

**AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL
EXCHANGE COUNCIL**

DELEGATION REPORT

**AUSTRALIA TO
NEW ZEALAND**

12 JULY – 21 JULY 2006



AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL EXCHANGE COUNCIL

DELEGATION REPORT

AUSTRALIA TO NEW ZEALAND 2006

DELEGATION

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Chair, Australia–New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group

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Accompanying Officer

Executive Officer

Australian Political Exchange Council



**AUSTRALIAN POLITICAL EXCHANGE
COUNCIL
DELEGATION REPORT
AUSTRALIA TO NEW ZEALAND 2006**

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The Hon Margaret Wilson MP

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Australian Political Exchange Council

Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006

INTRODUCTION

The delegation travelled to New Zealand from 12 July to 21 July 2006 as part of the New Zealand / Australian political exchange programme. The itinerary for the fourth Australian Political Exchange Council (APEC) delegation provided a diverse range of briefings and meetings with Members of Parliament, officials and advisers of business, economic, academic, scientific and financial organisations.

The meetings provided the delegation with an opportunity to explore the importance of the bi-lateral Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CERTA) and the significance of ongoing cooperation in the areas of trade, finance, defence, governance, workforce, sciences and sport. The delegation also had the opportunity to participate in tourist and culturally significant activities and discuss aspects of the Single Economic Market (SEM) and the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum.

Prior to our departure the delegation was provided with briefings by Her Excellency, Mrs Kate Lackey, High Commissioner for New Zealand, which centred on the relationship of our two countries and the New Zealand Parliamentary System. Professor John Halligan, Acting Head of School, Business and Government from the University of Canberra and Mr Andrew McDonald, Executive Officer, New Zealand Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade also briefed the delegation on various aspects of New Zealand in relation to the APEC programme.

The high level of access to various officials in our meetings, the warmth of our welcome, the generosity and kindness of our hosts is indicative of the strength of the ongoing Trans-Tasman relationship. Our reception was greatly appreciated by all members and was instrumental in the success of the fourth APEC delegation to New Zealand.

The delegation would like to express its gratitude to our hosts and all of the New Zealand officials for the generosity of their time, advice and assistance they provided throughout the ten day programme, and would like to thank, in particular, the highly professional efforts of Mr Bob Franklin, Visits Manager of the Visits and Ceremonial Office, Ms Rose Rigarlsford, Private Secretary to Madam Speaker, and the assistance of Ms Ruth Delaney, Visits and Ceremonial Office for their efforts in organising the busy schedule. The delegation would also like to acknowledge Ms Pandora Livanes, who accompanied the delegation as the Australian Political Exchange Council representative and provided invaluable support and advice throughout the visit to New Zealand.

Trish Draper MP
Federal Member for Makin
Australian Delegation Leader
Chairperson, Australia–New Zealand Parliamentary Friendship Group

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Wednesday, 12 July 2006

**New Zealand Institute of Environmental Science and Research
Hampstead Road, Mt Albert**

The delegation was met by Dr Keith Bedford, Forensic Programme Manager and members of staff, Mr Wayne Chasnall, Ms Christine Allan and Ms Jill Unitel, who are working on various programmes from Environmental Health, Forensic Science and Science Information Management Services for Specialist Science Solutions.

ESR (Environmental Science and Research) Ltd was formed in 1992 and is one of nine Crown Research Institutes in New Zealand, which is wholly owned by the New Zealand Government. It has six Directors on the Board, led by the Chairman Mr Ian Wilson, and a senior management team of eight. This management team is currently overseeing a workforce of 408 employees, which in addition to the Mt Albert Science and Research Centre are located at two other Centres in Wellington and Christchurch.

ESR provides wide ranging commercial scientific services from consultancy and analytical services, through to the provision of advanced scientific information systems and specialising in public and environment health and forensic science.

ESR has an existing base of domestic clients, including: the Ministry of Health; the New Zealand Food Safety Authority; the Foundation for Research, Science and Technology; and, the New Zealand Police, but is increasingly expanding its international clientele.

ESR's vision is integral to its work and is outlined as being:

...a leading provider of specialist science solutions contributing to innovation in New Zealand and to the protection of people and their environment in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further to its vision is ESR's values, including: excellence; trust; objectivity; cultural respect and responsiveness; independence; quality; and, a client focussed mentality, which reflects its goals and business approach.

Our visit included a briefing by Ms Christine Allan on Tikanga Maori and Forensic Services. Ms Allan outlined about 13 per cent of New Zealand is self identified as Maori which is why Tikanga Maori (literally translated as Maori customs and practices) is an important scientific aspect of their organisation.

Ms Allan advised that ESR staff faced a number of difficulties at crime scenes because of the contradictions between Tikanga Maori and the obligations of the *Crown Research Institute Act 1992*. These contradictions included Maori beliefs involving dead bodies and, in particular, access to the crime scene and deceased's body by family relatives.

These issues were identified as risk management concerns and a specialist team of ESR staff were selected to review the practices at crime scenes involving a Maori fatality, acknowledging the importance and historic culture, with a view to resolving cultural conflict.

Ms Jill Unitel briefed the delegation on DNA analysis for criminal investigations and data bank samples. Like Australia, the use and prominence of DNA samples in criminal investigations is broadening. Ms Unitel outlined that a new DNA lab was opened in 2002 and explained the process of DNA analysis.

Ms Unitel outlined that DNA samples are taken from ten sites on the body which are strategically chosen because of their uniqueness to each individual. This is their common practice and is seen to produce solid DNA profiling without the complicated and cumbersome need to fully analyse the entire body each time.

The *Criminal Investigations (Blood Samples) Act 1995* provides that a suspect sample is only compared in one case and can be volunteered by a suspect. However, in serious crimes these samples can be compelled by authorities. However, data bank samples are compared in all cases and similarly can be volunteered or compelled if the gravity of the crime warrants such an action. The prescriptive nature of the Act led to its amendment in 2002 to the *Criminal Investigations (Body Samples) Act 2002*.

Ms Unitel advised that in total some 63,000 people samples and 14,000 specific crime samples have been recorded and are cross-checked to solve many crimes in New Zealand. In some instances, this evidence has led to convictions in previously unsolved crimes.

With a 58 per cent success rate, New Zealand's DNA results rate amongst the highest in the world. Ms Unitel attributed this success to the extensive training and the need to be especially careful at crime scenes. In the future, ESR is working on the prospect of future scientific research, enabling them to profile non-human samples, such as soil.

The delegation found the Tikanga Maori information pertaining to the cultural sensitivities of the Maori people and its interplay with scientific and criminal investigations most interesting and found the overall visit to ESR provided an invaluable insight into New Zealand's scientific and investigative capabilities.

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Wednesday, 12 July 2006

**Official Welcoming Dinner at Partington's Restaurant
Hosted by the Hon Chris Carter MP**

The delegation attended the official welcoming dinner hosted by the Hon Chris Carter MP, who briefed the committee on various aspects of his parliamentary and ministerial duties.

The Hon Chris Carter MP is a Member of the Labour Party and is the Member for Te Atatu. Mr Carter was elected in 1993 and in his first term served as Labour's Spokesperson on Ethnic Affairs. Mr Carter was also a Member of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee.

Mr Carter was re-elected in 1999 and from 10 December 1999 to July 2002 served as a Junior Whip. In this same period, Mr Carter was the Deputy Chairperson of the Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Select Committee and was also the Chairperson of the Labour Caucus Immigration Committee.

In August 2002, Mr Carter served as the Minister for Local Government and from December 2004 added the portfolio of Building Issues.

Further to his own Ministerial responsibilities, Mr Carter also briefed the delegation on broader parliamentary matters, providing insightful information on the parliamentary system and social and cultural mores of New Zealand.

The delegation thanked Mr Carter for his generosity and time in hosting the official welcoming dinner.

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Thursday, 13 July 2006

Auckland City Council

Auckland is New Zealand's largest city with approximately 400,000 people living within the city boundary. In the greater Auckland metropolitan area, the population is estimated to be close to 1.25 million and represents about one third of the population of the whole country.

Auckland is built on a narrow isthmus between two harbours and is surrounded by extinct volcanoes and picturesque islands. In total, the city, suburbs and gulf islands cover an area of 637km².

The city is also known as the 'City of Sails' in recognition of the large number of yachts that sail in the harbours and the adjoining Hauraki Gulf.

The delegation was met by Mr John Duthie, General Manager, City Development, His Worship the Mayor Mr Dick Hubbard and Mr Stephen Rainbow, Acting Chief Executive Officer.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer, Mr Stephen Rainbow, spoke about the city's rapid growth and the challenges this growth presents the Council.

The General Manager of City Development, Mr John Duthie, then gave a passionate presentation about the City's desire to progress from being a good city to a great city, outlining that Auckland wanted to be measured by international standards.

Auckland has identified three key characteristics of a great city:

- ease of transportation;
- protection of its treasures, including heritage buildings, urban design, clean ports; and
- building strong communities.

Mr Duthie stated this could only happen if Auckland managed its growth effectively. He cited the fact that 100 people are moving to the city every single day. Therefore, the key challenges facing the city are effective transport networks and financial stewardship.

There was some discussion about similar transport challenges facing the Brisbane City Council and the costs involved in preserving heritage buildings.

His Worship the Mayor, Dick Hubbard, then escorted the delegation for a tour of the Council Chambers.

The delegation appreciated the comprehensive and spirited briefing at the Auckland City Council and acknowledged the efforts of the Council in addressing the challenges facing the city and the Council's plans and direction to overcome these challenges.

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Thursday, 13 July 2006

Auckland Regional Council Offices

The delegation met with Mr Mike Lee, Chairman, Mr Peter Winder, Chief Executive Officer, and Mr Greg Hill, General Manager, Policy and Planning of the Auckland Regional Council.

The role of the Auckland Regional Council (ARC) is to protect the region's air, soil and water resources from pollution in order to ensure the sustainability of these resources as Auckland's population increases. The ARC also has an interest in the region's transport systems, including vital public transport infrastructure.

The ARC aims to ensure that Auckland's regional growth is accommodated in a way that best meets the changing needs of New Zealand's diverse communities. The region's overarching blueprint is laid out in the Regional Growth Strategy which the ARC was instrumentally involved in compiling.

The delegation heard how important it is that Auckland has the plans and actions in place to accommodate its increasing population. The ARC has been created to ensure that as Auckland grows it strives to retain the cultural values and the importance of the environment. The ARC provides a Regional Parks network which contains more than 37,000 hectares of land, ranging from the Mt Smart Stadium to sandy beaches and remote wilderness areas.

The ARC has the legal responsibility to act in the best interests of the region as a whole and in addition to their statutory requirements focus on:

- regional, community and interest groupings;
- those people which the decision is likely to impact on the most.

The ARC also recognises that Maori citizens are a vital part of the regional community and values the cooperation and participation of the various government agencies and territorial authorities.

Mr Mike Lee, the Chairman, welcomed the delegation and gave a brief overview of the demographics of the Auckland region. The ARC serves a bigger population than any other local authority in New Zealand. In addition, Mr Lee highlighted that:

- 1.3 million people live in the Auckland region – around one third of New Zealand's population;
- the region includes 400,000 homes of which 52 per cent have internet access;
- the Auckland region covers around 500,000 hectares with 89 per cent living in the region's urban areas;
- 787,118 people are eligible to vote in the region's local elections (2001);
- Auckland's ethnicity comprises 13 per cent Maori, 14 per cent Pacific Islanders and 14 per cent Asian;

- there are over 114,000 business in the region employing over 580,000 people – of these businesses 85 per cent have five employees or less;
- every day 3,300 overseas visitors enter the Auckland region; and
- 80,000 people live in a household with no car.

Mr Lee went on to explain that the Regional Council is essentially a regulatory and asset holding body. By way of example, he cited:

- the Auckland Regional Transport Authority, therefore the Regional Council was effectively in charge of public transport; and
- the Regional Parks network.

Mr Peter Winder, the Chief Executive Officer, explained that Auckland was growing rapidly and is located on an isthmus. These factors presented some significant infrastructure problems, including a backlog of infrastructure work on:

- energy;
- roads and transport;
- storm water quality; and
- air quality.

Mr Greg Hill, the General Manager Policy and Planning, spoke of the impact of the *Resource Management Act 1991*. The Act amended or repealed a total of 69 pieces of legislation and set up a number of delivery mechanisms. The Act controls the use of land, air and water in an attempt to minimise the environmental effects of human activity. In this regard, the legislation is at times quite controversial.

Proponents of The Act argue that it ensures the sustainable use of resources for the present and for future generations and also recognises the importance of indigenous rights in the mitigation process. Proponents often suggest in this regard that The Act has been cited as a pioneering act in terms of sustainable development.

Critics of The Act argue that the resource management process is a barrier to investment, being unpredictable, expensive, protracted and often subject to undue influence from local lobby groups. The Act has regularly made headlines since its introduction, receiving the blame for the failure of a number of high profile projects.

The delegates were grateful for this thorough and informative briefing and would like to express their appreciation to Mr Lee, Mr Winder and Mr Hill for their time and the comprehensive and frank evaluation of the pressing infrastructure and environmental issues. The delegation was most interested in this information which led to an ensuing discussion with regard to some of the faster growing cities in Australia - in particular, in Queensland where similar issues are prevalent at present.

