



NEW ZEALAND
High Commission CANBERRA
11 King Street

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Ms Maria Vamvakinou MP
Committee Chair
Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Ms Vamvakinou

I would like to express my thanks to the Committee for inviting New Zealand to make a submission to your inquiry Australia's international research collaboration.

In 2005, the OECD wrote that "in advanced industrial economies, innovation and the exploitation of scientific discoveries and new technology have been the principal source of long-run economic growth...In the future, the innovation performance of a country is likely to be even more crucial..." For small, open economies such as Australia and New Zealand, our ability to effectively inspire and harness our innovative and creative talents will be crucial for our long-term prosperity.

As small countries on a global scale, both Australia and New Zealand need to have strong and effective international linkages as both the Cutler Review and the Australian Government's *Powering Innovation* response highlighted. We recognised the importance of this and for this reason the New Zealand Government made two submissions to the Cutler Review. I have attached for your information the second of the two submissions in which we commented strongly that collaboration and co-operation in our research endeavours would be of significant benefit to both countries.

New Zealand values the strong relationship we have with Australia. In the field of research collaboration we are engaged across a range of activities through Government, the research and development work of Trans-Tasman companies and through the ongoing, day-to-day interaction of individual researchers working on shared projects or problems with their Australian counterparts. I

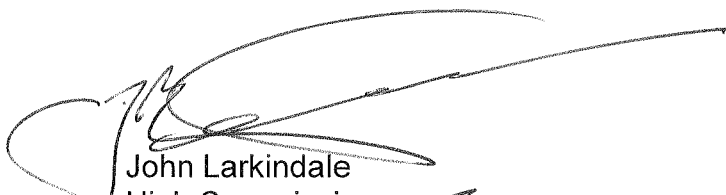
have list below a very small sample of the types of research collaboration already underway.

- Square Kilometre Array (SKA) – The New Zealand and Australian Governments signed a formal arrangement in August 2009 formally committing both countries to jointly bid to secure the hosting rights for the SKA. New Zealand officials, researchers and industry participants are actively engaged in this collaborative endeavour.
- Australian Synchrotron – The New Zealand Government was an initial funder of the synchrotron facility in Melbourne. New Zealand researchers and companies have been active users of the facility, often with Australian partners.
- Plant and Food Research's Australian operation – One of the New Zealand Government's Crown Research Institutes has been operating in Australia for the better part of a decade in the horticulture and arable sectors.
- Research infrastructure planning – Australian and New Zealand officials are beginning discussions on what scope there is for more co-ordinated planning of significant long-term research infrastructure across our two countries.
- Food and beverage research and development – most of the major food and beverage companies in our two countries are "Trans-Tasman companies". The development of new products for our markets is likely to be product of significant Trans-Tasman collaboration.

This is clearly not a comprehensive list but hopefully it provides a flavour of the sort of activity underway between our two countries. I am convinced that more could and should be done in this field and that there is considerable opportunity for Australia and New Zealand to further collaborate to deliver world class opportunities that will benefit both countries and hopefully the world.

I would welcome the opportunity to speak to the Committee if this is something that you would see as valuable.

Yours sincerely



John Larkindale
High Commissioner