



Media Release

27 May 2010

New Road Transport Forum Chief Executive Officer appointed

Former Act Deputy Leader Ken Shirley has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the Road Transport Forum.

Mr Shirley has had a distinguished parliamentary career, first entering the House as the Labour member for Tasman in 1984. He was appointed Minister of Fisheries, Associate Minister of Agriculture, Associate Minister of Forestry and Associate Minister of Health in 1989, but lost his seat when National won the 1990 election.

A foundation member of the Act Party and Deputy Leader since its formation, Mr Shirley returned to Parliament in 1996 as an ACT list MP, serving until 2005.

Mr Shirley brings extensive experience managing professional associations to his new appointment. Between 1990 and 1996 he was Executive Director of the New Zealand Forest Owners Association. In May 2006 he became the Inaugural Chief Executive Officer of Organics Aotearoa NZ which aims to make organic production a \$1 billion industry by 2013, before moving on to head the Researched Medicines Industry Association in 2007.

"I've always followed road transport, and of course I was involved with it during my time with the New Zealand Forest Owners Association," Mr Shirley says. "It's critical given our economy and our export trade that we have an efficient and profitable transport sector. Plus I've always been interested in public policy and I like working with membership organisations. So I am very much looking forward to working with the Road Transport Forum."

Road Transport Forum Board Chairman, John Hickman, says that Mr Shirley stood out from all the other candidates. "In the Board's opinion his parliamentary experience and his background with other professional non-profit organisations means he is well qualified to lead the Road Transport Forum into the future. His grasp of the way the industry and the associations work impressed the Board, and we are convinced he will be a very effective representative for the trucking industry."

Mr Shirley will take up his appointment in July, following the retirement of Tony Friedlander.

Details:

John Hickman **Road Transport Forum Board Chairman** **Mob: 027 445 8614**
Ken Shirley **021 570 877**