

PREFACE

No other countries in the world share a relationship that is as close and mutually beneficial as that between Australia and New Zealand. It is in many ways a very important partnership. A chance for the committee to participate in the Australia - New Zealand parliamentary committee exchange was therefore most welcome.

The opportunity for the Committee to visit New Zealand came at a time when there were significant issues arising in our bi-lateral trading relationship. The exchange also provided an opportunity to discuss some matters relating to the inquiries being conducted by the Committee. The visit was therefore very timely.

The visit was arranged at short notice and only four Members of the Committee were able to re-arrange their schedules and make time available to travel away. Nevertheless, our discussions in New Zealand and the return visit by the New Zealand Committee on Primary Production were very helpful to the Committee in its routine work and made valuable contributions to maintaining the strength of the Australia - New Zealand relationship.

I would like to thank the Members who were able to make the necessary arrangements to travel to New Zealand. In August the Committee asked these Members to prepare a report of the visit. This report, which was written in response to that direction, reflects the views of those Members and who still serve on the Committee. It does not necessarily represent the views of the other Members who were unable to participate in the visit and who therefore were not in a position to contribute to the report preparation process. The report has however been adopted by the full committee.

I would also like to thank our hosts in New Zealand and all of those across the Tasman who participated in our discussions and who contributed to the success of the visit.

Fran Bailey
Committee Chair