

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND:  
GATEWAY TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

*the* ROYAL  
SOCIETY *of*  
NEW ZEALAND  
TE APĀRANGI




GATEWAY TO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND  
THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND HAS OPERATED SINCE  
1867. UNDER ITS 1997 ACT, 'THE OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY  
IS THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY IN NEW ZEALAND'.

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## OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

### COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE



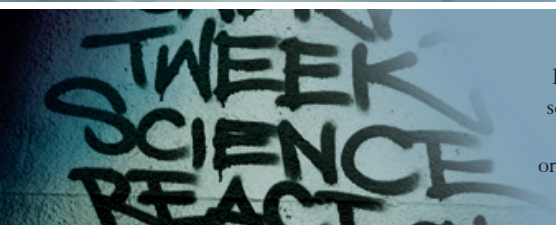
The Society promotes an informed and critical awareness of scientific and technological issues among New Zealanders. This is achieved by close associations with print, radio and other media. We will continue to provide communication channels within the science and technology community and tell their stories to the public.

### SCIENCE DIRECTION, FUNDING AND CAREER STRUCTURE



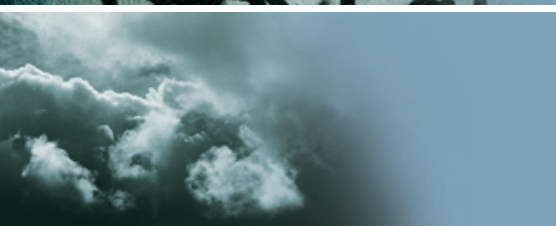
Harnessing knowledge for the benefit of all New Zealanders requires a science and technology system that performs optimally. The Society will advise on science direction, and deliver funding and career development for researchers to enable a greater contribution of science and technology to New Zealand.

### BUSINESS INTERACTION




Economic transformation to a high-value, high-technology economy requires strong connections between science and business to enhance business's innovativeness and the competitiveness of existing domestic industries. The Society will encourage this connectivity by fostering substantive links with business organisations. We will provide convincing value propositions for research and development, based around our access to information and status as an independent organisation free of vested interests.

### LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND FOR SCIENCE IN SOCIETY



The Society aims to be an independent, credible and active voice informing government and public opinion. We will provide expert evidence on a wide range of current and future issues and act as a neutral forum for promoting open and transparent debate on the research system and scientific matters.

### EDUCATION



The Society believes education is vital for New Zealanders to find their way in an increasingly scientific world. The Society will continue to offer, and enhance, opportunities for young people and teachers to become inspired and to increase their knowledge, skills and understanding of science and technology.

# OUR FIVE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

## COMMUNICATION OF SCIENCE



The Society promotes an informed and critical awareness of scientific and technological issues among New Zealanders. This is achieved by close associations with print, radio and other media. We will continue to provide communication channels within the science and technology community and tell their stories to the public.

### COMMUNICATE THE BENEFITS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO NEW ZEALAND

- Make evident the relevance of science and technology to society and the economy using examples of successes from diverse sectors.
- Strengthen the idea of science as a fundamental source of evidence underpinning how we regulate to protect our environment, how we provide healthcare, in fact, how we live. Promote science as an important driver of the New Zealand economy.
- Assist science organisations to work together to present the excitement, relevance and value of scientific research and technology.

### IMPROVE THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY OF NEW ZEALANDERS

- Optimise our communications strategy to ensure that we are reaching as wide an audience as possible across New Zealand and effectively delivering scientific information.
- Celebrate excellent science and excellence in science communications.
- Continue to develop strong links with media to stimulate more and better science coverage. Establish the Society as the main support for the media in science and technology areas.
- Promote popular science publishing.
- Organise science talks for general public and more specialist audiences.

- Collaborate with other organisations to inform and educate the public/media/business about climate change and what we can do about it.
- Work with journalist training organisations to brief wider groups of journalists on current issues and increase the present dialogue with people who influence the public.
- Take a lead role in the promotion of CarboNZero activities and use the Society as a role model for best practice.

### DEVELOP OUR TOOLS AND SKILLS TO DELIVER THIS IMPROVEMENT

- Support and engage with new communication methods.
- Improve our online presence through open access publication, links to public documentation and inclusion in relevant databases to ensure maximum reach and effectiveness of online content for key audiences, especially the young.
- Continuously work to improve content, useability and look of our website.

### BRAND AND MARKET THE ROYAL SOCIETY

- Maintain a reputation for integrity, excellence, independence and scientific expertise.
- Strengthen our position as the gateway to New Zealand science and technology by expanding our communication networks.

- Widen the perception of our activity focus that now includes social sciences as well as natural and physical sciences, and business as well as academic issues.
- Improve and articulate incentives for new and emerging researchers to join the Royal Society of New Zealand.
- Become widely recognised as providing access to New Zealand's science success stories through contacts, timely case studies, backgrounders and feature article opportunities.

### PUBLISH SCIENCE

- Enhance the international reputation of our journals.
- Continue to publish high quality journals in support of the professional needs of New Zealand researchers.
- Provide open access to research published in the journals and enable researchers to gain a wider, and more international, readership.
- Maintain an effective website for publication of our activities, as well as science and technology resources for government agencies, education professionals, school students and the public.

## SCIENCE DIRECTION, FUNDING AND CAREER STRUCTURE



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### BETTER RESEARCH FUNDING

- Demonstrate the need for greater clarity around science direction, trust in science and scientists, improved funding systems, building new capability, and increased investment in research, science and technology.
- Explore fresh options for rationing available funds.
- Increase awareness and accessibility of international opportunities and funding possibilities, including attracting science projects to New Zealand, and support other international linkages.

