

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 07/10/2024

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade

Title	Reference
<i>Minute of Decision - Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0323
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2024</i>	

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the OIA that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reason for withholding it.

Key to OIA redaction code:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 26 August 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 7 to 11 September 2024, to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates for bilateral visits;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$44,310 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 5.4 Hon Nicola Grigg will act as Minister for Trade;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – September 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 7 to 11 September in my capacity as Minister for Trade.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of my visit is to advance New Zealand-Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) trade negotiations at Ministerial level with my Saudi counterparts, ^{s6(a)}
with Saudi ^{s6(a)} The visit will also offer opportunities to engage Associate Foreign Affairs counterparts ^{s6(a)}

- 4 I will transit via UAE^{s6(a)}

Ministerial Party

- 5 I will be accompanied by:
 - 5.1 one staff member from my office.
 - 5.2 officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

Travel Costs

- 6 Total estimated costs are comprised of:

Airfares:	\$38,000.00
Accommodation:	\$ 2,000.00
Gifts and miscellaneous:	\$ 2,200.00
Contingency [5%]:	\$ 2,110.00
Total:	\$44,310.00

Acting Ministers

7 If this travel is approved, I note that the house is not sitting during our absence. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.

7.1 Hon Patterson – Agriculture

7.2 Hon Watts – Forestry

7.3 Hon Potaka - Hunting and Fishing

7.4 Hon Grigg – Trade

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, Saturday, 7 September 2024 to Wednesday 11 September 2024, to travel to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates (UAE) in my capacity as Minister for Trade;

1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member from my office;

1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$44,310 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;

1.4 agree that in my absence:

1.4.1 Hon Mark Patterson will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

1.4.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry

1.4.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing

1.4.4 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade

2 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade