

1 September 1992

Hon Denis Marshall
Associate Minister of Agriculture
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

Dear Mr Marshall

There has been publicity in recent months related to the freeing up of activities deemed restrictive to the movement of air passengers between Australia and New Zealand. The National Beekeepers Association would like to reiterate its position related to agricultural security in general in light of these calls for change to existing procedures.

The beekeeping industry is worth much, much more to New Zealand's economy than simply the honey that is produced. The annual crop, valued at about \$20 million, supplies all of our domestic needs as well being the basis of a valuable and growing export industry. Beekeeping's greatest value by far, however, is in the paid and unpaid pollination services it provides for fruit crops and pastoral agriculture of New Zealand. This has been estimated at more than 100 times the value of the honey itself.

Our industry has unique management and marketing advantage through the absence of many of the pests and diseases and undesirable genetic material present overseas. There are, for instance, three mites currently spreading and causing problems to beekeepers in other countries. Our industry is currently free from some of the other major bee diseases, such as European foulbrood. The troubles currently being experienced as Africanised bees spread northward through the United States are testimony to the dangers of uncontrolled spread of undesirable genetic material.

Our industry's basic need for protection and control of entry of bees, bee equipment and bee products capable of drastically affecting the cost structures of beekeeping is a long-standing matter of record. Anything that would modify our level of protection is of considerable concern to beekeepers.

We ask that you ensure that the desire for free and easy access by air passengers is balanced against the long established and accepted needs for adequate agricultural security and border protection. We expect that any change in procedures that could potentially cause our industry additional costs will be thoroughly investigated. We would insist upon a full consultation process to allow us the opportunity to assess the increased risks and make representations as to their consequences to our industry.

Yours faithfully

D L Ward
President

Letter also sent to Hon R Storey, Minister of Transport

1 September 1992

Hon Rob Storey
Minister of Transport
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

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Yours faithfully

D L Ward
President

Letter also sent to Hon D Marshall, Associate Minister of Transport