



Monday, 23 February 2026

## Update from the Executive Director

Kia ora,

We're back for what will be a hectic year with FTAs coming into force, election commitments taking shape, and a constant eye on what's happening around the world.

We've just had our first ExportNZ pre-election manifesto meeting in Auckland, and I'm looking forward to the next few months connecting with exporters across the country. These roundtable discussions are critical to shaping our pre-election manifesto for the export sector. [Click here](#) if you'd like to revisit our 2023 manifesto. If you want to be part of this year's roundtables, please get in touch with me or your local ExportNZ regional representative.

There's been plenty happening in the advocacy and policy space - we recently submitted on MFAT's consultation on changes to the Export Controls Regime; we're eagerly awaiting the final text and National Interest Analysis for the NZ-India FTA; and, of course, the US Supreme Court's decision on IEEPA tariffs which directly impacts NZ exports - more in the Trade and Advocacy Update.

ExportNZ Central has just opened applications for this year's ExportNZ ASB Central Region Export Awards! Now a staple in our events calendar, the awards shine a spotlight on the hard-working exporters in the region and give the community an opportunity to celebrate export success and excellence. If you are an exporter, or know a suitable entrant, make sure to enter - see more details below.

We've got ExportNZ's first-ever events in Whangārei and Nelson, working with the EMA, Business Central, and the Nelson Tasman Chamber of Commerce, and there is much more planned for the rest of the year!

Have a great week!  
Josh



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## ExportNZ Policy & Trade Update

While many of us were able to get a good break over the so-called "summer" the Government's trade negotiating team were busy. The FTA with India was finalised just before Christmas, there has been considerable activity around CPTPP, and there was a WTO mini-Ministerial and associated bilateral and plurilateral meetings in Davos. US trade policy took another drastic turn over the weekend with the Supreme Court's decision on IEEPA tariffs.

[More - >>](#)



## INZBC Business Delegation to India - 23-27 March 2026

This delegation is built to help New Zealand businesses turn connections into outcomes through direct engagement with key stakeholders, practical sector briefings and curated business interactions across New Delhi and Chennai (Tamil Nadu)....

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## APAC Pitching Event 2026 - Startup Pitching Competition

The US Commercial Service is hosting pitching sessions on March 10 & 11, 2026 for APAC based startups to pitch in front of a panel of judges, including venture capitalists and tech ecosystem partners. Companies that are interested in expanding into the US are encouraged to apply...

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## NZBRic Q4 Industry Report 2025

In this edition we explore :

- Reflections on 2025 and the New Zealand-China Relationship from the New Zealand Consulate General in Shanghai
- New Zealand's Strategic Triumph at the 8th CIIE
- An introduction to Tatua in China...

[More ->>](#)



## International Trade - Outlook for 2026

Chapman Tripp has released its ninth publication in their International Trade Trends & Insights series, which has now been running without interruption since 2017.

Throughout that time, the message has been remarkably consistent - New Zealand exporters need to plan for the unexpected because the global economy will always be subject to geopolitical turbulence. As we confront 2026, that reality continues.

[More ->>](#)

One step closer to modern slavery reporting in New Zealand: What organisations need to know



## MinterEllisonRuddWatts - Insights

The much anticipated Modern Slavery Bill, a member's bill jointly sponsored by Greg Fleming MP (National) and Camilla Belich MP (Labour), which proposes a statutory framework to strengthen and coordinate actions to combat modern slavery, will be introduced to the House next week. This regime would require reporting entities...

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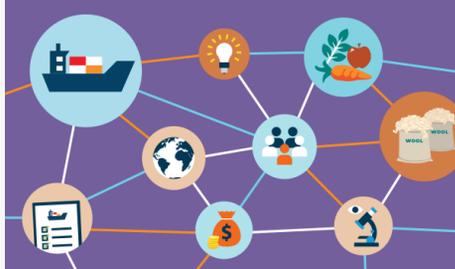
## Supporting Innovative Food and Fibre Exports

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) has a web site to enable exporters in the innovative food and fibre product sectors build strong support networks and take their ideas to market.

It lists some key organisations that can help you with your ideas, as well as MPI support

Support for exporting

## Innovative food and fibre products



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**NEW ZEALAND**  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
Manatū Aorere

### MFAT Market Intelligence Reports

- Western United States Economic Pulse Check
- NZ-UK Free Trade Agreement : Primary Exports Update
- Germany's High-Tech Agenda Opens Doors for Kiwi Innovators

[More - >>](#)

# EVENTS



### Whangarei Export event - Accelerate Your Business into New Export Markets - 26 February

Learn how to explore and validate new export markets, overcome common growth challenges, mitigate risk when dealing with new international partners, access finance, and leverage letters of credit or guarantees to expand your export operations and build momentum in 2026....

[More ->>](#)



### Nelson: Export Ready - Strategies and Lessons for International Growth with Pete Torrington - 13 March

Join Pete Torrington, Port Nelson Export Hub for an interactive, 2.5 hour workshop designed specifically for local producers and manufacturers. Drawing on over 30 years of global experience, Pete will guide you through the essential steps to becoming export ready..

[More ->>](#)



### 2026 Government briefings breakfast and panels for AmCham Australia delegation in Wellington, 3 March

AmCham Australia-NZ Business Briefings 2026: US Political Landscape, Productivity & AI, Defence and technology in the new geopolitics, Challenges and Priorities in New Zealand's Healthcare Sector.

[More ->>](#)



### ExportNZ ASB Central Region Export Awards 2026 - June 11

ExportNZ ASB Central Region Export Awards 2026 For more than a decade, the Export NZ Awards have recognised the ambition, grit, and global impact of businesses from across the Central Region who are taking their products and services to the world

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