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**Queensland
Government**

Premier of Queensland
and Minister for Trade

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BY:

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Dr Andrew Southcott
Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Southcott

Thank you for your letter of 18 May 2004 concerning the exchange of letters to amend Article 3 of the Australia-New Zealand Closer Economic Relations Trade Agreement (ANZCETA). I appreciate the extension of the deadline for responding to the Committee.

The amendments do not appear to raise any significant issues for Queensland exporters. I note that the amendments generally appear to be positive; will potentially allow more Australian goods to meet Rules of Origin criteria for export to New Zealand; and also provide some flexibility in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed exchange of letters. I look forward to reviewing the Committee's recommendations.

Yours sincerely

**PETER BEATTIE MP
PREMIER AND MINISTER FOR TRADE**

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