

## Update on Callaghan Innovation for the WRS Committee

Callaghan Innovation was established on 1 February 2013, bringing together functions from the Ministry of Business Innovation & Employment [MBIE] R&D grants team and the former IRL. Its head office is co-located with NZTE in the Majestic Centre, Willis Street, with the former IRL site at Gracefield retained along with its sites in Auckland and Christchurch.

Callaghan Innovation has initiated several work streams to deliver on its mandate to accelerate the commercialisation of innovation across New Zealand firms.

Its new Chief Executive, Dr Mary Quinn, will take up post on 3 May and her early focus will be on stakeholder engagement.

In parallel with a focus on business continuity, Callaghan Innovation has started a comprehensive programme to build a “fit for purpose” organisation, with the right capabilities, the right external relationships and a portfolio of products and services to offer its customers. All of these will inform and be incorporated into its Business Case 2013-2016, which will be submitted to Minister Joyce by 30 June.

The ‘Products & Services Project’ is a work stream that will define, refine and validate the organisation’s service offerings portfolio, which is intended to deliver additional value “over and about what is already being provided” and accelerate the commercialisation of innovation. Callaghan Innovation’s Acting Chief Executive and members of the team leading this project has met with Grow Wellington, with the purpose of ensuring that the two organisations will work jointly on developing the portfolio and align their purposes so that they can work collaboratively. This working relationship is jointly managed by Grow Wellington’s GM Science & Technology and Callaghan Innovation’s Wellington Regional Manager.

A second project, the ‘SET Alignment Project’, will ensure the organisation’s people and capability are structured to create the “best possible value and opportunity”. Initially this will be an internal project with discussions taking place with the organisation’s Science, Engineering and Technology teams, with the option that some discussion be held with external stakeholders as and when appropriate.

The organisation’s Customer Engagement Centre team may be contacted on 0800 4 CALLAGHAN (0800 4 22552) or by email via <http://callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/contact-us>. For the foreseeable future most of the organisation’s staff who have transferred from IRL can be contacted using their previous phone numbers and emails, which will be forwarded to them.

Callaghan Innovation has developed and implemented protocols relating to the grants for which it is the administrator (Technology Development Grants, Project Funding, Capability Funding and Technology Transfer Vouchers). Essentially the protocols have been put in place to ensure business confidentiality and that all applications will be assessed equitably against the same criteria. The protocols may be found at:

<http://www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/about-us/key-documents>

Grow Wellington has had confirmation in writing from Callaghan Innovation that its contract to act as the Regional Business Partner has been renewed for a further year, through to 30 June 2014.

Relevant documents, such as the November 2012 Cabinet paper that led to the establishment of Callaghan Innovation and the Business Case 1 February-30 June 201, may be found at:  
<http://www.msi.govt.nz/update-me/major-projects/callaghan-innovation/>  
<http://www.callaghaninnovation.govt.nz/about-us/key-documents>

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