



Dr D T Brash
Chair
2025 Taskforce
PO Box 3724
WELLINGTON 6140

19 November 2009

Dear Dr Brash,

The Independent Research Association of New Zealand (IRANZ) is an association of “independent” or non-government owned research organisations. Our members include BRANZ, Cawthron Institute, CRL Energy Ltd, Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA), Leather & Shoe Research (LASRA), Lincoln Ventures Ltd, OPUS Central Laboratories and Transport Engineering Research NZ Ltd (TERNZ). Together we employ more than 400 people, and undertake close to \$60 million per annum of research. The organisations represented by IRANZ have strong linkages with their respective industry and focus on user driven research.

IRANZ believes that research, science and technology play a core role in New Zealand’s ability to increase its productivity and economic growth.

To increase New Zealand’s productivity, the following needs to occur:

- Political and cultural recognition of the importance of research, science and technology to New Zealand’s productivity.
- Increase overall investment in research and development to match or exceed the investment levels in comparative OECD competitor nations such as Singapore (2.6% of GDP) and Denmark (2.6% of GDP). This should include increased government investment and private sector investment.
- Preferential investment in education that has the greatest potential to lift New Zealand’s productivity such as science, engineering, and technology.
- Build private sector capability to undertake research and development and commercialise innovation.

I am happy for this letter to be placed on the 2025 Taskforce website.

Yours sincerely,

Gillian Wratt
Chair, IRANZ
www.iranzt.org.nz
information@iranzt.org.nz