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] [signed]

MICHAEL DUFFY  MICHAEL MOORE
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN DELEGATION FOR THE NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION