

25/11
Key 'privileged' to address Australian Parliament

New Zealand's Prime Minister says addressing the Australian Parliament was a great opportunity to express why the two nations matter to each other.

John Key says it was a privilege to become the first New Zealand Prime Minister to speak to the Federal Parliament on Monday.

Mr Key used his speech to thank Australia for its support following the tragedies of the Pike River mining disaster and the earthquakes in Canterbury.

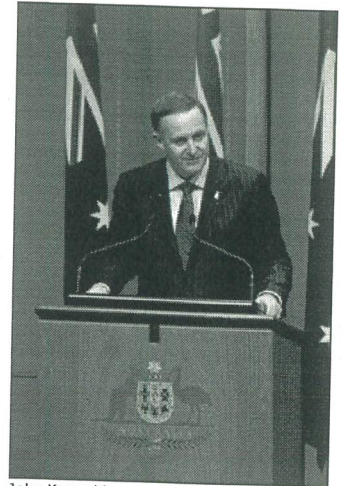
He paid tribute to the Anzac spirit and shared history but also cast an eye to the future, saying the countries and their economies have more to gain from closer integration.

He told the Parliament both he and Australian counterpart Julia Gillard are committed to progressing the single economic market agenda.

Mr Key capped off his flying visit by attending an exclusive fundraising dinner in Sydney for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, which was expected to raise at least \$700,000.

The Prime Minister arrives back in New Zealand later on Tuesday.

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John Key addresses the Australian Parliament on Tuesday.

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(RNZ, 2011b)

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