that all entities also have this responsibility

Q26

Respondent skipped this question

Mātauranga Māori: What are your thoughts on how to enable and protect mātauranga Māori in the research system?(See pages 38-39 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Q27

Respondent skipped this question

Regionally based Māori knowledge hubs: What are your thoughts on regionally based Māori knowledge hubs? (See page 39 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Page 11: Section 5: Funding

Q28

Core Functions: How should we decide what constitutes a core function, and how do we fund them?(See pages 44-46 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Core functions are those that support the national science strategy public good elements. They are public good because the scientific outputs are shared widely and publicly available. They have limited commercially exploitable value but are the building blocks to achieving the national science strategy and create national wealth.

Q29

Yes

Establishing a base grant and base grant design: Do you think a base grant funding model will improve stability and resilience for research organisations?(See pages 46-49 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Q30

Establishing a base grant and base grant design: How should we go about designing and implementing such a funding model?(See pages 46-49 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

See above

Page 12: Section 6: Institutions

Q31

Institution design: How do we design collaborative, adaptive and agile research institutions that will serve current and future needs?(See pages 57-58 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

This would depend on the strategic planning outcome from the Science Council. Some consolidation of existing entities could happen.

Entities should be clearly purpose led entities. The features of independent governance has served NZ well and should be retained.

Q32

Role of institutions in workforce development: How can institutions be designed to better support capability, skill and workforce development?(See page 58 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Work force development is a key area which is not particularly effective in the current system. Hard to have this discussion without the TEOs but is difficult for talent to navigate the system. At a postgraduate level carrers are often having to be managed in 2 year horizons.

Q33

Respondent skipped this question

Better coordinated property and capital investment: How should we make decisions on large property and capital investments under a more coordinated approach?(See pages 58-59 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Q34

Respondent skipped this question

Institution design and Te Tiriti: How do we design Tiriti-enabled institutions? (See page 59 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Q35

Knowledge exchange: How do we better support knowledge exchange and impact generation? What should be the role of research institutions in transferring knowledge into operational environments and technologies?(See pages 60-63 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

CRIs knowledge exchange and impact is achieved when they are working with industry on specific issues. The outcomes from core funded research in TEOs and other entities have been more difficult to commercialise. Apart from some spectacular successes the innovation processes at TEOs are harder to navigate.

Page 13: Section 7: Research workforce

Q36

Respondent skipped this question

Workforce and research Priorities: How should we include workforce considerations in the design of national research Priorities?(See pages 69-70 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Q37

Base grant and workforce: What impact would a base grant have on the research workforce?(See pages 70-71 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Stability and security of employment

Q38

Better designed funding mechanisms: How do we design new funding mechanisms that strongly focus on workforce outcomes? (See page 72 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

Something needs to be done here

Page 14: Section 8: Research infrastructure

Q39

Funding research infrastructure: How do we support sustainable, efficient and enabling investment in research infrastructure?(See pages 77-78 of the Green Paper for additional information related to this question)

This should only be considered for major pieces of infrastructure. The Science Council would be able to consider and allocate funding to an entity. Stand alone asset owning entities should be avoided as they have overhead and make decision making remote from users.
