



PRESS RELEASE  
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## IT IS TIME TO GET STARTED, NOT ANALYSE FURTHER

The Institution of Professional Engineers New Zealand welcomes the release of the government's "Growing an Innovative New Zealand" as a belated recognition of the message engineers have been trying to bring to national attention for several years.

Overall, the policy proposals contained in the also-released Science and Innovation Advisory Council final report are well-grounded. The recognition by SIAC of the importance of intellectual property as a key to wealth creation is very encouraging. We also applaud the emphasis on using technological advance and design skills to create national wealth from the arts as well as from scientific knowledge.

It is unfortunate however that the government is, at this late stage, only ready to release the shape of its program rather than firm policy proposals.

New Zealand has been debating the role of innovation for over a decade while other nations have been implementing their policies. Now we are told that many of our new policies will come from task groups that have not even been formed yet. It is time to get started right now, not engage in further analysis of how to do it.

Businesses and hence economies do not respond to government reports, conferences, frameworks, hints or signals. Businesses need conditions in the marketplace that facilitate their growth and reward them for risk-taking to exploit new knowledge. For ten years New Zealand firms have seen much talk, and too little assistance to become innovative and entrepreneurial. Little wonder few businesses fully understand the techniques of new product development, or employ creators, developers and implementers to help turn great ideas into world-leading products and services.

The Government's timidity towards real change for improving the business environment New Zealand is operating in does not reflect the kind of nimble government structure successful and innovative nations have shown.

At the end of the day with this announcement we are still left waiting for yet more reports. What innovative businesses need today are firm new policies they can plan with.

New Zealand does not need perfect innovation policies at a later date. It needed proven innovation policies at work in the marketplace yesterday. Other nations, including Australia, have already taken these steps years ago and are reaping the benefits. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. We can act right now.

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