

Research Review

Update

23 October 2014

A review of the efficiency and effectiveness of Transport Agency research commenced last week. Its scope includes the Transport Agency's Research Programme and research generated via project based or operational activities.

The objective of the review is to ensure the Transport Agency's research activities address strategic priorities identified by transport decision-makers (the Ministry of Transport, the Transport Agency and Local Government in particular), that the processes for managing research are efficient and that research outputs are effectively disseminated and/or implemented by end-users.

We have engaged MartinJenkins management consultants to conduct this independent review for us. Richard Tait, Nancy Guerin and Ty Philips will review existing documentation, surveys and processes and undertake a number of interviews or workshops with key stakeholders. Findings and recommendations will be summarised in a draft report expected by Christmas and in a final report by the end of January 2015.

The efficiency and effectiveness review forms part of a wider transport sector research review that we are conducting with the Ministry of Transport. The key components of this wider project are:

- Consideration of transport sector research in the wider context of national and international transport research (Joint Ministry of Transport/Transport Agency)
- An effectiveness and efficiency review of the Transport Agency's Research Programme and its project based or operationally focused research (Transport Agency lead)
- Development of a refreshed Transport Research Strategy (Ministry of Transport lead).

The joint review identified significant opportunities to improve information sharing, coordination and collaboration across the transport research sector. The major recommendation of that review was to establish a Transport Sector Research Hub to facilitate information sharing and coordination across central and local government, Crown Entities responsible for transport, academia and business. We are in the process of establishing the hub and a web-based tool to support it. More information will be available on this in the coming months.

For further information about the efficiency and effectiveness review, please contact Jannette Farley on Jannette.Farley@nzta.govt.nz or telephone: 09 969-9842 or 021 240 6027.

At an operational level, the Transport Agency is continuing with the annual cycle of managing its Research Programme by seeking and screening topics for investment in 2015-16. Review recommendations will be implemented as part of the management of the programme so that investment in research continues and is enhanced.