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Dear Richard,

**RE: Feedback on the discussion paper on National network of commercialisation centres**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Discussion document - National network of commercialisation centres (NNCC). The following are general comments from IRANZ: Individual member organisations will be providing you with comment on the specific questions in the document.

**1. Goal of the NNCC initiative**

IRANZ generally supports the goal of the NNCC initiative. However the language used in relation to research organisations in the goal and the rest of the document needs to reflect Government's intention and be used consistently throughout.

***Goal of the NNCC initiative:***

To increase the amount of successful commercialisation from NZ sourced publicly funded research in order to make NZ wealthier. This will be achieved through leveraging the work of existing commercialisation units within publically funded research organisation (PROs). The NNCC initiative does not differentiate between research push from PROs and market pull from companies reaching into PROs (with needs, or to inform research) as illustrated in the diagram below.

IRANZ member organisations are independent (non-government owned) research organisations. A portion of all IRANZ members work is publicly funded research contracts; however, they are not "public research organisations" as referred to elsewhere in the document (e.g. the Forward and Introduction). IRANZ would suggest that a more inclusive term is Research Organisations (ROs) rather than PROs. All organisations listed under 'Current Publicly Funded Commercialisation Activity' in the diagram and referred to as PROs in the goal (last sentence) could be inclusively classified as 'Research Organisations'.



## 2. OTHER: Access to the network for smaller research organisations

IRANZ member organisations are smaller than Crown Research Institutes and universities. Smaller research organisations find it difficult to resource infrastructural projects such as the NNCC initiative. The Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network (KAREN) is an example of a government initiative for the research sector that smaller research organisations have difficulty accessing due to the cost of membership access fees.

Access to the NNCC functions and structure should be such that it is financially feasible for smaller research organisations.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Yours sincerely,

Kate Kilkenny

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