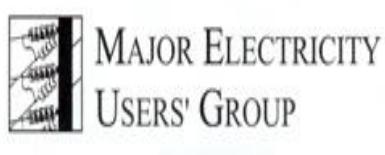




The voice of business



5 March 2010

Hon Tim Groser
Minister Responsible for International Climate Change Negotiations
c/o Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

via e-mail: tim.groser@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister

International Climate Change Negotiations Beyond Copenhagen

We wish to congratulate you on your new role as Minister Responsible for International Climate Change Negotiations. Our group has valued our contact with you in the past on these issues and we welcome your representing New Zealand in this difficult and complex negotiating space.

As the Copenhagen negotiation brought to the fore, these negotiations on climate change are not simply an environmental negotiation. This is an important element and trigger for the negotiation, but the actual negotiations are as much about the economic impacts of a policy response as they are about environmental response. They are also very much focused on international competitiveness and international trade impacts.

It is in this context that we would like to raise two issues of particular importance to business.

First, we believe that it is essential that business be regarded as a key stakeholder in formulating New Zealand's future international commitments, and New Zealand business be given the opportunity to form part of all future delegations negotiating on behalf of New Zealand. We believe it is essential that business is fully consulted prior to the adoption of climate change policy positions, as New Zealand businesses will, after all, be required to deliver the domestic implications of whatever is ultimately decided in the international arena. You will be aware of the dissatisfaction of the business community with the extent of consultation prior to Copenhagen and the way New Zealand business representatives were treated prior to your arrival in Copenhagen. In our view this detracted from New Zealand's position.

Second, we are disappointed to hear of the impending departure of Dr Adrian Macey from the role of New Zealand's Climate Change Ambassador. The breadth and depth of Dr Macey's skills will be difficult to replicate. We ask that whoever replaces Dr Macey have a skill set that ensures an understanding of the wider economic implications of these negotiations and the need to consult fully with the New Zealand business community. We believe that this person needs a strong negotiating background and a detailed understanding of the economy and international trade. Expertise on WTO rules is also essential. This is not a standard United Nations negotiation. The end result could have implications for the viability of every New Zealand business and for our international trading competitiveness.

We wish you well in your new role and look forward to working closely with you and your officials.

Yours sincerely

Phil O Reilly, Chief Executive, Business New Zealand

Contact 496 6552,
Mob 201 711 866

Peter Bodeker, Chief Executive, Wood Processors Association of New Zealand

Contact 473 9220

Tony Friedlander, Chief Executive Officer, Road Transport Forum Ltd.

Contact 472 3877

Tim Ritchie Chief Executive Meat Industry Association

Contact 495 8380

John Pfahlert Executive Officer Petroleum Exploration and Production Association

Contact 472 1993

David Venables Executive Director, Greenhouse Policy Coalition

Ph: 473 0600, Mob:
027 848 2368

Roger Kerr, Executive Director, New Zealand Business Roundtable

Contact 499 0790

Ralph Matthes, Executive Director, Major Electricity Users Group

Contact 494 0996

Mark O'Connor Chief Executive, Deer Industry New Zealand

Contact 473 4500