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Stories of coordinating border management in the trans-Tasman single economic market

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Where we’re going

- A bit of theory (trans-Tasman)
- One goal, three responses

Some questions for us to discuss
Some thoughts for you to reflect on
An interesting observation
A bit of theory

- Actor-Network Theory (Bruno Latour)
  - Social groupings, unstable connections and our urge to stabilise
  - Circulating meanings
  - Black boxes
  - Matters of concern
- Human and non-human actors
A bit of history (trans-Tasman)
What you do when you’re past the point of a customs union?

- You maintain your day-to-day connections
- You look for mutual matters of concern
A goal...

“to reduce remaining barriers at the borders to ensure that people and goods can move more easily between the two countries”
Three responses
(where were the matters of concern?)

- Response 1: Trans-Tasman Travel and technology
  - NZ wanted automated border processing. Australia had SmartGate
  - Opened up potential for SmartGate integration
- Response 2: Trans-Tasman Travel and the future
  - “What’s next on the horizon?”
- Response 3: Trans-Tasman Trade
  - No ‘matter of concern’
    - Time release study proved border trade processes were not holding up trade
    - Industry not pushing for change
What happened?

- NZ got SmartGate, and integration was trialled

- Two joint studies on new models for streamlining trans-Tasman travel
  - New model designed
  - Nothing implemented

- Today, new conversations and debates
An interesting observation

- The Joint PM statement was able to generate action, but not necessarily results

- However, it has continued to provide something for matters of concern to be connected to
Some thoughts for you to reflect on

- Results don’t come just from political will and leadership – there needs to be a compelling matter of concern

- It helps if what you are designing or delivering can ‘speak’ for you like SmartGate did

- The pull of past/existing connections will be stronger than new ones, particularly forward-looking ones

- If coordination is breaking down, look for the matters of concern and where you might need new or refreshed connections
Some questions for getting results from Coordinating Border Management

- What is the matter of concern you are addressing?

- Where are the stabilised connections and stories you can rely on, to address it?

- What tools and mechanisms can you use to stabilise newly-forming connections?