



Rabobank

*Media release
November 7, 2014*

Dutch Prime Minister Rutte pays visit to Rabobank Australian headquarters

The Prime Minister of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mark Rutte, has taken time during his official trip to Australia to pay a visit to the regional headquarters of global Dutch food and agribusiness bank Rabobank, in Sydney.

Prime Minister Rutte, who has been in Australia for meetings with Prime Minister Tony Abbott and other members of the Australian government, has taken the opportunity to also meet with some Netherlands-based international organisations making significant contributions in the region.

Visiting Rabobank Australia and New Zealand's head office in Sydney's Darling Park (this afternoon), Prime Minister Rutte met with Rabobank's regional managing director for Australia and New Zealand Thos Gieskes and was briefed on the international bank's successful development in the Australian market.

Since coming to Australia in 1990, Rabobank has grown to become one of the country's largest rural lenders and a major provider of corporate financial services to the food and agribusiness sector.

Mr Gieskes said he was honoured to welcome Prime Minister Rutte to the Rabobank Australasian headquarters and to share insights into the bank's long-term presence in the Australian market.

"A very strong and special connection exists between Australia and the Netherlands and we are very pleased that Rabobank here demonstrates just what can be achieved from a great Dutch/Australian partnership," Mr Gieskes said.

Mr Gieskes also took the opportunity to brief Prime Minister Rutte on the upcoming F20 (Food 20) Summit being staged in Sydney next Thursday, in the lead up to the G20 Leaders Summit.

Mr Gieskes said, as the world's leading agribusiness bank and a cooperative, Rabobank prided itself on being a major contributor to agriculture and to local rural communities.

"Globally, as well as here in Australia, the bank is involved in a range of initiatives to promote and develop the agricultural sector, and contribute to the challenges of future global food security," he said



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Prime Minister Rutte and Mr Gieskes were joined for the meeting by Rabobank Sustainable Business Development head Marc Oostdijk and Rabobank International Desk manager Piet Hein Knook.

Rabobank has 61 branches in Australia and 32 in New Zealand, primarily in regional locations. It employs approximately 1200 people across both countries. Rabobank was established as a rural credit co-operative in the Netherlands in 1898, when farmers united to overcome rural poverty by providing finance to help build and support each other's businesses.

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Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is a part of the international Rabobank Group, the world's leading specialist in food and agribusiness banking. Rabobank has more than 110 years' experience providing customised banking and finance solutions to businesses involved in all aspects of food and agribusiness. Rabobank is structured as a cooperative and operates in 41 countries, servicing the needs of approximately 10 million clients worldwide through a network of more than 1600 offices and branches. Rabobank Australia & New Zealand is one of Australasia's leading rural lenders and a significant provider of business and corporate banking and financial services to the region's food and agribusiness sector. The bank has 93 branches throughout Australia and New Zealand.

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