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Media Release

MEAT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION, ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AUCKLAND 10-12 SEPTEMBER 2000

The Meat Industry Association Inc will hold its thirteenth annual conference in Auckland from 10 to 12 September 2000, at The Sheraton Hotel.

MIA Chairman **Sir David Beattie** will retire from the position immediately following the conference, after 13 years leadership of the Association. “As this will be my final conference, I am delighted the attendance looks to be excellent and the speakers programme promises to be as strong as any we have had,” said Sir David.

“The session on Monday 11 September is given over to global issues of interest to New Zealand meat exporters.

“**Loek Boonekamp** will lead the programme. He heads the Agricultural Trade and Markets Division in the OECD in Paris, and is respected worldwide as an experienced and perceptive observer of trends in international agriculture.

“**Andrew Stoler** is nearing the close of his first year as a Deputy Director-General of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva. Most of Mr Stoler’s career has been spent in the arena of global trade negotiations. In his present role he works closely with Mike Moore.

“**John Wood** is a Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He is a former New Zealand Ambassador to Washington and is now the Government’s principal advisor on economic relations and trade issues.

“The programme on Tuesday 12 September will be led by **Hon Jim Sutton**, in his dual capacities as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade Negotiations.

“Also on Tuesday, we will shift the focus to issues closer to home with addresses by **Alistair Polson** President of Federated Farmers and **John Acland** Chairman of the Meat Board.

“As we have done at past conferences, this year’s programme will feature two panel sessions. That set down for Monday 11 September will bring together a team of analysts to examine economic trends of special relevance to the meat sector.

“It would be hard to identify a group more experienced for the task than **Bruce Ross, Rob Davison, Murray Sherwin** and **Alex Sundakov**. I would expect this session to highlight the impact of government policies and the short and medium term implications of the recent fall in the New Zealand dollar against the currencies of some of our main trading partners.

“The panel on Tuesday 12 September will have a different focus but a familiar one. It’s well known that food safety issues are of paramount concern in many of New Zealand’s key markets. **Andrew McKenzie** is New Zealand’s most senior official responsible for handling food regulatory issues at government-to-government level. **Dennis Butler** chairs the Meat Industry Standards Council and is well-placed to explain the reaction of meat processors and exporters to the growing tide of technical barriers to trade.” said Sir David.

For further information

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Note for Media

A separate release will shortly be issued, embargoed until 11 September, regarding the appointment of a new Chairman of MIA