

Proactive Release

Date: 16 October 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister of Foreign Affairs

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-23-MIN-0415
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There is a Cabinet Minute associated with this Cabinet Paper. This paper was approved by Ministers with Powers to Act outside the Cabinet schedule.

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- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis.



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 4 September 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Damien O'Connor under CAB-23-SUB-0415 on his travel, from 10 to 13 August 2023, to Adelaide, Australia to attend the annual Closer Economic Relations Ministerial.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

~~[Restricted]~~

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

1 I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Adelaide, Australia from 10-13 August 2023.

Report

2 The focus of my visit was the annual Closer Economic Relations (CER) Ministerial (CER Ministerial) on 11 August, hosted by my counterpart Minister for Trade Senator the Hon Don Farrell. The meeting was an opportunity to mark the 40th anniversary of the Australia-New Zealand CER Trade Agreement and to energise trans-Tasman trade and economic collaboration.

3 The CER Ministerial took place shortly after the Australia New Zealand Leadership Forum (ANZLF) and the annual Australia New Zealand Leaders Meeting (ANZLM) hosted in Wellington. As a leader-led relationship, the high ambition set (by New Zealand) at the ANZLM for a modernised trade and economic agenda usefully focused our own agenda in Adelaide.

4 I had positive and concrete discussions with Minister Farrell on the value to both economies of maintaining focus on the Single Economic Market (SEM) agenda, s6(b)(i)

In this context, my overarching message was that the trans-Tasman economic and trade relationship should not be taken for granted. s6(b)(i) and to the concerns raised by industry groups at the ANZLF that CER needed work and investment.

5 s6(b)(i)

In a Joint Statement released at the conclusion of the meeting, we directed officials to identify how New Zealand could join this discussion and report back s6(b)(i)

We also agreed work should continue on indigenous collaboration, a seamless border and implementation of the Trans-Tasman Roadmap to 2035 – which was launched at the ANZLM and defines priority areas of effort in the relationship for the next decade.

6 We also took the opportunity to exchange views and experiences on a range of regional and international trade issues. These included the recent progress Australia has made to stabilise its relationship with China; developments in our own dispute with Canada under CPTPP on dairy quota administration; CPTPP

accessions; our respective bilateral negotiations with the EU, GCC and UAE; and recent moves by the US sheepmeat industry to lobby against Australian and New Zealand imports into the US. No significant points of bilateral contention were raised at the meeting, s6(b)(i)

7 A key outcome of the visit was the signing of a Declaration on Sustainable and Inclusive Trade articulating the priority both governments place on advancing climate, gender, indigenous and trade for all outcomes through our trade and economic relationship.

8 The Declaration captures key elements of New Zealand's progressive trade policy – setting a shared level of ambition to ensure these issues are central to our trade and economic relationship across the Tasman and into regional arrangements.

9 s6(a) it updates the Trans-Tasman relationship to reflect contemporary priorities and commits to consider further upgrades to CER and deeper cooperation as necessary. The Declaration, along with the work programme from the inaugural 2+2: Climate & Finance Ministers' talks in June and pillar one of the Trans-Tasman Roadmap to 2035, collectively provide a strong foundation for New Zealand and Australia to work together more closely on the net zero transition.

9 The challenge for New Zealand officials will be to harness the direction set during our meeting and translating that into sustained action in an Australian system that is focused on larger and/or newer markets. s6(a)

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. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

16 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth