



National Farmers'
FEDERATION

2 September 2009

The Hon Simon Crean
Minister for Trade
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Crean,

RE: Agreement to launch negotiations on new regional trade and economic integration agreement, PACER Plus

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) would like to congratulate you on the recent announcement to progress discussions for the PACER Plus agreement. We were thankful for the opportunity to engage in preliminary consultation regarding this matter, as the NFF recognises that this agreement is an important commitment to trade development in our locality and a significant step in building capacity for developing nations within our region.

Trade plays a significant role in the livelihood of the Australian agricultural industry. Progress made by these discussions has the potential to facilitate increased terms of trade for the Pacific Island nations and Australian farmers.

The NFF is also heartened to hear that whilst Fiji has been excluded from the discussions due to internal Fijian political issues, officials in Fiji will continue to be updated as to any progress with the agreement and have an opportunity to contribute to the discussions through these officials.

While the NFF acknowledges that commercial benefit is not the primary motivator for this agreement, the markets that these nations represent, while small on the world stage, are vital to our region's development and food security. Specifically, the NFF notes the small but important role that the PACER Plus markets play for Australian agricultural exports.

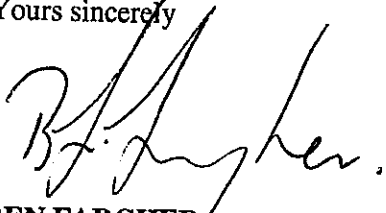
In addition, NFF realises the importance of capacity building as a focus for the PACER Plus discussion and believes that there are many areas in which the NFF can contribute to this process. In this regard, NFF believes that Australian agriculture can play a vital role in areas such as worker mobility, sharing of research and development and improving adaptation capacity within agricultural systems due to climate change to name a few.

Through our membership of IFAP (International Federation of Agricultural Producers) and as Chair of the CGFL (Cairns Group Farm Leaders), the NFF has had extensive experience in agricultural policy development that will assist developing nations to grow and build the

strength of their agricultural industries. The NFF believes that it can play a positive role in this area and would welcome the opportunity to discuss options for engagement with AusAid and other government agencies.

The NFF is eager to participate further with the process of exploring opportunities of mutual benefit between Australian farmers and the PACER Plus countries, and look forward to discussing the matter with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Fargher". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke.

BEN FARGHER
Chief Executive Officer