

# THE SPIRIT OF CER

## PART 2: 1983 TO THE PRESENT



CER has progressed since 1983 from being a simple trade agreement to a web of cooperation that supports the trans-Tasman economic relationship. The lives of every Australian and New Zealander are influenced by one or other of the many agreements and arrangements which come under the fold of CER. It is within this context that we now refer to "The Spirit of CER".

Many bilateral agreements and arrangements come under the umbrella and within the Spirit of CER:

- Protocol to the CER on the Acceleration of Free Trade in Goods 1988
- Trade in Services Protocol to the CER 1988
- Agreed Minute on Industry Assistance 1988
- Protocol on the Harmonisation of Quarantine Procedures 1988
- Agreement on Standards, Accreditation and Quality 1990
- Government Procurement Agreement 1991
- Joint Accreditation System Australia and New Zealand 1991
- Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement
- Double Taxation Agreement 1995
- Customs Cooperation Arrangement 1996
- Arrangement on Food Inspection Measures 1996
- Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement 1998
- Reciprocal Health Care Agreement 1998
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand
- MOU on Business Law Coordination 2000
- Social Security Agreement 2001
- Open Skies Agreement 2002
- Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code 2002
- Trans-Tasman imputation reform 2003

For further details see:

[http://www.dfat.gov.au/geol/new\\_zealand/anz\\_cer/anz\\_cer.html](http://www.dfat.gov.au/geol/new_zealand/anz_cer/anz_cer.html)



*"The partnership between our two nations, our two business communities, that has added value to both, has generated jobs for Australians and New Zealanders, and has brought our two countries closer together. Let us record our thanks to those who pioneered CER and let us continue together to build further on a relationship that is very important to all of us."*

The Hon John Howard, MP, Prime Minister of Australia

*"CER will continue to be a model trade agreement. Its openness and comprehensiveness can be used as benchmarks in the development of other free trade initiatives in the region. CER has created an economic framework of enduring significance to Australia and New Zealand."*

Rt Hon Helen Clark, Prime Minister of New Zealand

*"(CER) must be one of the most comprehensive and mature and effective bilateral trade agreements in the world, if not the most. So we have something to celebrate."*

Hon Jim Sutton, MP, New Zealand Minister for Trade Negotiations

*"It's a very important relationship to Australia. It's the third largest destination of Australian overseas investment, it's our fifth largest trading partner, it's obviously a country with which we have great cultural bonds and we have worked together extraordinarily well in recent years in helping to address regional issues."*

The Hon Alexander Downer, MP, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs

*"I don't think that there are any other two nations on earth that work as closely together as New Zealand and Australia."*

Hon Phil Goff, New Zealand Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade

*"CER's allowed us to trade as if it was another part of Australasia. It's opened it, it's made it easy for us to enter and to trade as if it's another arm of Australia. ... Things like removing duties on a predominantly Australian-made product. It allows us to put the product in the marketplace at a reasonable price point, where we're not trying to recover from the consumer the duties that we have to pay to the governments."*

David Kesby (Cue Design financial controller) Newztel News: TV One  
"TelstraClear Business"

*"The CER Agreement is by far the most significant and detailed trade document signed by either Australia or New Zealand."*

Australian Senate Standing Committee on Industry and Trade October 1984 report on The Development of Closer Economic Relations between Australia and New Zealand

*"CER ... the world's most comprehensive, effective and multilaterally compatible free trade agreement."*

World Trade Organisation