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Thursday, 13 July 2006

Massey Library & Leisure Centre

At the Massey Library and Leisure Centre, the delegation met the Mayor of Waitakere, His Worship Mr Bob Harvey, and Ms Naomi McCleary, the Arts Project Manager.

Mayor Harvey provided the delegation with a traditional welcome and placed great importance on the Maori partnership. Mayor Harvey was first elected to his position in 1992. In 1998, Mayor Harvey was recognised as the first Mayor of Waitemata / Waitakere in 120 years to be elected for more than two consecutive terms.

Mayor Harvey stressed the importance of the environment and outlined Waitakere's ground-breaking Eco-City concept which was inspired by a similar concept in Rio de Janeiro.

Ms Naomi McCleary briefed the delegation on the significance of art in their community. Ms McCleary outlined that leading artists are often consulted and assist with the design, structure and development of local buildings.

Ms McCleary also outlined that Waitakere has its own development company which has built four libraries in four years and is committed to ensuring developments have a sustainable focus.

The Mayor then led the delegation on a tour of the Massey Library, Corban Bridge, Glen Eden Library and other significant locations around the city.

The delegation was impressed with the positive, enthusiastic and passionate approach of staff and found the artistic approach to Waitakere's local buildings most interesting.

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Auckland Central Police Station

New Zealand Police is the lead agency responsible for reducing crime and enhancing community safety and has engaged the Vision “Safer Communities Together”.

New Zealand Police employs over 10,000 staff, operates on land, sea and air and responds to approximately one million calls on their emergency line – 111.

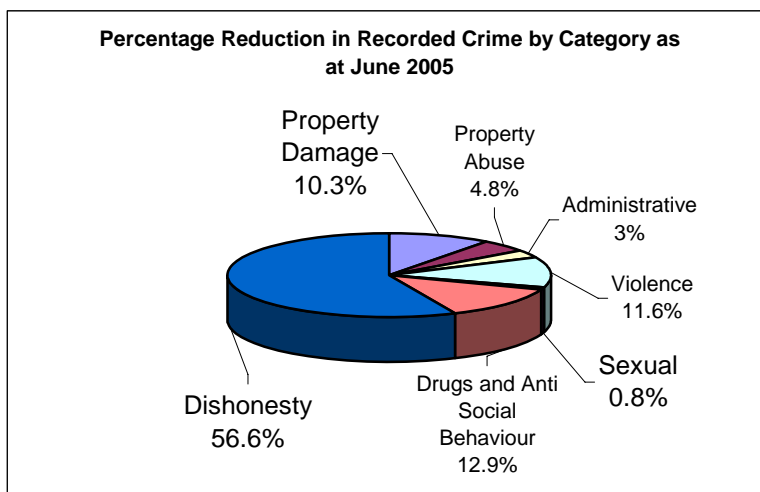
The force operates from 12 districts and has a National Headquarters and service centres and is an example of a de-centralised organisational model.

New Zealand Police’s Mission is:

To serve the community by reducing the incidence and effects of crime, detecting and apprehending offenders, maintaining law and order and enhancing public safety.”

The delegation was informed that since 1995-1996 there has been a 24.4 per cent drop in recorded crime rate per head of population. For the period July 2004 to June 2005:

- recorded crime dropped by 7.1 per cent;
- the resolution rate remained relatively constant at 44.2 per cent; and
- offences recorded by police decreased 8.1 per cent per 10,000 population.



Like most on-the-ground law enforcement agencies, the delegation was impressed at the attitude and professionalism of the officers they met during their visit and were pleased to hear of the public confidence and positive perception of New Zealand Police amongst the community.

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Friday, 14 July 2006

Visit to Naval Marae Ngataringa Bay

The delegation was treated to a wonderful traditional welcoming ceremony in which the delegation was invited to participate and respond by singing two songs - the *Australian National Anthem* and *Waltzing Matilda*.

This was a significant ceremony and the Delegation Leader responded on behalf of the delegation by thanking everyone involved in the traditional meeting.

The Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) is represented by *Te Taua Moana Marae O Aotearoa and Nga Hau E Wha* (the people of the four winds). The mission of the Marae is to preserve, promote, protect and enhance the identity, integrity, interests and well-being of Maoridom within the RNZN.

The Naval Marae in Ngataringa Bay was established in 1990 and has become a symbol of a promise to build a Marae and signifies the commitment of the RNZN to recognise Maori culture.

The delegation was provided with morning tea in which Marae legends were shared. One such story provided an explanation of the naming of Ngataringa Bay which was originally named Ngau Te Ringa Ringa (literally meaning: the bitten hand) and relates to a legend of the Chief (Rangatira) who was bitten by his grandson (mokopuna) after being frightened by a flying fish landing in their vessel. The name was given to the area because of the sacred spilling of the Chief's blood. However, the present name Ngataringa (literally meaning the ears) has evolved since then.

The delegation very much appreciated the opportunity to participate in such a culturally significant ceremony and was grateful to the officers of the Naval Marae at Ngataringa Bay for sharing their welcoming ceremony.

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Friday, 14 July 2006

Devonport Naval Base

The delegation visited the Devonport Naval Base and was welcomed by the Deputy Chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN), Commodore Tony Parr MVO, who outlined the RNZN vision which is to be the best small nation navy in the world. Commodore Parr outlined that there were three focuses in reaching this vision that encompasses striving for organisational and operational excellence and the best training scheme.

The delegation was informed that the RNZN comprises 1557 non-commissioned staff, 460 officers and 389 civilians in which 22 per cent are Maori and 22 per cent are female. The RNZN last year operated on a budget of \$440 million.

The RNZN operates in five zones including New Zealand, Australia, South Pacific, South East Asia and the rest of the world. To accommodate these regions, the RNZN hopes to have seven new ships operational in the next year, four of which will be targeted offshore vessels, two of which will be for inshore use and a multi-operational vessel to ensure versatility.

Lieutenant Commander Karl Woodhead briefed the delegation on the RNZN's core values and naval excellence, which are outlined below:

Courage – To be brave enough to do what one believes to be right.

- Challenging others to do the right thing.
- Accepting responsibility for what needs to be done.
- Being accountable for my actions.
- Accepting and providing honest feedback.
- Doing the job despite adverse hostilities.

Commitment – The state of being involved in an obligation (or pledge).

- Setting challenging goals and taking steps to achieve them.
- Contributing to individual, team and organisational improvement.
- Promoting the Navy in a positive way.
- Meeting the needs of my customers and my team.
- Carrying out my duties, including difficult or unpleasant ones, to the best of my ability.
- Working in partnership with the Navy of our mutual benefit.

Comradeship – Companionship with those who share one’s activities.

- Helping everyone get a fair go.
- Respecting different ideas, feelings and perspectives.
- Encouraging, supporting and helping all in the Navy family and in the wider community.
- Sharing my knowledge and skills.
- Supporting Navy social, sporting and cultural activities.

The delegation would like to thank the RNZN for their interesting and informative briefing in relation to the Naval operational practices.

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Friday, 14 July 2006

Dinner at Crowne Plaza Hotel's "360" Restaurant

The delegation travelled to Queenstown and was invited to dinner at the renowned "360" Restaurant which not only was an excellent opportunity to sample the exquisite New Zealand cuisine on offer, but also to meet with Mr David Kennedy, the Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Queenstown.

The delegation was also joined by Mr Brett Wilson, General Manager of the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

Discussion centred on the importance of tourism and the need to expand New Zealand's already existing reputation to one of the world's most picturesque and pleasant holiday destinations.

Originally Queenstown was a goldmining camp in the 1860s. 140 years later, Queenstown has a compact and sophisticated downtown area tucked into a picturesque bay on the shores of Lake Wakatipu. Queenstown is renowned for its breathtaking scenery and picturesque views - especially of the mountains, majestic lakes, crystal clear air - and has something for every traveller from the most extreme high-adrenaline activities like bungy jumping and jet boating to relaxing wine tours.

The delegation would like to thank Mr Kennedy for his time and enthusiasm for New Zealand tourism. The delegation would also like to acknowledge the impressive service, polite manner and helpful attitude of both Mr Wilson and his team at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, Queenstown.

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Sunday, 16 July 2006

Meeting with Mr Craig Hutchinson, Progressive Party Official

The delegation arrived in Christchurch and met with Mr Craig Hutchinson, Progressive Party Official and 2006 Alumni member, discussing Progressive Party beliefs, electoral platforms and undertakings of its leader, the Hon Jim Anderton MP.

The Progressive Party was formed in 2002 from part of the former Alliance Party and has been successful in government with New Zealand's Labour Party since that time.

The Progressive Party aims to:

- achieve economic and social justice by creating a progressive partnership economy with economic and social policy based on full employment, universal access to health care and education, environmental sustainability and the public ownership of New Zealand's strategic assets; and
- continue to foster a partnership between Maori and other New Zealanders that is based on developing Maori economic base through policies of regional and economic development and the unique nature of the foundation of New Zealand's society.

The Hon Jim Anderton MP is the Member for Wigram and is the Leader of the Progressive Party. In addition, he is also the Minister for Agriculture, Biosecurity, Fisheries, Forestry, and Minister Responsible for Public Trust, and is an Associate Minister for Health and Tertiary Education.

The Progressive Party lists one of its most important achievements to be the Government's agreement to introduce four weeks leave from 1 April 2007 by implementing the Progressive Party Deputy Leader, Matt Robson's *Four Weeks Leave* Bill.

The Progressive Party would also like to cut company tax to 30 per cent (like Australia) and increase the legal drinking limit to the age of 20. The delegation was thankful for the interesting and informative briefing by Mr Hutchinson in relation to the Progressive Party, the New Zealand Parliament and Government.

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Monday, 17 July 2006

Visit to Canterbury Development Corporation

The Canterbury Development Corporation Ltd (CDC) is the economic and development services arm of the Christchurch City Council and serves the entire Canterbury region.

The Canterbury Region in the South Island of New Zealand comprises 11 local authorities. Canterbury has a population of nearly 500,000 people and represents about 14 per cent of New Zealand's economic activity.

More than 65 per cent of Canterbury's residents live in Christchurch, New Zealand's oldest and second largest city.

Its outward economic outlook has determined its commitment to exporting local manufacturing products which is well supported by research institutions and high quality education industries such as: the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, Christchurch College of Education, Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology, University of Otago and the Christchurch School of Medicine and Health Sciences.

This strength in research and development and focus on life-long learning has helped the Canterbury region become a leader in software development and biotechnology. The region has also become one of the most anticipated tourist destinations with Christchurch viewed as an international gateway to the Antarctic.

The delegation met with Mr Larry Podmore, a Science and Technology Adviser of CDC, who informed the delegation that the aim of the CDC is to make Christchurch attractive to global business and outlined the close working relationship with the Mayor of Brisbane, Lord Mayor Campbell Newman, and the developing relationships with the Tasmanian, Victorian and South Australian State Governments.

Mr Podmore further explained the need to build ongoing and lasting economic relationships with Australia and abroad. The delegation found Mr Podmore's presentation interesting and informative and are thankful for the opportunity to have met with him.

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Monday, 17 July 2006

Visit to Canterbury Community Law Centre

Community law centres are non-profit organisations that work to reduce and remove barriers to the law. The Canterbury Community Law Centre provides quality assistance and free legal help to people in Canterbury who are facing barriers in accessing mainstream legal remedies.

The Canterbury Community Law Centre provides several initiatives and services, including: general legal advice; employment advice; voluntary sector service; resource management service; advice for older and younger people; legal education; and, law reform to name a few.

The delegation met with Mr Kevin Campbell who is the Supervising Solicitor and a former List Member of Parliament for the Alliance Party. Mr Campbell was elected in 1999, but decided to retire from politics after the split of the Alliance Party in the formation of the new Progressive Party.

Mr Campbell outlined that community law centres have been defined in legislation since 2000 and are organisations whose primary function is to provide legal services to communities with an unmet need and to individuals who cannot afford representation.

The Canterbury Community Law Centre operates within the same framework, but below other legal aid schemes and has four primary functions, including: giving advice and providing representation; providing legal information; education; and, law reform.

New Zealand has 28 community law centres and has close ties with university students, including the law faculty at Canterbury University. These students are assisted and supported by 70 to 80 solicitors, who volunteer their time.

The Centres receive partial funding from the special fund, which receives regular deposits from the interest earned on trust funds and other accounts belonging to professional solicitors. This special fund was estimated to be worth approximately \$200 million two years ago.

In 2005, there were 8,000 clients that made use of the services provided by the Centres.

The delegation would like to thank Mr Campbell for his time and assistance at the Canterbury Community Law Centre.

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Monday, 17 July 2006

**Official Dinner and Meeting with His Excellency Mr John Dauth,
Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand**

The delegation was honoured that the Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Dauth was able to meet with the delegation as part of its visit to New Zealand.

Mr Dauth has served in a number of positions overseas, including: as High Commissioner to Malaysia (1993-1996), Australian Consulate-General, Noumea (1986-87), Charge d'Affaires, Australian Embassy, Tehran (1983-85), First Secretary, Australian Embassy, Islamabad (1974-76) and Third (Later Second) Secretary, Australian Embassy, Lagos (1970-72).

From 1977-1980, His Excellency Mr Dauth worked on secondment to Buckingham Palace as Assistant Press Secretary to the Queen and Press Secretary to the Prince of Wales.

Mr Dauth has also held a number of positions in Canberra, including First Assistant Secretary, South and South-East Asia Division (1996-98), First Assistant Secretary, International Security Division (1991-1993), Chief of Staff to the Minister for Foreign Affairs (1989-1991), Assistant Secretary, Public Affairs Branch (1987-89), and Head, Commonwealth and Multilateral Organisations Section (1980-82). He joined the then Department of External Affairs in 1969.

During the official dinner, His Excellency discussed various aspects of the New Zealand Parliamentary system and drew a number of comparisons with Australia. His Excellency also reiterated the strength and warm relationship shared between our two countries.

One of the historical and long lasting aspects of our relationship, His Excellency discussed, is the friendly sporting rivalry that exists between Australia and New Zealand. This rivalry was demonstrated on several occasions during our visit when polite references to the success of the All Blacks in the 2006 Bledisloe Cup were able to be politely deflected by the recent success of Australia in the Sheep Dog Trials.

The delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to the High Commissioner, His Excellency Mr John Dauth, for his generosity, hospitality and for sharing his passion of New Zealand with the delegation.

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Monday, 17 July 2006

HIT Lab NZ, Canterbury University, Christchurch

The delegation visited the Human Interface Technology Laboratory New Zealand also known as (HIT Lab NZ) and was greeted by the General Manager of HIT Lab NZ, Mr Richard Bishop.

Hit Lab NZ currently comprises 40 staff and students at the University's site. Hit Lab NZ was created to be a multi-disciplinary research and educational facility that is involved with developing innovative and collaborative endeavours with New Zealand industry.

A key goal of HIT Lab NZ is to expedite economic development through the introduction of state of the art interface technology with industry and all of the 40 staff and students at the Canterbury University site are working hard to achieve this goal.

Students that are currently working with HIT Lab NZ are from a variety of disciplines, including: computer science; electrical engineering; fine arts; and, multimedia and industrial design amongst others.

HIT Lab NZ's research is in three key collaborative, overlapping areas which comprise of: Augmented Reality; Perceptual User Interfaces; and, Tangible User Interfaces. HIT Lab NZ currently works in association with the Australasian Centre for Interactive Design which involves 20 companies and six universities, including the Australian Maritime College and the Menzies Institute.

There are also current plans which would see another HIT Lab research facility being established in Tasmania as early as January 2007.

The delegation was treated to a variety of technology displays, videos involving HIT Lab technology and a demonstration of augmented reality markers which supply a 3D model in real time. The delegation was also given an insight into future projects of Hit Lab NZ.

The delegation was impressed at the commitment to technology and the arts experienced at Hit Lab NZ and would like to thank all the staff, in particular Mr Richard Bishop and the students, for their time in presenting their work and research assignments.

Australian Political Exchange Council Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006

Monday, 17 July 2006

Visit to Lincoln University

The delegation visited Lincoln University and met with Dr Chris Kirk, Acting Vice Chancellor of Lincoln University, Professor Caroline Saunders and Dr Jon Hickford.

Lincoln University is one of eight government owned universities in New Zealand and was opened in 1878 as a School of Agriculture. The 58Ha campus to this day continues its strong agricultural focus and has four major divisions, including: Agriculture and Life Science; Biological Protection and Ecology; Environment, Society and Design; and, Commerce.

Lincoln University caters for 4,000 students - over 100 of which are studying for a Post Graduate Degree - and has over 100 staff.

Lincoln University's vision and mission is outlined in its 2004–2009 Charter:

Vision

The vision of Lincoln University is to provide the national and international leadership in research and teaching that will contribute to ensuring a sustainable environment, social and economic future for New Zealand.

The mission and goals of the University provide the platform for the achievement of the vision through improving the social economic and environmental fabric of New Zealand, and the well-being of its people and those in its wider sphere of activity.

Mission

To achieve its vision, Lincoln University will:

- provide an innovative and challenging learning environment that is focused on enabling its students to achieve their potential;
- contribute to the creation of sustainable environment, social and economic outcomes through education and research that expands knowledge and understanding of the science and management of natural resources;
- work with its communities in New Zealand and beyond to address national and international issues by maintaining, strengthening and integrating its core competencies in commerce, physical, biological and social sciences; and
- recognise and provide for the Treaty of Waitangi / *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* and the status of *Tangata Whenua*.

The University is fortunate enough to house the South Island Dairying Development Centre which was opened in 2001. The Centre allows the University to contribute to the dairy industry, New Zealand's second largest industry. University students are currently researching how the industry can be more water resourceful and is investigating ways of reducing water run-off.

The delegation would like to express its gratitude to Dr Kirk, Professor Saunders and Dr Hickford for their time and assistance with the visit to Lincoln University. The delegates were most interested in the University's work on water management and salinity programmes and will be following up with the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, who has special responsibilities in water conservation, upon returning to Australia.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Monday, 17 July 2006

International Antarctic Centre

The delegates visited the International Antarctic Centre where they were welcomed by the Visitor Liaison Officer, Mr Lindsay McKerrow. After a brief outline of the Centre, the delegation met with the Director of the Centre, Mr Richard Benton, who informed the delegation of the importance of the Centre.

The International Antarctic Centre opened on 28 September 1990. The Centre, developed by Christchurch International Airport Limited, was established to support Antarctic scientific programmes. Its architecture was inspired by the icebergs, ice shelves and glaciers of the Antarctic.

The Centre is home to the New Zealand, United States and Italian Antarctic Programmes and comprises administration offices, warehousing, a United States and New Zealand clothing store, a post office and travel agency, the Antarctic Passenger Terminal and of course the Visitor Centre, now known as The Antarctic Attraction.

The Centre also currently features educational programmes which cater for all year levels. The educational programme is designed to get students involved in fun and interactive learning activities which help to establish an awareness of the Antarctic natural environment, the eco-system and how to think globally, but act locally.

The delegation was grateful to be able to participate in this experience and would like to express their appreciation to Mr Lindsay McKerrow and Mr Richard Benton for their interesting and informative presentation.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Meeting with the Hon Jim Sutton MP, Minister for Trade Negotiations

The delegation had the opportunity to meet with the Hon Jim Sutton MP, Minister for Trade and Negotiations, who recently announced his pending retirement from politics. The delegation members discussed the current status of the Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (CERTA).

The CERTA is a series of agreements and arrangements that began with the entry into force on 1 January 1983 of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCERTA).

Formal meetings regarding the CERTA have occurred between the Prime Ministers of both countries, annually, since 1996 and Foreign Ministers have met every six months since 1989 to ensure that the CERTA remains a dynamic agreement which can continuously adapt to the changing requirements of business in an increasingly independent world.

