

The Government is equally concerned that existing industries make the best use of resources. Following the adoption of a development plan for the textile industry, plans will be considered this year for a number of other industries including wine, radio and television, plastics, and packaging.

Initiatives aimed at increasing opportunities for New Zealand exporters include the proposal for an expanded trading relationship with Australia. The New Zealand and Australian Governments have set in train detailed studies for bringing about closer economic links, and Ministers of the two countries will hold further meetings on the subject later this year.

A non-reciprocal trade agreement with Pacific Island nations is still under negotiation. It is intended to provide unrestricted duty-free access into both New Zealand and Australia for a comprehensive range of products from the South Pacific Forum countries.

Greater professionalism in all aspects of export marketing will continue to be encouraged. The new system of export incentives introduced from 1 April 1980 has been designed to reward, in particular, those exporters who carry out thorough export promotion campaigns in approved target markets. It will also reward exporters according to the domestic value-added content of exports as well as their total value.

Overseas investment will be encouraged when it contributes to a worthwhile use of New Zealand's resources, benefits the community as a whole, and especially when it will be as a partnership with New Zealand enterprise.

As a means of increasing export earnings the Government is committed to the encouragement of greater agricultural and horticultural production. A continuing major objective is the maintenance of market stability. Access for butter and lamb are priorities in relation to the European Community. It is also the Government's intention in the coming year to safeguard our expanded primary product trade with Middle-Eastern markets.

The major legislative proposal affecting the agricultural sector is the Meat Amendment Bill which provides for a liberalisation of licensing criteria in the meat industry. This Bill is due to be reported back to the House this session.

Other Bills affecting the agricultural sector, which are planned for introduction this session, include restructurings of the Milk Board, the Veterinary Services Council, and the Wool Testing Authority, and the amalgamation of the functions of the Poultry Board and the Egg Marketing Authority. Bills to amend the Dairy Board Act 1961, the Agricultural Pests Destruction Act 1967, and the Apple and Pear Marketing Act 1971 will also be introduced.

A comprehensive review is now under way to simplify, update, and improve fisheries legislation so that the development of the New Zealand fishing industry is adequately backed by relevant statutory powers.