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Evaluation of public investment R & D - towards A contingency Analysis

Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to examine and categorise the different dimensions of evaluation within the context of public research investment and examine how this is applied in the case of a real evaluation exercise. We begin by a short discussion of context for evaluation followed by a review of the major approaches. This is followed by a discussion of work in progress by the ministry of research, science and technology in New Zealand to assess research in the context of a series of derived top-level goals reflecting the needs and aspiration of society.

Along with taxes, regulations, tariffs, quotas and licenses, public investment represents yet another instrument which governments may apply to secure their policy goals and to manage economic activity. A government invests in R & D in order to realise economic, social environmental