

Dr Barry O'Neil



Raised on dairy, sheep and beef farms in Manawatu and the Bay of Plenty, Barry graduated from Massey University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, with distinction.

Between 1978 and 1983 Barry worked in a private veterinary mixed practice in Tauranga and travelled extensively overseas, experiencing veterinary practice in Asia and Europe.

From 1983 to 1990 Barry held various MAF Veterinary positions in MAF's Meat, Animal Health and Head Office divisions.

In 1991 Barry accepted a four-year diplomatic secondment with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade as Veterinary Counsellor at the NZ Embassy in Brussels. In this position he was responsible for New Zealand's veterinary affairs in the European Community, Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Moving back to New Zealand in 1994, he took up the position of Chief Veterinary Officer within MAF. With the formation of the Biosecurity Authority within MAF in 1999, Barry was appointed to the position of Group Director of the Authority. This position had responsibilities for MAF's animal, plant and forest health groups and animal welfare.

Following the release of The Biosecurity Strategy for New Zealand in August 2003, Barry was appointed as Assistant Director-General of the restructured Biosecurity New Zealand.

On 1 July 2007 Barry led a project to bring MAF Quarantine Service and Biosecurity New Zealand together into a single organisation to provide leadership of the New Zealand Biosecurity system. Barry is currently the Deputy Director-General of MAF Biosecurity New Zealand (MAFBNZ).

In addition, Barry is currently President of the Administration Commission with the Office international des epizooties (OIE - World Organisation for Animal Health).