



New Zealand's specialist land-based university



**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE FROM LINCOLN UNIVERSITY
AND TELFORD RURAL POLYTECHNIC**

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Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic merger approved

A merger between Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic has today been given the green light to proceed.

The Minister for Tertiary Education, Hon Steven Joyce, advised that following months of planning and public consultation the Cabinet has this week accepted the merger proposal.

The merger supports a direction signalled by the Councils of both Lincoln University and Telford Rural Polytechnic to develop a model of strong collaboration in education and research to support land-based industries. The Councils believe the merger is in line with two governmental intentions - to drive productivity growth and investment in the export sector and to give young people wider choices in education.

Lincoln University Chancellor Mr. Tom Lambie says he's delighted the merger has been approved.

"The merger offers many new possibilities in training for land-based industries," says Mr. Lambie. "It will result in vertical integration to encompass all aspects of the agricultural and land-based sector provision and supply chain, from secondary school, sub-degree and undergraduate teaching to postgraduate research, commercialisation and extension activities with industry."

Mr. Lambie says the merger complements existing partnerships the University already has in place. Lincoln University will continue to enhance its Partnership for Excellence relationship with Massey University and relevant industry partners, whilst further developing its partnership with AgResearch Ltd and its relationship with Ngai Tahu.

Telford, as a Division of Lincoln University will also continue to enhance its relationships with other providers and industry partners.

Chair of Council of Telford Rural Polytechnic, Mr David Yardley says the merger gives both institutions many new options. "Together, we have the potential to generate a more co-ordinated and integrated land-based education, in keeping with national education strategies and goals."

The merger will take effect on 1 January, 2011.

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