### RESEARCH EXCELLENCE SUPPORTED BY MARSDEN FUND

- Demonstrate the need for an expanded Marsden Fund to provide more support for high quality basic research.
- Maintain the gold-standard administration of the Marsden Fund for government and for the Marsden Fund Council.

### JAMES COOK RESEARCH FELLOWS

- Raise the profile of the benefits of James Cook Fellows' research to New Zealand.
- Demonstrate the need for increased investment in the James Cook Research Fellowships to maintain their pre-eminence.

### CAREERS IN SCIENCE

- Promote and assist the Rutherford Foundation to support early- to mid-career scientists. Identify and fill gaps in funding support along career paths, and for professional training.
- Promote mechanisms that encourage and support Māori and Pasifika into science and/or technology.
- Recognise excellence through awards and Fellowships.
- Support a culture of entrepreneurship in science.
- Encourage young New Zealand researchers to attend their first overseas conference and support travel by established researchers.
- Develop a resource to broaden scientists' awareness of ethical standards.
- Advocate for and promote a wider diversity of people engaging in science and technology careers.
- Support social science research and researchers, specifically Māori, emerging and private researchers.
- Explore and implement new ways to help and encourage tertiary students in science and technology.

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### DEVELOP THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SCIENCE AND BUSINESS

- Bridge the cultural divide between science and business, by addressing the science language barrier and demonstrating the advantages to scientists of commercialisation.
- Support the development of researchers with generalist entrepreneurial and business skills alongside their deep knowledge in particular fields.
- Continue to investigate the cultural, legislative and other barriers between researchers and businesses and work to remove them.
- Tell the stories of business research and development and the career opportunities for new and emerging researchers.
- Learn how business sets its own priorities for research and how the New Zealand science system can best interact with business.
- Encourage industry support for science and technology education and create linkages and interaction between industries and teachers, students and school communities.
- Promote closer science/end-user links, complementing current schemes such as TechNZ, and monitor progress.
- Help people, skills and ideas to move between research and industry.

### DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SOCIETY AND BUSINESS

- Engage with business representative groups, industry groups, professional bodies, international expatriate groups, economic think tanks and experts to explore research needs and opportunities for science/industry interfaces.
- Jointly advocate for policy and funding issues affecting business productivity in New Zealand.
- Support international linkages that enable connectivity between research organisations across borders, and researchers and business interests overseas.
- Work with agencies such as NZTE to develop new leaders able to generate wealth from science and technology.

# LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND FOR SCIENCE IN SOCIETY



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## ENSURE THE ACADEMY IS AN EFFECTIVE SOURCE OF INFORMATION AND COMMENTARY ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

- Celebrate and promote the Academy.
- Develop a fuller and more integrated role for the Academy in Council affairs.
- Use the gravitas and mana of the Academy to add weight to the initiatives and advocacy of the Royal Society.
- Support the Academy to recognise excellence in science (including social science) and applied science and technology. Broaden the Academy's focus to cover more issues including recognition of the humanities, and diversity of people in research.
- Support Academy members to stimulate discussion and publish advice in their expert areas.
- Assist the Academy to comment on science and social issues, conduct dialogues and publish hearings on controversial topics, and conduct a number of major inquiries each year.

## BE THE PREFERRED SOURCE OF INDEPENDENT EXPERT ADVICE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES

- Raise the profile and reputation of the Society within the policy community.
- Build the Society's capacity for analysis and expert advice into policy discussions.
- Improve our understanding of government processes and provide advice through Select Committees, departmental and ministerial routes.
- Broaden our working relationships among government and business agencies whilst continuing our activities for the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology.
- Improve mechanisms for Society Committees, Members, Branches and constituent organisations to contribute to policy advice and to collaborate on multi-disciplinary issues.

## EDUCATION



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### SUPPORT YOUNG PEOPLE'S INTEREST IN RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Publicly celebrate the science and technology achievements of young people.
- Extend opportunities for New Zealand students to carry out their own research, and/or technological practice.
- Link teachers and students with practising and retired researchers and technologists to support young people's engagement with science and technology.
- Develop a network of support nationally for young people with an interest in research and technological practice.

### ENHANCE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL LITERACY AMONG STUDENTS

- Demonstrate the relevance of science to the everyday lives of young people.
- Raise the profile of science and technology teaching and learning in primary schools.
- Coordinate promotion of science and technology activities to students and promote careers both in and from science and technology.
- Support the development of mentoring and scholarship schemes to increase the diversity of students reaching tertiary education.
- Extend opportunities to support New Zealand students to achieve academically.

### SUPPORT TEACHERS IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR SKILLS, KNOWLEDGE AND ENGAGEMENT WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Develop future science and technology education leaders.
- Support the upskilling of teachers through authentic, current science and technology research and practice opportunities.
- Encourage under-represented groups of teachers to participate in Society programmes.
- Evaluate trends in science and mathematics teaching workforces.

### FACILITATE SHARING OF BEST PRACTICE AMONG SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION NETWORKS INCLUDING SUBJECT ASSOCIATIONS

- Promote communication between education networks and education agencies.
- Support subject association conferences.
- Address challenging science and technology education issues.
- Produce an analysis of the role of senior primary education in influencing students' attitudes to science and technology.

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Promoting excellence in science and technology

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