



Office of Hon Jim Sutton
Minister of Agriculture
Minister for Trade Negotiations
Minister for Rural Affairs
MP for Aoraki

21 December 2000

Mr Neil Wells
Trustee
Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand (Inc)
PO Box 60-208
Titirangi
WAITAKERE CITY

Dear ~~Mr Wells~~ *Neil*

In November 1999 you applied to my predecessor, on behalf of the Animal Welfare Institute of New Zealand (Inc) (AWINZ), for declaration as an approved organisation under section 121 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act).

You will recall that in May this year I invited you to comment on a report MAF prepared for me on your application. At your request I met with you in June to discuss your comments when it was agreed that the legal issues would be explored further. I also advised you that I would seek the views of Caucus as the application raised new policy issues. Following a review of the legal position I briefed Caucus and Cabinet colleagues.

The Act requires that I must be satisfied that the application, and the applicant, meet all the matters set out in sections 121 and 122 of the Act. Having considered the application, the MAF report and legal opinions provided by both Crown Law Office and KPMG Legal, I am now satisfied that the application meets all the requirements of the Act.

This letter is to advise you that I approve the application from AWINZ. My decision includes a requirement that AWINZ establishes performance and technical standards for inspectors and auxiliary officers (if any) and submits them to me for approval before 30 March 2001. To ensure consistency between approved organisations and MAF, MAF Biosecurity Authority will prepare a set of standards and provide them to AWINZ before 31 January 2001. MAF will also write to AWINZ early in 2001 setting out the requirements that the Director General of MAF will expect inspectors to meet pending completion and approval of the AWINZ standards.

Your attention is drawn to two implementation issues:

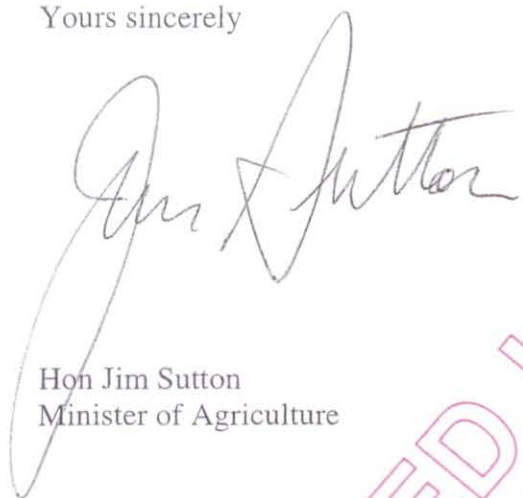
- I have signed the required Gazette notice, however, the status of approved organisation only commences from the date my approval is printed in the Gazette which will occur in mid-January 2001; and

- persons will only be considered for appointment as inspectors after they have completed the National Certificate in Compliance and Regulatory Control (Animal Welfare).

MAF Biosecurity Authority will also contact you in January to discuss the nature and content of the various memoranda of understanding that will need to be entered into as envisaged in the application.

I am pleased to give my approval and wish AWINZ every success. I expect AWINZ to work closely with other approved organisations and MAF to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of animal welfare services.

Yours sincerely



Hon Jim Sutton
Minister of Agriculture

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT