Hello Ladies and Gentlemen
(This is Malcolm Fraser in Canberra)

As the Minister for Education and Science, which includes the activities of the CSIRO, it is my pleasure to announce that vaccines against footrot in sheep, developed after pioneering research by this organisation, will be available in Victoria next month.

These vaccines appear to offer a simple solution against footrot which, as we know only too well, has caused serious economic and management problems in the sheep industry for many years.

(Anything which does away with the need for foot paring is certainly a step forward).

The vaccines will be made available under expanded field trial conditions. This means they will be provided only on prescription from Government veterinarians on a whole flock basis to graziers prepared to pay the purchase cost, which is I believe about 25 to 30 cents per injection.

Extensive field trials by the Department of Agriculture clearly indicates that in the majority of cases footrot infection can be greatly reduced.

Any infection developing in vaccinated sheep is restricted in most cases to a very mild form which heals quickly without local treatment, even under conditions where un-vaccinated sheep become severely affected.
On one trial farm where results were less satisfactory, a different strain of bacteria to that used in vaccination was isolated. This was not unexpected and suggested that further strains may have to be incorporated to improve efficiency.

Although the vaccines to be marketed in Australia are now produced by commercial firms, the advent of the footrot cure is another outstanding result of research and development by the CSIRO. Scientists of this organisation were the first to discover that the invading organisms which cause footrot were susceptible to treatment by blood-borne antibiotics. This showed that an injected vaccine was feasible. The CSIRO then developed a method of culturing the causal bacteria in the laboratory, an essential first step before mass production. This stage was reached in 1969 and since that date a number of commercial firms have been developing and testing vaccines.

Provided these continue to be effective under general usage, footrot can become a much less-costly and time-consuming problem.

The CSIRO deserves the highest commendation for the development of this new vaccine.

Still on the subject of sheep ....
With the wool deficiency scheme soon to swing into operation, guaranteeing a minimum price of 36 cents a pound, the question of reducing costs to improve profitability becomes even more pertinent.

It’s in this light that the recently completed investigation into the costs of Wool Transport in Australia by the Australian Wool Board assume great significance.

This report, released this month, highlights the way transport restrictions add to producer’s costs ... in fact the Wool Board has found that the industry is forced to spend six-and-a-half-million dollars a year more on transport than it would if there were no restrictions.

At the present time it costs an average of two dollars 80 cents per bale to transport wool from the farm to the broker’s store. This represents a total cost of nearly 15 and a half million dollars a year.

If there was free competition between road and rail transport, the total cost would be reduced to just under nine-million-dollars ... a saving of six and a half million dollars to growers.

There is quite a variation in transport costs throughout Australia. In Queensland it is as high as five dollars a bale, while in Tasmania the average is 95 cents per bale.

For Victoria the average cost of transport is 1-point 69 dollars per bale.
An important feature of the Wool Board's report as far as Western Victoria is concerned is the great increase in the amount of wool sold at Portland which could be envisaged if there were no transport restrictions.

At the present time Portland sells about two-hundred-and eleven-thousand bales a year, compared to more than one-million in Melbourne and four hundred and forty-five-thousand in Geelong.

Under what the board calls "perfectly competitive" conditions, the amount of wool sold in Portland could be expected to rise from two-hundred-and eleven thousand to three-hundred and 67-thousand bales, almost double.

Melbourne could be expected to drop to four-hundred-and-ten-thousand and Geelong 367-thousand.

However the board points out that under "Optimal Conditions" with reference to where the wool is grown, Portland should handle five-hundred-and-fifty-three-thousand bales a year.

But the vexed question of shipping movements is again highlighted as one of the main factors retarding Portland's growth as a wool selling centre. In the 12 months to May this year, 89-percent of all wool sold in Portland was moved out by rail ... mainly to Melbourne.

This is plainly a situation which must be looked at closely.
Miss Mary Dunn

To Affleck

Degree granting,
Chris Hayden
National Recoring
Professor Bruns
Phil Law
Dex Vale

Now

Refer to duties to approve
Next candidate.

Counsel
Independent
Relationship

Report - Multifunction

Bachelor - Secretarial Studies

Degree