



**UNIVERSITIES  
AUSTRALIA**

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*Chief Executive:*  
Belinda Robinson

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Gary Banks AO  
Chairman  
Australian Productivity Commission  
GPO Box 1428  
Canberra City ACT 2601  
[transtasmanreview@pc.gov.au](mailto:transtasmanreview@pc.gov.au)

Dear Commissioner Banks

### **TransTasman Review**

Universities Australia welcomes the Joint Study Issues Paper, *Strengthening economic relations between Australia and New Zealand*. The Commission's objective, to identify reforms that will enhance the economic integration of our two nations, is a commendable initiative.

Following an initial review and discussion with our sister organisation, Universities New Zealand, Universities Australia considers there are no significant barriers to cooperation in TransTasman education or research that would merit the attention of the Review. However, should education or research emerge as issues during your consultations, we would be pleased to provide further information.

There exists considerable strength in links between our two nations in the university sector including but not limited to the joint activities of our staff, for example, librarians through the Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) and Council of New Zealand University Librarians (CONZUL), university copyright officers through annual copyright meetings, our IT directors through membership of the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT), and international student support staff through membership of ISANA International Education Association.

Our two nations also participate in joint quality assurance activities, mutual recognition of qualifications, and enjoy strong links between the professional bodies (for example doctors and accountants) that support curriculum development in universities in both countries. This is a rich and deep relationship that provides universities, their staff and students many opportunities to engage through education, research and related academic activities.

Yours sincerely

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