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OFFICE OF HON JOHN LUXTON

MP for KARAPIRO

MINISTER FOR FOOD, FIBRE, BIOSECURITY AND BORDER CONTROL

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Fisheries, Land Information New Zealand, New Zealand Customs Service

ASSOCIATE MINISTER OF IMMIGRATION (Onshore Passenger Processing)  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE

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- 3 MAR 1999

Mr Nick Wallingford  
55 Watling Street  
TAURANGA

Dear Mr Wallingford

You requested a copy of Russell Berry's submission on the notified proposal for the national American foulbrood pest management strategy, in your email message of 14 January 1999. This request was made under the Official Information Act.

I enclose a copy of the document you refer to.

Yours sincerely



Hon John Luxton  
Minister for Food, Fibre, Biosecurity and Border Control

Encl

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Directors — Russell Berry, Rotorua  
— Ian Berry, Havelock North



# ARATAKI HONEY LTD.

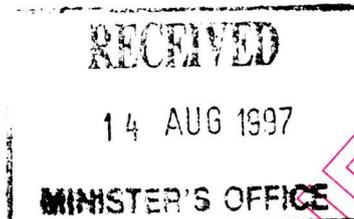
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## ROTORUA DIVISION

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Postal Address: R.D.3  
ROTORUA  
New Zealand

13 August 1997

Mr John Luxton  
Associate Minister of Agriculture  
Parliament Buildings  
WELLINGTON.



Dear Mr Luxton,

I, Russell Berry, Managing Director of the Rotorua Division of Arataki Honey Ltd, one of the largest beekeeping businesses in the world - in the Rotorua division of this Company, we employ an average of 30 beekeepers throughout the year, we farm 12,000 hives of bees and annually export 1.25 million dollars of lives honey bees, place into kiwifruit orchards over 4000 hives, produce over 300 tonnes of honey, strongly oppose the proposed National Pest Management Strategy for American Foulbrood.

I am not opposing or supporting this Strategy as the new President of the National Beekeepers' Association as I am not aware of what the current views are of the new Executive.

As the representative of the people involved in our business at Rotorua, I oppose the PMS on the following grounds:-

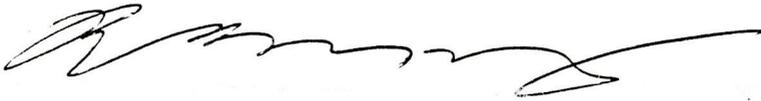
1. Elimination of American Foulbrood in New Zealand is a convenient pipe dream. It is impossible to eliminate AFB in feral colonies so we will not be able to eliminate AFB in beehives.
2. The laws of NZ (Bio Security Act), do not allow a simple approach to the control of AFB
3. The PMS uses a sledgehammer to try to eliminate a fairly minor bee disease.
4. Most AFB is spread by the beekeeper from his hives to others that he owns, not to other beekeepers' hives.
5. I believe the costs of running the PMS are underestimated for the work to be undertaken.
6. The NBA is already running a deficit budget and it is estimated that in excess of \$50,000 deficit will be achieved this year. We cannot afford the increased proposed PMS costings of \$50,000 more than our current Disease Control programme.
7. The PMS will take away individual's rights with no good valid reasons. Rights our fathers fought and died for.
8. It is unfortunate that MAFQual, a likely contractor in the operations of the PMS, has had to put so much input into designing the PMS because of their specialised skills. Some people see the advantage to MAFQual in having a PMS and ask, 'is this fair?'
9. We wish to control our own Industry, not be controlled by the Chief Veterinary Officer. (see Chief Technical Officer page 2) We certainly cannot afford to pay anything for his services.

10. It is very unfortunate that so much valuable time from so many people, has been wasted because of the very difficult legislative changes created by Government.

11. The PMS will infringe on peoples' rights, not encourage honesty, probably create conflict between disease control and exports, not something I believe, the Government should be supporting.

12. Please do not think I do not support AFB disease control - I do. Beekeepers and MAFQual have brought the disease level down significantly over the past few years (Ref: 7.2 first paragraph).

I request that a Board of Enquiry be formed to look into this proposed Strategy. I would like to make full submissions to this Board of Enquiry. I have written this opposition to the proposed Strategy in a brief form as requested in your Public Notice.



**R.A. BERRY**  
Managing Director  
Rotorua Division

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Obtained  
8/3/99 by  
Nick  
Wallingford