

**EMBARGOED UNTIL 11 SEPTEMBER**

7 September 2000

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**PRESS RELEASE**

**BILL FALCONER APPOINTED CHAIRMAN OF MEAT INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION**

On behalf of the Council of the Meat Industry Association Mr Ross Townshend, CEO of AFFCO New Zealand Ltd. and convenor of the MIA appointment panel, announced today that Mr William (Bill) Falconer will succeed Sir David Beattie as Chairman of the Association from 13 September 2000.

“We are delighted to obtain the services of a person with the commercial skills and depth of experience that Bill Falconer will bring to the position,” Mr Townshend said. “Mr Falconer holds a number of significant directorships and is currently Chairman of several public companies including Hellaby Holdings, Kiwifruit International, Oyster Bay Marlborough Vineyards, Restaurant Brands New Zealand, and Westgate Transport. He also chairs the Environmental Risk Management Authority, and until recently was Chairman of St Lukes Group. Between 1992 and 1998 Mr Falconer chaired the Accident Compensation Corporation”.

Mr Falconer (61) graduated from Victoria University of Wellington with LL.B, and is a practising barrister. His early career was in the public service which included involvement in international trade policy. He was Deputy Secretary of Energy 1980 to 1985 and subsequently chief executive of Petrocorp. While with Fletcher Challenge 1988 to 1995 he held several senior appointments in the energy field.

Mr Falconer was Chairman of the New Zealand Committee of the Pacific Basin Economic Council and a member of the APEC Pacific Business Forum from 1993 to 1995.

Mr Townshend said Mr Falconer would be a worthy successor to Sir David Beattie, who had led the MIA with distinction during his thirteen years as Chairman since 1987.

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