

Proactive Release

Date: 1 August 2022

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

Title	Reference
<i>Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O’Connor</i>	CAB-21-SUB-0237
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O’Connor</i>	

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth



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 20 June 2022, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Damien O'Connor from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 25 June to 8 July 2022, to travel to:
 - 1.1 Brussels, Belgium to finalise negotiations of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement (NZ-EU FTA);
 - 1.2 London, United Kingdom to attend the Reconnecting New Zealand event with the Prime Minister;
 - 1.3 Ottawa and Toronto, Canada for bilateral discussions;
 - 1.4 Sydney, Australia to attend the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF);
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$117,770 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4 **noted** that Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade officials will be attending the final negotiations of the NZ-EU FTA, and also supporting his attendance at the ANZLF, with their travel costs met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Land Information;
 - 5.2 Hon Dr David Clark act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth on 25 June 2022;
 - 5.3 Hon Phil Twyford act as Minister Trade and Export Growth from 26 June to 8 July 2022;
 - 5.4 Hon Meka Whaitiri act as Minister of Agriculture, Minister for Biosecurity and Minister for Rural Communities;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Michael Webster
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 Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia from 25 June – 8 July 2022.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of this visit is to finalise the negotiations at the political level of the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement (NZ-EU FTA) prior to your scheduled leader-level announcement of 'substantive conclusion' in Brussels in late June, to visit one of our closest partners - Canada, and to attend the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum.
- 4 I propose visiting Brussels, Belgium, for final in-person negotiations with EU Executive Vice-President and Trade Commissioner Valdis Dombrovskis, and Agriculture Commissioner Janusz Wojciechowski, to resolve key remaining issues before your announcement with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in late June.
- 5 This visit will also be an opportunity to highlight to New Zealand media and stakeholders the benefits of securing a high-quality free trade agreement with the EU, providing significant new export opportunities in a market with a population of close to half a billion people. I also intend to promote the mutual value of the NZ-EU FTA with key Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to build further support for ratification of the FTA. This was will be a critical and demanding next phase once negotiations have been completed to ensure that New Zealanders are able to realise the benefits of the Agreement.
- 6 Following the signing of the New Zealand-United Kingdom FTA (NZ-UK FTA) in February 2022, I propose travelling to London, the United Kingdom, to accompany you at the Reconnecting New Zealand event held at New Zealand House. This will be an opportunity to further promote the benefits of the NZ-UK FTA, as part of the wider Reconnecting New Zealand leveraging event, and to ensure that the positive messaging around the UK FTA is reinforced and its benefits to New Zealand business and the broader UK relationship continues.
- 7 New Zealand works closely with Canada in multilateral trade settings and there is mutual benefit in close liaison as rules and institutions supporting multilateral trade are under pressure. In previous discussion with Canadian Trade Minister Ng, I undertook to visit Canada for discussions on these issues

before November. I propose that I travel to Ottawa, Canada following my trip to London, for a series of trade-related political engagements. A meeting with Minister Ng will take priority here, alongside potential meetings with other Ministers from my broader portfolio.

- 8 I then propose to travel to Toronto for a series of engagements with New Zealand businesses and Toronto-based business groups, coordinated through MFAT and NZTE, in support of our reconnection strategy. As Toronto is one of the leading technology centres in North America, it is a significant connection point for New Zealand tech exports, and it is important to deepen our links into the city.
- 9 I then propose to travel to Sydney, Australia, with the primary purpose of attending the Australia-New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) and to join you in engaging with government and business leaders from both sides of the Tasman. Along with my new counterpart, Senator Farrell, I have been invited to speak at a session on “Reconnecting to the World through Trade”.
- 10 There is a proposal for a Single Economic Market Ministerial Meeting in the margins of the ANZLF, which provides an opportunity to discuss with Australian colleagues how we can further deepen the integration between our countries. There may separately be opportunities for me to meet with new counterparts in my other portfolios.
- 11 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

- 12 I will be accompanied by one staff member as part of the Ministerial Delegation. Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) will be attending the final negotiations of the EU FTA, and also supporting my attendance at the ANZLF. The travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

- 13 The estimated costs of my travel are:

	Minister	Staff
Flights	36,000	36,000
Ground transport	3000	3000
Accommodation	9200	6800
Per Diems	1922	1922

Representation	4936	
PCR /RAT Tests	184	184
Facilitation	3000	
Gifts	900	
Visas	8	8
Subtotal	59159	47914
Contingency 10%	5916	4791
TOTAL	65065	52705
<u>TOTAL \$117,770</u>		

Acting Ministers

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

Land Information: Hon Dr David Clark

Agriculture; Biosecurity; Rural Communities: Hon Meka Whaitiri

Trade and Export Growth: Hon Dr David Clark: from 24 - 25 June

Hon Phil Twyford: from 26 June – 8 July

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, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 25 June – 8 July 2022 to travel to Belgium, the United Kingdom, Canada and Australia;

16.2 agree that I be accompanied by one staff member;

- 16.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$117,770 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 16.4 note that officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be attending the final negotiations of the EU FTA, and also supporting my attendance at the ANZLF, and that the travel costs of officials will be covered by their departmental budget;
- 16.5 agree that Hon Dr David Clark (Land Information; and Trade and Export Growth from 24-25 June); Hon Phil Twyford (Trade and Export Growth from 26 June – 8 July); and Hon Meka Whaitiri (Agriculture, Biosecurity and Rural Communities) will be Acting Ministers in my absence; and
- 16.6 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

Proactively Released
by the Minister of Trade and Export Growth