



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

# Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways

**Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government





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## AGENDA

- Setting the scene
- What is Te Ara Paerangi?
- Key themes of the discussion
- What next?
- Questions





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# Setting the scene

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# A well functioning research science and innovation system is one that helps drive the long term well being of all its peoples and environments and economies.

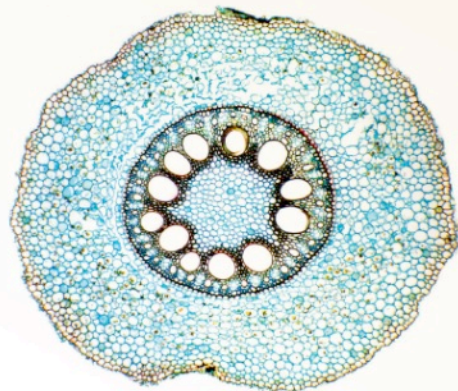
We know that Aotearoa faces major challenges in terms of intergenerational poverty, health inequities, housing, social cohesion, climate change and biodiversity loss. Many of these challenges disproportionately affect Māori and Pacific communities, and have been amplified by COVID-19. The research science and innovation sector needs to be able to address these challenges, in far more timely and connected ways. The current approach isn't working for Māori nor I would argue is it providing the benefits that many other New Zealanders expect, so change is needed.



Tahu Kukutai

## SCIENCE AND SOCIETY IN TRANSITION

ISC ACTION PLAN: 2022–2024



## Priority action domains for the International Science Council

Domain 1: Global Sustainability

Domain 2: Converging Science and Technology in a Digital Era

Domain 3: Science in Policy and Public Discourse

Domain 4: Changing Practices in Science and Science Systems

Domain 5: Freedom and Responsibility in Science

### Domain 2 action:

#### **Making data work for cross-domain grand challenges**

This project aims to develop more effective, evidence-based solutions for complex global challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration enabled by data integration policies and practices across scientific fields and disciplines.





# The Case for Change

- The Green Paper has been informed by recent reports, such as *Te Pae Kahurangi* and *Te Pūtahitanga*, and our consultation for the draft RSI Strategy
  - These have found that the design of the current system can incentivise fragmentation and unproductive competition, and struggles to adapt to changing national needs
  - In particular, significant work needs to be done to improve the way the system interacts with Māori
  - We need to look across the design of the entire system to ensure we can effectively address these issues
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# What is Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways?

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# Our Vision – a connected, adaptable and resilient system

- Our RSI system has served Aotearoa New Zealand well but it's now time to consider how to best position the system to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future
  - We want to build a modern, future-focussed research system for New Zealand that is connected, adaptable and resilient
  - Meeting the challenges and opportunities of the future will require harnessing the collective capability of our RSI system across all fields and disciplines
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# The Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Programme

- Future Pathways is a multi-year programme on how to best position New Zealand's public research system for the future
  - The consultation on our Green Paper is the first stage in the conversation, where we're seeking views on the key issues and opportunities facing the system, and potential ideas to address them. We're not pre-committed to any new solutions or changes
  - Once consultation on the Green Paper concludes, the next major step in the Te Ara Paerangi – Future Pathways Programme will be to produce a White Paper which presents a set of directional decisions.
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# Response to consultation engagement so far

- We held 12 “starting the conversation” sessions in November and December 2021, attended by over 1,400 participants.
  - Your involvement and feedback has provided us with a deeper understanding of your experiences and perspectives on the issues identified in the Green Paper, and how they affect you and your work.
  - Summary information from these consultation sessions has been published on the Future pathways part of the MBIE website. This information covers high-level themes that participants raised in the sessions.
  - Opportunities for more in-depth workshop discussions in February and March are up on the MBIE website now. We encourage you to register your interest to participate
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# The Green Paper Consultation

The consultation will run until 16 March 2022.

We have provided multiple avenues to get involved in the conversation:

- **Opening the Conversation Sessions (Mid Nov – Dec 2021):** 12 theme based discussions that gathered initial feedback and informed design of Feb/March 2022 workshops
  - **Workshops (Late Feb – March 2022):** Collaborative, focused and in-depth discussions to share, discuss, and evaluate key issues and opportunities for change.
  - **Written Submissions (due 16 March 2022):** The submission form can be answered online via MBIE's website. You can also email submissions to us at [futurepathways@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:futurepathways@mbie.govt.nz)
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# Key themes of the discussion

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## Six main themes:

- **Research Priorities:** how to better identify and deliver on national research needs
  - **Funding:** how the funding model supports research activities and helps to deliver on research priorities
  - **Te Tiriti:** how the system is set up to understand and respond to Te Tiriti opportunities, and how to enable mātauranga Māori in our research system
  - **Workforce:** how the RSI workforce is supported, developed and funded
  - **Institutions:** how to increase connections and collaboration within the system for future success
  - **Infrastructure:** how we invest in, govern and run national research infrastructure
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# Research priorities

*how to better identify and deliver on national research needs*

- The Green Paper discusses problems we are seeing through a lack of clearly articulated priorities at a system level
- We are seeking feedback on the principles and features for designing, deciding on and operationalising a single set of system level Priorities for the research system

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- Priorities have different size considerations: global, national and regional
  - Priorities have different time horizon, life-cycle considerations: emergency, mid-term and long-term (core capabilities, infrastructure).
  - Priority setting that produces continuity over time: co-design, high-level directional, mission driven, across the system (including government departments).
  - Funding mechanisms to support priority portfolio. Contestable funding undermining longer term goals.
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# Funding

*how the funding model supports research activities and helps to deliver on research priorities*

- We are exploring:
  - how we support our Priorities through funding models
  - Ways to improve stability and resilience across the system
  - how we can properly fund important activities or ‘core functions’ such as critical research functions, high priority services, emergency response, and databases and collections

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- The interconnected nature of funding as a driver of “values” and priorities throughout the RSI ecosystem.
  - Funding structures need to reflect the needs of different time horizons and research stages.
  - Extremes of competition and collaboration.
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# Te Tiriti, mātauranga Māori and supporting Māori aspirations

*how the system is set up to understand and respond to Te Tiriti opportunities, and how to enable mātauranga Māori in our research system*

- Exploring how the research system can best honour Te Tiriti obligations and opportunities, give life to Māori research aspirations and enable mātauranga Māori

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- Partnership in governance and throughout the lifecycle of research: co-design, research, reporting and/or implementation.
  - Using Te Tiriti and Mātauranga Māori as a critical framework for priority setting and establishing Mātauranga Māori and Western science views as equally valid approaches.
  - Focus needed on the early pipeline for Māori researchers (high school level).
  - Systems support (including funding, infrastructure, mentoring) for the longer timeframes needed to establish working relationships.
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# Workforce

*how the RSI workforce is supported, developed and funded*

- The research workforce is at the centre of the RSI system. We need to ensure it continues to attract and retain excellent talent
- The Green Paper seeks feedback on key workforce issues that have been raised in recent papers, such as improving equity and diversity, addressing career precarity, and supporting the education pipeline.
- We're also seeking views on how the workforce can be considered in other Future Pathways ideas, such as for Research Priorities or a potential base funding grant

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- Funding as a vital driver for workforce outcomes
  - Career stability and development
  - Cultural competency in the workforce
  - Supporting Māori researchers in the RSI system
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# Institutions

*how to increase connections and collaboration within the system for future success*

- We're seeking to explore how best to position our public research institutions for the future to make them more connected, adaptive and resilient.

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- Barriers to collaboration: competitive environment, institutional culture, lack of time, insecure funding, short-term funding, IP ownership and finding appropriate network connections.
  - Integration of commercial and public good priorities with institutional objectives. The definition of which is influenced by the contexts of time, place, stage of research, immediacy of application.
  - Te Tiriti and partnership – the need to think creatively about what being a good partner looks like
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# Infrastructure

*how we invest in, govern and run national research infrastructure*

- Our overall approach to research infrastructure faces several issues, including a lack of sustainable investment, poor investment co-ordination across the system, and a focus on institutional benefits (rather than national)
- We're seeking to hear from the sector about their ideas on how to maximise New Zealand's benefits from research infrastructure through potential future funding, ownership and operational models

## **Key themes from discussion & feedback so far:**

- Scope of what is defined as 'infrastructure': physical, digital and people.
- Different aspects of infrastructure have different time horizons – even when defined as “core”, national interest, public good.
- Need to identify what is “core” infrastructure and accessibility across the sector.
- Current funding models create duplication of infrastructure, are not meeting the needs of long term investments and don't support collaboration



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# What's happening next?

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# Next Steps in the Policy Process

- Once consultation on the Green Paper concludes, the next major step in the Te Ara Paerangi – Future Pathways Programme will be to produce a White Paper.
  - The White Paper will be a strategy document that presents a set of directional decisions.
  - At this stage, we do not expect these to be detailed decisions, but they will confirm directions for policy development and provide greater certainty about the Government's preferred focus. For example, a White Paper could set out whether the Government intends to investigate a base grant regime further.
  - As the policy design process becomes more detailed and preferred options are narrowed down, there will be further opportunities for engagement, and further consultation, before, during and after the release of the White Paper.
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# Birds of a feather session this afternoon


## Over to you...

- An opportunity to share thoughts and reactions from an eResearch perspective
  - We encourage you to make a submission by 16 March
  - (We will take notes of the BoF discussions that will form part of the evidence base for Te Ara Paerangi)
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# Questions from the audience

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If you have any questions, please feel  
free to contact us at  
[futurepathways@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:futurepathways@mbie.govt.nz)