

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 17 July 2024

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

| Title | Reference |
|--|-----------------|
| <i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April/May 2024</i> | CAB-24-MIN-0194 |
| <i>Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee – Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April – May 2024</i> | |

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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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April/May 2024

Portfolio

Trade

On 4 June 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-24-SUB-0194 on his travel to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Paris (France) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 29 April to 8 May 2024 to advance the New Zealand – Gulf Cooperation Council free trade negotiations, attend the annual Ministerial Council Meeting of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and undertake a number of bilateral discussions.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

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~~Restricted~~

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April - May 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Riyadh (Saudi Arabia), Paris (France) and Dubai (United Arab Emirates) from 29 April to 8 May 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade.

Report

- 1 In Riyadh, I met with Majid bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, Minister of Commerce, and Dr Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg, Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Negotiations, to advance the New Zealand-GCC FTA negotiations. I also called on Sulaiman Al Rumaih, CEO of the Saudi Agricultural Investment Company (SALIC), and Jerry Todd, Head of National Development Division, Public Investment Fund (PIF) to discuss opportunities for inwards investment to New Zealand. I hosted an event with NZTE to promote and support New Zealand businesses engaged in the Saudi market, and to better understand the opportunities presented by Saudi Arabia's *Vision 2030* transformation to further grow New Zealand exports.
- 2 In Dubai, I met with Dr Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of State for Foreign Trade, to announce the launch of negotiations on a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) with the UAE. I also met with Sir Tim Clark KBE, President of Emirates Airlines, to discuss New Zealand's air connectivity and the future of air transport, and I engaged with key New Zealand business contacts to further understand opportunities in the region.
- 3 In Paris, the primary purpose of the visit was to represent New Zealand at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) Meeting of the Council at Ministerial level (2-3 May). This annual meeting is the highest-level OECD meeting and is well attended by Ministers of Trade, Foreign Affairs and Finance from its 38 members and partner countries. At the OECD meetings I engaged in constructive discussions with my ministerial counterparts, including on sustainable economic growth and the importance of free and open trade for economic prosperity.
- 4 Alongside the OECD meetings, I attended a number of events to advance New Zealand's trade interests. This included the World Trade Organization (WTO) Mini-Ministerial, the first meeting of ministers to progress issues following the WTO's Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13). I attended events to expand export opportunities. This included celebrations for the 1 May entry into force of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade

Agreement, the accession of the Republic of Korea to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA) and hosting my Ministerial counterparts to advance the negotiations on the Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS).

- 5 I also had a busy schedule of bilateral meetings with 14 counterparts, including Australia, Costa Rica, the European Commission, Fiji, Germany, France, Hungary, Indonesia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. I used these meetings to advance trade opportunities for New Zealand, including enhancing free trade arrangements, addressing non-tariff barriers, and discussing the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Ministerial Conferences (MC13, MC14).

Proactive release

- 6 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendation

- 7 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

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