

# Annual Report to FAPAA

2021

In preparing this report, we cannot go past the significant disruption that the global pandemic of COVID-19 has caused the supply chain and which has dominated the activities of CBAFF as we continue to deliver on our Mission:

*To advocate, promote and provide a strong voice for the New Zealand international logistics industry to regulators and stakeholders and support members through provision of information, education and guidance.*

We have done a number of things to support members and represent our industry on different levels with many facets of the New Zealand economy.

- Daily communications with members
- Introduced webinars to address topical matters
- Participation in different stakeholder meetings
- Liaison with the Australian Trade Commission
- Increased media presence
- Input to the Government strategy to keep NZ trading
- Compliance with COVID-19 rules
- Anticipating and communicating members' needs
- Unbundling issues – e.g. container availability
- Promoting natural market forces
- Identifying what Government can/should be doing

All members have been, and continue to be, affected in one way or another by supply chain disruption. CBAFF has worked with Government agencies, shipping lines, airlines, transport companies, the ports and many other groups to ensure that our members' voices are heard at the table. Daily, we are distributing information affecting members' role in the supply chain. We advocate for members and consider that because of significant media interest in, at times, the most bizarre, the phrase 'supply chain' is now in most New Zealanders language, together with an awareness of the flow-on issues – though we acknowledge that when it affects them personally, it appears all understanding evaporates. Discussions with various parties suggest that disruptions will continue well into 2022.

## **Government Departments**

NZ Customs and the Ministry for Primary Industries are our primary Government agency contacts. We engage at least monthly with both Departments during the CBAFF Border Clearance Working Group meeting. Members are welcome to join this monthly meeting.

CBAFF has been actively involved in the Biosecurity 2025 project as a member of the Steering Group. It has been pleasing to note that a number of the initiatives developed have been incorporated into the workstreams of Biosecurity NZ. Arising from this work, the Biosecurity Business Pledge has been established. CBAFF is a member of the Steering Group for this work. Members are encouraged to sign-up for the Pledge.

We have met with the Chief Executive of Biosecurity New Zealand and the Chief Executive of NZ Customs Service. These meetings have been constructive, and we discussed plans for each Department and opportunities for improvement of service delivery and engagement by CBAFF members.

MPI have engaged heavily and regularly with primary sector exporters to hear about their challenges, and we have been able to contribute timely information to assist with understanding of the supply chain and current issues.

A whole of Government approach has been adopted to address supply issues; CBAFF is regularly consulted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Transport and the Commerce Commission.

CBAFF was involved in the consultation by MFAT in respect of the Singapore Project Advisory Group which was established to advise on matters pertinent to the endeavours to keep NZ (airfreight) trade lanes open. We were also involved in meetings with the Ministry of Transport and NZ Trade and Enterprise where the initiative to facilitate air cargo routes by sponsoring charter flights was canvassed.

The Ministry of Transport hosted, in early 2021, an invitation only workshop for representatives of the whole supply chain. The purpose of the workshop was to identify issues and potential solutions that could be implemented. The Ministry is working through the outputs of the workshop.

In response to members' concerns about detention, demurrage and on-going freight rate increases, CBAFF has met with the Commerce Commission. We have been heard and advised that the Commission is continuing to engage with the sector to understand the issues and monitor developments. CBAFF is seeking legal advice and will continue to engage with the Commission.

### **Carriers**

We meet regularly with shipping lines and Air NZ Cargo to raise issues that members are experiencing. These conversations are generally wide ranging and positive.

CBAFF convened a meeting between Forwarders, Road Transport Carriers, Shipping Lines, Container Depots and Ministry of Transport representatives to discuss the Container Depot issues being experienced by members. Arising from this we have supported applications for skilled workforce migration; sought assistance to obtain additional land for container storage; provided members with tools to assist in appealing detention charges; investigated the need for a Commerce Commission review of shipping practices.

### **Young Achiever Award**

COVID-19 caused us to cancel the process for selection of a candidate for the 2020 Young Achiever Award. We were really pleased to be able to re-engage with the finalists selected for 2020. They updated their dissertations and the selection process continued. A 2021 winner will be announced at the 2021 Conference dinner.

## **Member Events**

The Council decided that the 2020 Conference should not proceed due to the possibility of COVID restrictions being in place. As the annual general meeting is traditionally held in conjunction with the Conference, this meeting took place 'virtually'. We were pleased with the attendance and anticipate that future AGMs will include the ability to attend virtually.

Webinars have become an important mechanism to keep members informed and ensure that members have their say and inform CBAFF on matters of industry importance. It has been an excellent tool to assist CBAFF with submissions being made. The topics we have addressed include:

- Initiatives for facilitating international freight
- Export and import controls on PPE
- Revitalisation recipes for logistics and freight industry
- NZ Customs new financial system
- MPI – new VMP and Seaco Standards
- Brexit
- COVID Response
- Employment Law
- Making exporting easier

## **Public Relations and Communications**

2020 has been a very active year for CBAFF. The President has appeared several times on National Radio, NewsTalk ZB, TV1 and TV3 and addressed customers of a bank; print media has also featured in our communications including NZ Herald and Stuff. They are all interested about supply chain matters and what the 'new normal' looks like. This has been excellent industry profiling and assisted members explaining issues that they are experiencing. We continue to be well supported by the Shipping Gazette and FTD magazine. Members are receiving daily messages providing updates on current industry specific matters. We achieve a higher than industry norm open-rate for our daily emails and we receive very positive comments from members about the useful and timeliness of the information.

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