

AGREED MINUTE ON STATE GOVERNMENT PURCHASING PREFERENCES

In accordance with the requirements of Articles 11:3 and 22:3(a) of the Australia New Zealand Closer Economic Relations - Trade Agreement, Australian and New Zealand Ministers discussed Australian State Government purchasing preferences at their meeting in Christchurch on 20 and 21 June 1988 and reached the following conclusions:

- the maintenance by Australian State Governments of purchasing preferences for Australian, as against New Zealand, suppliers is hindering present attempts by the Parties to work towards a closer and more outward looking relationship;
- Australia notes that New Zealand-will seek to join the (Australian) National Preference Agreement (NPA) on the basis of
 - a binding to accord, now and in the future, the same (if any) preference to Australian as to New Zealand suppliers, as against suppliers from third countries;
 - the Australian States binding themselves to relinquish preference against New Zealand, vis-a-vis Australian suppliers; and
 - New Zealand undertaking to observe the other principles of the NPA including those relating to tender arrangements and transparency;
- Recognising the need for the earliest possible resolution of this matter Australian Ministers will join their New Zealand counterparts in pressing the New Zealand case with State Governments and Ministers.

Signed at Christchurch on 21 June 1988.

[signed]

MICHAEL DUFFY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION
DELEGATION

[signed]

MICHAEL MOORE
FOR THE NEW ZEALAND