

ExportNZ Trade News & Advocacy Update

June 2025

Trade & Export News Update

Things appear a little calmer on the international trade front, but international tensions have risen considerably in the Middle East. This will have implications in terms of supply chain uncertainty, increased energy prices etc.

United States of America – “L-Day 2.0” on the Horizon

But just as things appear calmer on the tariff front, we have the 90-day suspension of the “liberation day” tariffs about to expire and great uncertainty about what will happen next. To date we have only two deals negotiated – a deal with the UK on some products and a deal with China which sees lower, but still high tariffs with China remaining. MFAT and NZTE are maintaining their update webinar service. We encourage you to use these.

You can [register here](#).

New Zealand’s Minister for Trade & Investment, Hon. Todd McClay, spoke directly with US Trade Representative, James Greer, about the NZ-US trade relationship and tariffs when they met recently in Korea.

China – Mission Strengthens Relationship

The Prime Minister led a business delegation to China from 17-20 June. We understand the delegation visit was very successful with many “deals” finalised. There was also high-level dialogue, which made clear that there are no major problems in the NZ-China relationship in the eyes of the Chinese leadership.

India – Negotiations Roll On...

Negotiations progress with India, with the next round of talks due in mid-July. India is putting pressure on negotiations to be completed by the end of the year. This is welcome, but New Zealand negotiators will have to be careful not to allow the negotiating timetable to potentially influence the quality of the outcome. Negotiators are well aware of this risk, and the expectation from ExportNZ and the export community is for a high-quality deal, so at this stage, we do not see the need to rush through discussions.

New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council FTA – Please Hold...

Latest information from the region suggests that the GCC FTA may not be signed until the GCC meeting in October. Ratification will then be necessary before the agreement comes into force.

EU Interest in CPTPP Continues

There is growing interest in Europe in some form of relationship between the EU and the CPTPP Agreement. While some are suggesting that the EU might seek to join the Agreement, this seems unlikely in the short term, as CPTPP rules are very different from EU rules in many areas. It is more likely that the two groups will look for specific areas of potential cooperation and that they will jointly work towards strengthening the rules-based international trade system. We are monitoring this development closely.

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LAST CALL – Make Sure Your Voice is Heard!

This year's ExportNZ DHL Barometer Survey is due to **close on Monday, 30th June**. We've had a great response rate so far and we've come to the last couple of days of the survey.

In 2024, you told us about key issues such as the rising cost of transport and logistics, and the high cost of doing business in New Zealand. This feedback fuelled our advocacy.

In 2025, we know you're also navigating an increasingly complex global trading environment – from emerging tariffs and trade restrictions to geopolitical uncertainty and shifting demand patterns.

Now's your chance to update us: What's changed? What's still holding you back? What support do you need to operate in today's environment?

To show our appreciation, all entries will go into the draw to win a 2025 DHL Super Rugby Pacific signed jersey (Winner can choose their team jersey from Blues, Moana Pasifika, Highlanders, Crusaders, Hurricanes, Chiefs), and a \$250 Noel Leeming voucher from ExportNZ.

[Click here to access the survey](#)

Invest NZ has Lift-Off

Parliament finally passed the legislation necessary to establish a new agency dedicated to attracting foreign investment to New Zealand on 25 June. Invest New Zealand will be

independent of NZTE but will work closely with it. It will have its own CEO, Board and staff. It will start operating from 1 July.

Invest New Zealand will, according to Minister Todd McClay:

- Drive investment into advanced and high-growth industries;
- Connect offshore investors with local businesses and research opportunities;
- Support global companies to grow their R&D footprint in New Zealand;
- Help build the skills base needed to support a more innovative economy.

An establishment board is due to be announced shortly.

Invest New Zealand's budget is significantly higher than the amount spent on investment promotion by NZTE, the agency formerly responsible for this function.

ExportNZ and BusinessNZ have a strong interest in the success of InvestNZ, so we will continue to engage as the agency continues to build.

Gene Technology Bill – Market Access Concerns

The ExportNZ Advisory Board and regional representatives recently met with Hon. Dr. Shane Reti, the Minister in charge of the Gene Technology Bill. The Bill is due back from the Health Select Committee with their recommendations. ExportNZ raised issues and concerns around industry engagement and market access implications. The Minister suggested that the concerns had been noted and there would be further engagement opportunities.

ExportNZ will continue to engage with the Minister's Office on these points.