

Proactive Release

Date: 21 October 2022

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor, 7-10 Oct 2022, Singapore	CAB-22-MIN-0427

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 Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 6(e)(vi) to avoid damage to the New Zealand economy by the premature disclosure of decisions relating to entering into of overseas trade agreements.



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 Damien O'Connor

Portfolio Trade and Export Growth

On 3 October 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, from 7 to 10 October 2022, to travel to Singapore to attend the 6th Commission Meeting for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP);
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$38,522 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that four officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will also be attending the CPTPP meeting, with their travel costs being met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
 - 5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.3 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

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 Singapore from 7-10 October.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of travel is to attend the 6th Commission Meeting for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Export Growth.
- 4 CPTPP is the world's premier open plurilateral free trade agreement, signed by 11 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, and Viet Nam. These economies represent 13.3 percent of world GDP – a total of NZD 17.7 trillion. CPTPP's objectives are more important than ever, with CPTPP members well-placed to help drive our collective post-COVID-19 trade recovery.
- 5 Trade will be a key driver for the overall economic recovery of Aotearoa New Zealand, emerging from two years dominated by the global COVID-19 pandemic and associated border closures.
- 6 The 2022 Commission Meeting is an opportunity for CPTPP Ministers to meet in person and discuss the implementation and expansion of CPTPP, against the backdrop of a challenging global economic context.
- 7 The proposed travel primarily supports implementation of the Architecture pillar of the Government's refreshed Trade Recovery Strategy (TRS), by contributing to strengthening New Zealand's network of trade agreements, and international and regional trade architecture.
- 8 The CPTPP Commission Meeting brings together Trade Ministers from all 11 economies to consider the implementation of the Agreement, including matters related to accessions, and progress towards ratification by Signatories. It will also provide an opportunity for bilateral meetings with CPTPP partners.
- 9 The agenda for the Commission Meeting will focus on collaboration on digital trade, strengthening supply chains, and promoting trade and investment in green goods, services and technologies through CPTPP. The meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the terms of the UK's accession to CPTPP.

- 10 Aotearoa New Zealand will take over as Chair of CPTPP from Singapore in 2023. This will provide an opportunity to further highlight our progressive approach to international trade as set out in the Trade for All agenda as well as our commitment to open trade and regional economic architecture.
- 11 While in Singapore I will also take the opportunity to participate in a business roundtable discussion hosted by the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce to talk about Aotearoa New Zealand's Trade Recovery Strategy and other economic priorities. In my capacity as Minister for Agriculture, I will also visit Sustenir vertical farm, Singapore's poster child company for vertical farming, to hear about Singapore's food security challenges and its use of agritech to address these.

Ministerial Party

- 12 I will be accompanied by one staff member. Four officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also be attending the officials-level meetings which feed into the CPTPP Ministerial meeting. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated costs of my travel are:

Flights	\$26,904
Accommodation	\$2,953
Facilitation	\$1,000
Ground transport	\$0
Hospitality/representation	\$1,000
Total per diem	\$1,640
Gifts	\$0
Interpretation	\$0
Contingency of 15%	\$5,025
Total	\$38,522

Acting Ministers

- 14 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri
 - Land Information: Hon Dr David Clark
 - Trade and Export Growth: Hon Phil Twyford

Proactive release

- 15 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

- 16 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 16.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 7-10 October to travel to Singapore;
 - 16.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;
 - 16.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$38,522 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
 - 16.4 note that four officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will also be attending the CPTPP meeting, and officials' travel costs will be met by the Ministry;
 - 16.5 agree that Hon Phil Twyford (Trade and Export Growth) Hon Dr David Clark (Land Information); Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
 - 16.6 note that the House is not sitting in my absence.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth