

18 October 2012

New Zealand Productivity Commission  
PO Box 8036  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

Email: [transtasmanreview@productivity.govt.nz](mailto:transtasmanreview@productivity.govt.nz)

Dear Sirs

### **Strengthening Trans-Tasman Economic Relations Discussion Paper**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above discussion document.

The New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association (NZMEA) represent the interests of manufacturers and exporters throughout New Zealand.

The Association is New Zealand's only focused and independent voice for manufacturers and exporters. Members make over \$2.7 billion in sales per year, with an export value of around \$1.3 billion. The Association can trace its beginning back to the early history of New Zealand.

The Association also includes in its membership affiliate organisations such as the Wood Processors Association, the Engineering Printing & Manufacturing Union Inc, the Heavy Engineering Research Association (HERA), the Galvanising Association of New Zealand and Plastics New Zealand.

The NZMEA is an independent association of manufacturers and exporters. We do not seek or receive funding from local or central government; we have affiliate organisations, we do not affiliate to any other organisation.

We would also bring to your attention that the New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association were not approached to participate in the stakeholder engagement process for 'Strengthening Trans-Tasman Economic Relations – A Joint Study – Discussion Draft – September 2012". As noted in our earlier paragraph, the NZMEA represents only the manufacturing and exporting sectors and would like to be considered for participation in future discussions.

#### **Comment**

We have canvassed our members for comment and a key concern brought to our attention is absence of imputation credits across the Tasman. This was raised by a manufacturer considering the purchase of their Australian distributor.

This issue is well covered in the papers section 4.5 and we note that further action is planned in the short term.

We would support early action on this point.

Yours sincerely ..

**John Walley**  
Chief Executive

New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association



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