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Sub # 40

15 May, 2008

Digital Strategy 2.0 Submission
Digital Development Group
Ministry of Economic Development
P O Box 1473
WELLINGTON

Dear Sir/Madam

Digital Strategy 2.0 Submission

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Digital Strategy 2.0.

Our comments relate to section 5 (content) and the following actions in particular:

5.5

Delivering the New Zealand Scientific and Research Programme in action. This is a collaborative programme of action between agencies involved in commissioning and undertaking science, research and academic studies to ensure open access to research results in New Zealand.

5.3

Developing the Kiwi Research Information Service. A nationwide network of research repositories to ensure New Zealand's publicly funded research results are available online.

AgResearch publishes research outputs in scholarly and trade publications, including those published in and related to New Zealand which are made available through normal publishing channels. The content may or may not be available free of charge, however citation information often is and therefore may be harvestable by KRIS. AgResearch carries out research which is restricted by IP or the funder may impose limits on what can be made publicly available.

AgResearch would consider developing an institutional repository if full external funding was provided, including the purchase of customised software. Staff time would be required for the set up the repository and ongoing maintenance. Even with this support we would be able to make a small portion of our research available to public. Funding an institutional repository from existing company income would seriously impact on our ability to carry out the research that is crucial to New Zealand's future and economic development and would still not be able to make all our outputs available to all New Zealanders.

In response to the particular questions it is AgResearch's view:

- That the new content goal is overambitious,
- That key priorities should be to consolidate existing mechanisms to index New Zealand research and
- That the National Library of New Zealand should work with the Royal Society of New Zealand and other New Zealand publishers to enable digitisation of their publications which contain also some AgResearch research outputs.

- That there is no indication how the challenges to implement the strategies could be addressed, except asking the creator organisations to fund the setting up and ongoing support of repositories. In the present climate such task is clearly beyond the capacity of AgResearch to achieve.

May I suggest that the National Library with its extensive resources and expertise in the area could set up a national institutional repository for all New Zealand research institutions.

AgResearch would welcome the opportunity to meet with the National Library of New Zealand and to discuss the role of the Crown Research Institutes and their provision of information and library services in the digital environment. We believe that such interaction would prove beneficial to both parties.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phillip Lindsay', written in a cursive style.

Dr Phillip Lindsay
Chief Information Officer
AgResearch Limited

cc Dr. A. West