Due to Australia's strong relationships regarding the CERTA with New Zealand, the World Trade Organisation has described the CERTA as being the world's most comprehensive, effective and mutually compatible free trade agreement.

The delegation would like to thank the Minister for his time and was grateful for the opportunity to meet with the Minister prior to his retirement from politics.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Meeting with the Hon Margaret Wilson MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives

The delegation was greatly honoured to meet with the Hon Margaret Wilson MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker outlined the formation of the Parliament and spoke on her primary roles in the New Zealand House of Representatives which gave delegates first hand knowledge of the Parliament at work.

Madam Speaker informed the delegation that there are eight political parties represented in the 48th Parliament of New Zealand which consists of 121 members of Parliament. These include 62 general electorate members, seven members representing Māori electorates, and 52 members selected from party lists.

Madam Speaker was first elected to Parliament in 1999, as a Labour Party List parliamentarian and was immediately appointed to Cabinet. In addition to being the first female Speaker of the House of Representatives, Madam Speaker's current roles include: Chairperson of the Parliamentary Service Commission; the Business Committee; the Officers of Parliament Committee; and, the Standing Orders Committee.

Madam Speaker has held a number of previous portfolio's including Minister for Labour, Attorney General, Associate Minister for Justice, Minister Responsible for the Law Commission, Associate Minister for State Services and Minister for Courts, reflecting her knowledge and experience within the legal profession in which Madam Speaker holds a Law Degree with Honours from the University of Auckland.

The Speaker presides over the House of Representatives. It is the Speaker's role to apply the rules of the House (Standing Orders) and oversee procedures and the day-to-day operation of the House. The Speaker also:

- represents the House to the Sovereign and the Governor-General;
- chairs the meetings of the House;
- makes rulings on points of procedure;
- chairs three select committees;
- acts as landlord for Parliament's buildings; and
- represents the House to other Parliaments and organisations.

The delegation would like to express its sincere appreciation for Madam Speaker's time and her gracious hospitality in hosting morning tea and a dinner at Parliament House in honour of the delegation.

Australian Political Exchange Council Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Meeting with the Clerk of the House Mr David McGee

After meeting with the Speaker, the delegation had the opportunity to meet with Mr David McGee, the Clerk of the House of Representatives. The delegation found the Clerk's presentation most interesting and was a great opportunity to compare the New Zealand law making process with Australia.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives is the principal permanent officer of the House of Representatives. The Clerk is appointed by the Governor-General as an expert in parliamentary law and procedure.

The Clerk:

- advises the Speaker and members on the rules, practices, and customs of the House;
- records the proceedings and decisions of the House;
- certifies bills ready for Royal assent;
- issues the Order Paper (order of business) for each sitting day;
- administers the oath or affirmation of allegiance for members of Parliament after a general election; and
- is chief executive of the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, which provides a secretariat for the House and its committees.

Mr McGee outlined the legal and parliamentary process for law making in New Zealand, which is quite similar to the Australian parliamentary system, apart from the absence of the Upper House, the existence of a Bill of Rights and the Select Committee stage, which is not as common as it is in the New Zealand system. Law making comprises an:

Introduction

A bill is publicly available after its introduction. A bill has no formal existence until it is introduced.

First Reading

A first reading debate provides the first chance to debate a bill in the House. It can occur no sooner than the third sitting day after a bill's introduction. This delay allows parliamentarians time to look at a bill and decide if they agree or disagree with its essence. It also allows the Attorney-General time to make sure that a bill is consistent with the *New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990*. At the end of the debate, the House of Representative decides if a bill should progress and votes on whether it should be 'read a first time'. If a bill is defeated in the vote, that is the end of the bill. If the 'first reading' is agreed, the bill is usually referred to a select committee to be considered in more detail.

Select Committee

Once a bill is referred to a select committee, the committee usually has six months to examine the bill and prepare a report for the House. Select committees normally invite public submissions on a bill and hold public hearings to listen to some of those who made submissions. After hearing submissions they work through the issues raised and decide what changes, if any, should be made to the bill.

The select committee's report contains: a reprint of the bill with recommended amendments and a commentary in which the committee explains its recommended changes and the issues it has considered.

Second Reading

A bill can be 'read a second time' no sooner than the third sitting day after the select committee has reported to the House. The second reading gives members the opportunity to debate the main principles of a bill and any changes recommended by the select committee in its report. If the vote is lost, that is the end of the bill. If the second reading is agreed, the bill is ready for debate by a committee of the whole House.

Committee of the Whole House

Any member of the House can participate when a committee of the whole House debates a bill. The members sit in the Chamber, but the Speaker does not take the chair. The debate is less formal than other debates, but is no less important. Members have many chances to make short speeches and debate the provisions of a bill. These debates are a chance to examine the bill in detail and ministers and members can propose changes. These changes may be published before the debate in a supplementary order paper (SOP).

There is no time limit in the Committee of the whole House debates and large or controversial bills may be before a committee of the whole House for several days. Once the final form of a bill is agreed, it is reprinted to show any changes that have been made. The bill is then ready for the third reading.

Third Reading

This is usually a summing-up debate on a bill in its final form. The vote at the end of the debate is the final vote in the House to either pass the bill or reject it. Bills are rarely rejected at this stage because of the transition within the processes outlined above. If the bill is passed, there is one final step before it becomes law — Royal assent.

Royal Assent

A bill is not a law until it is signed by the Sovereign or the Sovereign's representative in New Zealand, the Governor-General. This is called the Royal assent.

The delegation thanked Mr McGee for taking time out of his busy schedule to brief the members on the New Zealand parliamentary process.

Australian Political Exchange Council Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Visit to the Chief Electoral Office

The Chief Electoral Office (CEO) conducts general elections, by-elections and referenda. In a general election year, the CEO employs Returning Officers for the 69 electorates and provides information to voters, candidates and parties relating to electoral events. After the vote, the CEO receives returns of donations and election expenses from parliamentary candidates.

The CEO differs from the Electoral Commission which registers political parties and party logos. The Commission allocates election broadcasting time and funds to eligible political parties and encourages and conducts public education about electoral matters. It also receives registered parties' annual returns of donations and returns of election expenses.

The delegation met with Mr Robert Peden, the Chief Electoral Officer, and had a most interesting briefing on New Zealand's electoral system.

New Zealand's House of Representatives is elected using the mixed member proportional representation (MMP) voting system. Each elector has two votes — one for a local member of Parliament and one for a preferred political party, but it is not compulsory to vote for both. Political parties are represented in Parliament in proportion to the share of votes each party won in the party vote in the general election.

During an election, voters can enrol anytime prior to voting day and can vote at any polling place in New Zealand. Similarly to Australia, House of Representative seats are determined by population, which is determined by the Electoral Act. Currently there is approximately 54,000 people to an electorate. Unlike in Australia, there is no ballot draw, instead candidates are listed alphabetically.

To be a political party in New Zealand, a party must have 500 financial members which differs from Australia where party status is based on representation within the Parliament.

Political parties or candidates are forbidden to campaign on election day and How to Vote Cards have to cease being distributed on the Tuesday before the election day. Another difference is the fact that ballot papers can be faxed and political parties have monetary limits on how much they can spend on campaigning, both centrally and for each candidate.

In the 2005 poll, it is estimated that 20 per cent of voters split their votes, voting for a lower house member of Parliament of one political persuasion and voting for a different party with their second vote. Votes, in which the voter identifies themselves, are not held to be informal which probably helps to explain why only 0.46 per cent of votes at the last election were held to be invalid.

Mr Peden explained that he believed the mixed member proportional (MMP) system to be more representative, highlighting:

Candidates	1993 Representation	2005 Representation
Women	21	39
Maori	7	21
Pacific Islander	1	3
Asian	0	2

The delegation appreciated Mr Peden's presentation and found it most interesting, especially as it gave members of the delegation, who are involved in local, state and federal electoral systems, the opportunity to compare MMP and the other election laws and protocols with Australian practices.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Tuesday, 18 July 2006

Meeting with the Hon Annette King MP, Minister of Police

The delegation met with the Hon Annette King MP, Member for Rongotai, who in addition to being the Minister of Police also holds various other portfolios, including:

- Minister of State Services;
- Minister of Transport; and
- Minister for Food Safety.

The Minister has held a number of other parliamentary positions since being elected as the Member for Horowhenua in 1984, including:

- Minister of Employment;
- Minister of Youth Affairs;
- Minister of Immigration; and
- Minister for Racing.

However, most significantly, Ms King was predominantly Minister of Health from December 1999 to October 2005.

The Minister outlined briefly that she has worked closely with the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing on therapeutic negotiations.

Prior to entering Parliament, the Minister earned an Arts Degree and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Dental Nursing and was a Former Vice President, State Dental Nurses Institute.

The delegation was most grateful for the Minister's time and was interested by the Minister's presentation on relevant portfolio matters, especially the challenges confronting police within the community. This presentation was most relevant given the delegation's previous visit to the Auckland Central Police Station on Thursday, 13 July 2006.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

Visit to the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research

The delegates visited the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) where they were greeted by the Director of the Institute, Mr Brent Layton, who discussed a range of economic issues confronting the New Zealand economy.

The NZIER institute was formed in 1958 as a result of a government decision to educate the public on financial and economic matters. The NZIER is funded by the public sector and is based in Wellington.

NZIER employs one of the largest teams of economists in New Zealand outside of government. NZIER undertakes a wide range of consulting activities for clients in the public and private sectors and has clients throughout New Zealand and Australia, as well as globally.

NZIER undertakes and publishes research in the national interest and aims to encourage debate on economic issues affecting New Zealand. However, it is important to note that NZIER are independent of government and conduct their work on an impartial and non-ideological basis.

Mr Layton then took the delegates through a series of economic indicators, including:

- growth – Mr Layton outlined that New Zealand's growth indicators were strong and, similarly to Australia's, were slowing down after an unusually high period of sustained economic performance in 2000;
- real wages - Mr Layton also outlined that real wages were on the rise; and
- residential investment was experiencing a boom.

Mr Layton indicated that although the New Zealand economy was strong, he attributed part of the success to New Zealand's migration initiatives and further explained the paramount importance of maintaining strong economic growth.

The delegation was most interested in Mr Layton's report on the economic and financial indicators in New Zealand and would like to thank him for his time and comparative report between our two countries.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

Visit to the Waitangi Tribunal

The delegation met with Mr Darrin Sykes, Director of the Tribunal. Dr Barry Rigby, Researcher / Historian, Ms Emma Kerslake, an employee of the Australian High Commission, and Ms Emma Donna-Jackman were also present.

Mr Sykes gave a brief history of the Tribunal outlining its establishment in 1975 as a result of the *Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975* (the Act).

The Tribunal is New Zealand's only permanent Commission of Inquiry. Its role is set out in the Act and includes inquiring into and making recommendations upon any claim properly submitted to the Tribunal, examining and reporting on any proposed legislation referred to the Tribunal by the House of Representatives or a Minister of the Crown, and making recommendations or determinations in respect of certain Crown forest land, railways land, state-owned enterprise land, and land transferred to educational institutions.

The Tribunal comprises up to 16 members, who are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the Minister of Maori Affairs, for their expertise in the matters that are likely to come before them. The chairperson of the Tribunal is either a judge or a retired judge of the High Court or the chief judge of the Maori Land Court, and its deputy chairperson, is a judge of the Maori Land Court. Approximately half the members are Maori and half are Pakeha.

The Tribunal makes recommendations on claims brought by Maori which allege that policies, acts or omissions of the Crown breach the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi. The Tribunal's Vision is that having reconciled themselves with the past and possessing a full understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi, Maori and non-Maori New Zealanders will be equipped to create a future for two peoples as one nation.

An English version of the Treaty is appended overleaf¹.

The delegation was most interested in the Treaty of Waitangi and the work and role of the Waitangi Tribunal, drawing parallels with Australia's indigenous heritage and the status of Native Title in Australia.

The delegation would like to thank the Tribunal, its staff and, in particular, Mr Darrin Sykes, Dr Barry Rigby, Ms Emma Kerslake and Ms Emma Donna-Jackman for providing such an interesting presentation.

¹ The Treaty of Waitangi (English version) cited at: <http://treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz/treaty/index.php>

PREAMBLE

HER MAJESTY VICTORIA Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland regarding with Her Royal Favour the Native Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and anxious to protect their just Rights and Property and to secure to them the enjoyment of Peace and Good Order has deemed it necessary in consequence of the great number of Her Majesty's Subjects who have already settled in New Zealand and the rapid extension of Emigration both from Europe and Australia which is still in progress to constitute and appoint a functionary properly authorised to treat with the Aborigines of New Zealand for the recognition of Her Majesty's Sovereign authority over the whole or any part of those islands - Her Majesty therefore being desirous to establish a settled form of Civil Government with a view to avert the evil consequences which must result from the absence of the necessary Laws and Institutions alike to the native population and to Her subjects has been graciously pleased to empower and to authorise me William Hobson a Captain in Her Majesty's Royal Navy Consul and Lieutenant-Governor of such parts of New Zealand as may be or hereafter shall be ceded to her Majesty to invite the confederated and independent Chiefs of New Zealand to concur in the following Articles and Conditions.

ARTICLE THE FIRST

The Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand and the separate and independent Chiefs who have not become members of the Confederation cede to Her Majesty the Queen of England absolutely and without reservation all the rights and powers of Sovereignty which the said Confederation or Individual Chiefs respectively exercise or possess, or may be supposed to exercise or to possess over their respective Territories as the sole sovereigns thereof.

ARTICLE THE SECOND

Her Majesty the Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealand and to the respective families and individuals thereof the full exclusive and undisturbed possession of their Lands and Estates Forests Fisheries and other properties which they may collectively or individually possess so long as it is their wish and desire to retain the same in their possession; but the Chiefs of the United Tribes and the individual Chiefs yield to Her Majesty the exclusive right of Pre-emption over such lands as the proprietors thereof may be disposed to alienate at such prices as may be agreed upon between the respective Proprietors and persons appointed by Her Majesty to treat with them in that behalf.

ARTICLE THE THIRD

In consideration thereof Her Majesty the Queen of England extends to the Natives of New Zealand Her royal protection and imparts to them all the Rights and Privileges of British Subjects.

***(signed)* William Hobson, Lieutenant Governor.**

Now therefore We the Chiefs of the Confederation of the United Tribes of New Zealand being assembled in Congress at Victoria in Waitangi and We the Separate and Independent Chiefs of New Zealand claiming authority over the Tribes and Territories which are specified after our respective names, having been made fully to understand the Provisions of the foregoing Treaty, accept and enter into the same in the full spirit and meaning thereof in witness of which we have attached our signatures or marks at the places and the dates respectively specified. Done at Waitangi this Sixth day of February in the year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

**Meeting with the Hon Shane Jones MP,
Chairman of the Waitangi Fisheries Commission**

The delegation had the opportunity to meet with one of the parties newest Members of Parliament, Mr Shane Jones MP, a new party List member, who gave the delegation a briefing on the creation of the Waitangi Fisheries Commission.

Mr Jones is currently a Member of the Commerce Committee and Chairperson of the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

In the 1970s open access to fisheries resources and emphasis on increasing commercial harvesting led to a situation where the stocks of fish and the return to fisheries were declining rapidly. This alarming situation was addressed by the introduction of the Quota Management System in 1986.

It is partly due to the Quota Management System that the fisheries industry in New Zealand is their country's fourth leading export to the rest of the world. The fishing industry produces about 750,000 tonnes of harvested seafood annually which amounts to an economic value of about \$1.2 billion. The major export markets include: Japan at 16 per cent; other Asian countries at 27 per cent; the European Union at 18 per cent; the United States at 17 per cent; and, Australia at 12 per cent.

Currently the largest contributor to the aquaculture industry is the Green Shell Muscle which is now the second largest seafood export by species and value. Other important exports include: the King Salmon \$39 million and Pacific Oyster \$13.2 million. This has meant that the aquaculture industry has grown from \$68 million in 1991, to a peak at \$241 million into the New Zealand economy in 2002.

The delegation would like to thank Mr Jones for his interesting presentation which gave the delegation a practical example of one of New Zealand's fishing industries and the importance of this primary industry to the export market, especially the trading relationship with Australia.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Wednesday, 19 July 2006

Parliamentary Reception for the All Blacks Rugby Team

The delegation was honoured to attend the Parliamentary Reception for the All Blacks rugby union team who were successful in the 2006 Bledisloe Cup.

This famous and very large silver cup was first contested in 1931 when the then Governor-General of New Zealand, Lord Bledisloe, presented the Cup as a perpetual Rugby trophy and a token of goodwill between Australia and New Zealand.

Since then it has been variously contested as a single Test match or as a two or three Test match series. With the establishment of the Tri Nation Series in 1995, it became a fixed two match series played on a home and away basis.

The Tri Nations Cup was first contested in 1996 when South Africa, New Zealand and Australia formed SANZAR and pitched the Wallabies, All Blacks and Springboks against each other in the world's premier rugby competition. In 2006, it was expanded back to a three match series, as part of an expanded Tri Nations series.

New Zealand has retained the Bledisloe Cup 37 times and Australia has won the Tri Nations series 12 times on what is heralded as one of the competitive tri nation series in the world sporting arena.

The Prime Minister of New Zealand, the Hon Helen Clark MP, spoke about the importance of the All Blacks and other sporting teams to New Zealand's identity and acknowledged the Bledisloe Cup's significant role in the development of the Trans-Tasman rivalry which exists between New Zealand and Australia.

The delegation was also pleased to be able to meet members of the New Zealand All Black team and would like to wish them luck for their future tournaments and the 2007 Bledisloe Cup.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

Thursday, 20 July 2006

Attendance at the Matariki Maori Cultural Performance and Hangi Dinner

The delegation had the wonderful opportunity to view and participate in a variety of culturally significant performances and was privileged to be invited to join in with and taste a traditional Hangi Dinner.

The traditional Hangi Dinner provided members of the delegation with a further opportunity to learn about the Marae legends and taste traditional New Zealand cuisine.

Hangi is a Maori method of cooking which has been handed down from generation to generation and actually refers to the method of cooking in the ground with hot stones.

When a visitor is asked to a Hangi Dinner, the visitor is actually being invited to a feast of Maori food cooked in this underground oven. The delegation was able to experience various types of meats and vegetables cooked in this traditional manner. The meal was delicious and the distinct taste was another example of traditional New Zealand cuisine.

The delegation appreciated the significance of the Hangi Dinner and would like to sincerely thank all of the performers who took part in the ceremony and entertained us with their culturally significant performance.

Once again, the delegation would also like to acknowledge Mr Bob Fanklin and staff of the Visits and Ceremonial Office for their assistance, time and effort, which contributed to the success of the delegation's visit to New Zealand.

**Australian Political Exchange Council
Delegation Report: Australia to New Zealand 2006**

CONCLUSION

The fourth Australian Political Exchange Council delegation to New Zealand was a resounding success, providing the eight delegates with an understanding of the importance of our ongoing Trans-Tasman relationship.

The delegates appreciated the diverse range of meetings, briefings, visits and events throughout the visit. It was an honour to experience the culturally significant ceremonies and events which were vital in developing an understanding of New Zealand and its people.

Several institutions expressed the desire to create sister-city relationships with their counterparts in Australia which Mrs Trish Draper MP, the Delegation Leader, has undertaken to assist with at the end of the academic year.

Mrs Draper has also had preliminary discussions with the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, the Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, regarding a possible visit to Lincoln University in relation to their water salinity programmes.

This exchange has ensured that delegates have an understanding of the complex relationship between Australia and New Zealand and an appreciation of the significant value of our Trans-Tasman ties.

The delegates would once again like to thank everyone involved in the fourth APEC visit and acknowledge the assistance, effort, professional approach and gracious hospitality of our hosts.

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