

# LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

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26 August 2011

Geoff Lewis  
Inquiry Director – International Freight Transport Services Inquiry  
New Zealand Productivity Commission  
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## INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT TRANSPORT SERVICES INQUIRY

Dear Mr. Lewis,

I am writing on behalf of the Local Government Forum regarding the New Zealand Productivity Commission's Inquiry into International Freight Transport Services.

On 24 August the Chair of the Commission, Murray Sherwin, attended a meeting of the Local Government Forum to discuss the two inquiries the Commission is currently working on. Some of the individual organisations may also be making their own submissions on the Issues Paper. However, our meeting occurred shortly before the closing of submissions on the Issues Paper so I wanted to take the opportunity to put a brief submission on the record.

Forum members agree that international freight transport services is an important issue and a good one for the Productivity Commission to consider at this time. The Forum has taken an interest in this issue in the past. Most recently, in 2010 the Forum commissioned a report from NZIER on Port Performance and Ownership and whether local government ownership was a factor behind an apparent slippage in service quality and efficiency. We are pleased that it has been referred to in the issues paper.

Overall, Forum members believe that the Issues Paper is comprehensive and we think it covers the key issues.

We are also looking forward to further engagement with the Commission on this issue, including possibly submitting on the draft report when it is released for comment.

Yours sincerely,



Michael Barnett  
Chair