

**Maori Economic Taskforce  
C/- Private Bag 18041  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington**

17 November 2009

Dr Helen Anderson  
Chief Executive  
Ministry of Research, Science & Technology  
P O Box 5336  
Wellington 6145

Feedback on New Zealand Science Priorities' Document

Kia ora Helen,

I welcome the chance to provide some feedback to this document in my capacity as a Member of the Maori Economic Taskforce and also given my experience over the last 10 years with the Venture Investment Fund and other innovation linked initiatives.

The Maori Economic Taskforce established by the Minister of Maori Affairs earlier this year, is conducting work in seven key areas: tribal asset development, the primary sector, education and training, small to medium enterprises, social and community development, investment and enterprise, and economic growth and infrastructure.

I am the Task Force Member responsible for investment, capital and enterprise and in this regard have the role to look where innovation can lift the performance of the Maori economy, which is currently estimated at \$16.5 billion. To this end we are engaging BERL in a Maori innovation research project.

Furthermore, as I am sure you are aware recent reports published by Ministry of Māori Development (Te Puni Kokiri) have highlighted that Maori current involvement in innovation is minimal.

It is very apparent, Maori are in a stage of development and the Treaty Settlement process has helped this occur at an exponential rate. Given this, research, science and technology play a vital role in leveraging this development. The effectiveness of the New Zealand innovation system to support Maori development is vital, not only for Maori, but for all New Zealand.

I note in your consultation document that Maori development is not a key outcome or platform area. As you will know, Maori are heavily involved in the outcome areas you have identified; biological economy, energy and minerals,

hazards & infrastructure, environment, health and society and high –tech industries. One of the roadblocks in the past has been the ability for Maori enterprises to engage with and access the science that is taking place in these areas.

As Maori move more to investing in economic development, getting access and participating effectively in good science and research is important. We would welcome a more deliberate emphasis in seeing Maori development being given a stronger priority within the NZ science system. The Maori Economic Task Force is currently looking to commission an economic modelling exercise to help identify what is the appropriate investment in innovation to ensure Maori goals and aspirations are realised.

I also note that Vision Maturanga as an overarching policy framework is identified as a priority area, although it would appear this policy does not go so far as to identifying any deliverables in the outcome areas outlined in your document. I would encourage the Ministry to consider this further.

Finally, I note that the specific investment in Maori Knowledge Development, as small as it is, is to be spread across a number of priority areas. Although I acknowledge the intention of this, I am conscious that this integration does not dilute the investment to where capability to develop Maori science and Maori research disappears. This area should be carefully considered in your deliberations.

I have held the view for sometime that Maori need to embrace the innovation system and work with all its componentry to unleash the potential of its asset base, its people and to develop alternative assets, skills and competencies to what exists now. The Ministry of Research, Science and Technology could facilitate this by firstly recognising the contribution Maori can make and then by working with Maori to seek the potential opportunities for the benefit of both the Maori and New Zealand economy.

Thank you for considering my contribution.

Noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'June McCabe', is positioned above the typed name.

June McCabe  
Chair Investment, Capital and Enterprise  
Maori Economic Task Force