



Submission Form

Respondent Information

Name: Dr Peter Rutland
Executive Director: Strategic Development

Organisation: The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand

Mailing Address: Private Bag 31914
Lower Hutt 5040

Email Address: peter.rutland@openpolytechnic.ac.nz

Website: www.openpolytechnic.ac.nz

Please attach this form to your submission.

Questions:

The Open Polytechnic of New Zealand welcomes the opportunity to take part in the consultation for the Digital Strategy 2.0. Overall the Polytechnic is very supportive of the strategy. It not only forms an excellent framework for the achievement of Government's economic and social goals, but also provides clear signals about how individual organisations may enhance their own digital capabilities.

On connection

What do you think of the new connection goal – is it ambitious enough?

The connection goal is sufficiently ambitious to allow significant progress by 2012.

What other key priorities in this focus area (if any) would you like to see considered?

The infrastructure developments appear to rely heavily on physical connectivity rather than wireless and satellite connectivity. Given the rural accessibility issues other forms of connectivity should be enhanced within the strategy. This will enable not only rural the business to access the internet but also allow rural people and communities to access e-learning and on-line health services.

How well do the identified challenges and actions contribute to achieving the priorities?

No comment.

What other specific challenges and actions (if any) do you think should be considered? By whom and by when?

No comment.

On confidence

What do you think of the new confidence goal – is it ambitious enough?

This is very ambitious. There is evidence that managers need basic management skills and also basic ICT skills, in addition to digital management skills. While the specific digital skills may initially reside in specialist managers, the skills need to be widespread amongst senior and middle managers.

What other key priorities in this focus area (if any) would you like to see considered?

No comment.



How well do the identified challenges and actions contribute to achieving the priorities?

No comment.

What other specific challenges and actions (if any) do you think should be considered? By whom and by when?

As noted above managers need the ability to be innovative, think laterally and modify what has been done by others. This can partially be achieved by education and training and also by disseminating knowledge and information about innovations widespread. A portal, perhaps within the MED, may be useful for making such information available.

On content

What do you think of the new content goal – is it ambitious enough?

This is also a very ambitious goal, particularly when taken in conjunction with the goals of the strategy and Government's broad economic and social goals.

What other key priorities in this focus area (if any) would you like to see considered?

No comment.

How well do the identified challenges and actions contribute to achieving the priorities?

The emphasis of the goal suggests creativity and innovation; however the actions do not clearly support these. The nearest action which suggests this is that related to transforming the provision of government services.

What other specific challenges and actions (if any) do you think should be considered? By whom and by when?

No comment.

On collaboration

How important do you think collaboration across sectors is to achieving our digital potential?

Collaboration and co-operation are enabling mechanisms and not ends in themselves. They may be necessary mechanisms in some circumstances but not sufficient reason to be requirements. There are numerous examples where innovations occur within single organisations. It would be unfortunate if, for example, government funding was contingent on projects being collaborative.

Apart from the ones already identified, what other collaboration partners or sectors (if any) are vital to achieving our digital potential?

The Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics working together with business and industry.

What unique contribution do you see for Māori, for communities, for business groups, for local government, for researchers or for other contributors you identify as having a key role?

No comment

What would you like to see the overarching sector forum focus its work programme on?

The relationship between business and tertiary education providers.

**On achieving our digital potential**

Using digital technology, what contribution will you make to improving our productivity (achieving a creative, knowledge-based, high-income economy)?

The Summit Challenge of the need to change the mindset to adopt technology and be digital is fundamental to improving productivity. Using technology channels for the delivery of educational programmes increases both access and consistency of the quality of education available across New Zealand. It provides for just-in-time learning for those in the workforce and enhances business capability and productivity. As a national provider, delivery across the country provides for economies of scale, not possible on a regional basis.

Educational services can be provided internationally with little additional cost.

Using digital technology, what contribution will you make to enriching and valuing New Zealand communities and cultures, and promoting our unique national identity?

No comment

Using digital technology, what contribution will you make to achieving sustainable growth as a nation?

Achieving economies of scale provides increased value for money for government. By making education and training available to workers without the need for them to leave work or travel to a place of learning, it does not impact adversely on business productivity or on the environment.

What contribution do you think others need to make to achieve our digital potential?

No comment

Other comments

Do you have any further suggestions or comments?

One of the biggest obstacles to operational use of digital technologies is the provision of sufficient examples and insights so that senior managers can imagine the possibilities, and later demand, improvements to processes, services and increased productivity through the use of digital technology. This suggests that avenues need to be available to showcase examples of what can be possible using digital stories, case histories and celebration of effective processes.

Post to Digital Strategy 2.0 Submission
Digital Development Group
Ministry of Economic Development
P O Box 1473
Wellington

Email to submission@digitalstrategy.govt.nz

Fax to 04 499 0969

Submissions close on 12 May 2008 at 5:00pm.

Confidentiality and the Official Information Act



Respondent should note that written submissions or comments provided to the Ministry of Economic Development on the Draft Digital Strategy 2.0 will be subject to the Official Information Act (OIA) 1982. The OIA requires information to be made available unless there is good reason, pursuant to the Act, to withhold the information and that good reason outweighs the public interest in making the information available.

If you want information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please clearly identify the material and explain to us why you believe the information should be withheld under the provisions of the OIA.