

Proactive Release

3/10/2022

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O’Connor</i>	CAB-22-MIN-0349
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O’Connor</i>	

Proactively Released by
the Minister for Trade and Export Growth



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 29 August 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from Aotearoa New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6 to 11 September 2022 to travel to the United States of America to attend the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Ministerial Meeting in Los Angeles, and attend bilateral meetings in San Francisco;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$73,892 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also be attending the IPEF Ministerial Meeting, with their costs being met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth and Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities from 6 to 9 September 2022;
 - 5.3 Hon Stuart Nash act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities from 10 to 11 September 2022;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

[RESTRICTED]

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to the United States from 6-11 September.

2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

3 The primary purpose of travel is to attend a Ministerial meeting and launch of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) in Los Angeles on 8-9 September. The purpose of the travel to San Francisco is to support our economic connections with the United States and to build on our relationship with the California State Government, with a focus on sustainable agriculture, following on from the Prime Minister's meeting Governor Newsom in May.

4 The objectives of my visit to the United States are to:

- Represent New Zealand at the first full Ministerial meeting and launch of negotiations on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF)
- Support New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy by demonstrably reconnecting with US businesses and people, and profile New Zealand as an innovative, open and valuable partner and destination;
- Reaffirm the close political relationship with our most consequential and powerful international partner at a time of increasing global uncertainty, and highlight our contribution to addressing mutual security, trade and sustainability challenges;
- Highlight and support the contribution of the US relationship to NZ's economic recovery, security and ability to respond to climate change; and

5 The proposed travel supports implementation of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS) which has four interrelated and mutually reinforcing pillars (STAR):

- **Sustainable and inclusive trade:** fully supporting our Trade for All agenda, to deliver for all New Zealanders, and contribute to addressing global challenges;
- **Trade and export lift:** lifting our exporters' capability and performance in markets, including through economic diplomacy and trade missions;

- **Architecture:** strengthening New Zealand's network of trade agreements, international and regional trade architecture; and
 - **Resilience:** promoting diversification of trade, working to ease pressure on supply chains, and building resilience against future shocks, including those related to climate change.
- 6 IPEF is a regional framework, initiated by the United States, with scoping discussions now involving fourteen Indo-Pacific economies including New Zealand. It is intended to develop rules and deepen cooperation across a wide range of 'future-focused' trade and economic issues. Structurally, the framework is organised into four thematic pillars: i) trade; ii) supply chains; iii) clean economy (formerly 'energy, decarbonisation, and infrastructure'); and iv) fair economy (formerly 'tax and anti-corruption').
 - 7 While some ministerial discussions have taken place (Singapore in November 2021 and Paris in June 2022) this meeting will be the first full in-person ministerial meeting for the whole group of fourteen economies.
 - 8 Ambition for the IPEF is consistent with several of the TRS pillars. There are sustainability and inclusivity themes running throughout IPEF as well as a stand-alone clean economy pillar and potentially an *Inclusivity* chapter in the trade pillar which would preserve scope for provisions relating to indigenous peoples, gender, and labour rights and standards. The IPEF is a novel piece of architecture, bringing together some of the Indo-Pacific's largest economies to discuss both rules and cooperation measures. And it has a strong focus on economic resilience, particularly in the supply chains pillar. I will take the opportunity to meet bilaterally with a range of Ministerial counterparts from IPEF participating economies.
 - 9 If approved, the California programme with a focus on sustainable agriculture and tech will support the TRS pillars of trade and export lift, and sustainability. There is significant potential economic benefit to lifting our engagement with California within the overall context of our relationship with the United States. California is the world's largest sub-national economy. If it were a country, it would rank between just ahead of India and behind Germany in terms of GDP. I will be meeting with California Agricultural Secretary Karen Ross to discuss how New Zealand and California can build our agriculture, economic and climate partnership. I will also be meeting with innovative New Zealand-led and US firms in the tech and agritech space, and engaging with the Sustainable Agriculture Programme at UC Davis.
 - 10 I acknowledge the changing global situation with respect to COVID-19, and will continue to monitor developments in each host country. I will adapt my travel plans if necessary, including through contingency budgeting.

Ministerial Party

- 11 I will be accompanied by one staff member. Seven officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also be attending the officials-level

negotiations which feed into the IPEF Ministerial meeting. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

12 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights	\$58,864
Ground transport	\$1092
Accommodation	\$4307
Per Diems	\$980
Airport Facilitation	\$0
Representation/Events	\$2000
Contingency 15%	\$6649
Total	\$73,892

Acting Ministers

13 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:

- Land Information: Hon Dr David Clark
- Trade and Export Growth: Hon Dr David Clark
- Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities:

Hon Meka Whaitiri (5-9 September)

Hon Stuart Nash (10-11 September)

Proactive release

14 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

15 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 15.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 6-11 September to travel to the United States;
- 15.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
- 15.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$73.892 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 15.4 note that seven officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also be attending the IPEF meeting with, and officials' travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 15.5 agree that Hon Dr David Clark (Land Information, Trade and Export Growth); and Hon Meka Whaitiri and Hon Stuart Nash (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
- 15.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth