



Professor Ralph Cooney

University of Auckland

Professor Cooney received his degrees including a PhD and DSc from the University of Queensland. Prior to being appointed to the Chair in Physical Chemistry at the University of Auckland in 1986, he held academic positions in Australia and visiting research positions in the USA (U Minnesota and others) and UK (U Southampton and others). At the University of Auckland he has recently held the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor and Head of Tamaki Campus, which is being developed as a knowledge society campus, with research clusters (Health, Materials, Environment and Wine) involving industry and Government laboratories. Tamaki campus currently has 53% postgraduates and has attracted \$150M of external and industry research funding over the past 4 years. He previously held the positions of Dean of Science (1993-2001) and Head of Chemistry (1991-1992) at the University of Auckland.

He has held several Government appointments including Director of Environmental Scientific Research Ltd (1992-1998), NZ Government representative on the Council of the University of the South Pacific, Ministerial Advisor for the national science strategy *RST 2010* and member of the International S&T Advisory Committee. He was founder and Chair of the Universitas 21 Science Deans Meetings. Recently he has chaired the Auckland Metro Innovation Group (Auckland Regional Council) dealing with University, Industry and Government Laboratory research partnerships.

Professor Cooney has research interests in applied materials science, with a current interest in conducting polymers. He was the founder of the Polymer Electronics Research Centre, has published hundreds of research papers, and is a reviewer for many international journals. Over the past 6 years, three research programmes for which he is Science Leader have been awarded \$25M in Government and industry funding.

He was Principal Investigator of a current research programme "Membranes and Micro-pumps" and is Principal Investigator of a current programme "Hybrid Polymers" which involves combinations of commercial polymers, conducting polymers and nano-particles. The Hybrid Plastics project involves partnerships with approximately 100 New Zealand and international companies and has attracted substantial industry co-funding.

He is the Principal Investigator in recently funded The Materials Accelerator which is based on the NZ Manufacturing Materials Network, which involves 9 research centres (>100 researchers) within the University of Auckland and partnerships with seven other research providers (Government laboratories and Universities). The Materials Accelerator will serve the R&D needs of the NZ high technology industry sector which is largely based in Auckland. This programme has interviewed 200 NZ companies about their multi-materials strategies and has established a series of technology platforms with lead companies including Aerospace and Turnkey Construction.

He was also the lead negotiator for the University of Auckland in a proposal to the NZ Government for a national Science & Technology Park (The New Zealand Innovation Centre).