

# Proactive Release

Date: 8 February 2023

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister for Trade & Export Growth

Title	Reference
Cabinet: Minute of Decision: Report on Overseas Travel” Hon Damien O’Connor	CAB-22-MIN-0544
Report on Overseas Travel” Hon Damien O’Connor	

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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;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party;
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials;
- 9(2)(g)(i): to protect the free and frank expression of opinions by departments; and
- 9(2)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

**Portfolio**                      **Trade and Export Growth**

On 28 November 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Damien O'Connor under CAB-22-SUB-0544 on his travel, from 18 to 24 September 2022, to:

- 1        New Delhi, India to broaden New Zealand's trade relationship with India;
- 2        Bali, Indonesia to attend the G20 Trade Ministers' meeting.

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 India and Indonesia from 18 to 24 September.

### Report

#### *India*

2 The focus of my visit to New Delhi, India, was to deepen and broaden our relationship with India in support of our trade recovery objectives. Ultimately, the visit – in combination with a parallel visit by the India New Zealand Business Council (INZBC) - delivered the strong message to India's Government that New Zealand is willing and able to strengthen its partnership and connectivity with India.

3 The main elements of my programme in New Delhi were: Ministerial meetings; a panel discussion on the future of food at the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) annual conference; a roundtable event with New Zealand and Indian business leaders, economic think tanks, and academics; a reception at the High Commission; dialogue with the INZBC; <sup>s9(2)(b)(ii)</sup> <sup>s9(2)(b)(ii)</sup>; and a meeting with Indira Gandhi International Airport and GMR Group Business Development CEO.

4 I had three **Ministerial meetings**, with the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Hon Piyush Goyal; Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Hon Parshottam Rupala; and Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Hon Narendra Singh Tomar.

5 My meeting with **Minister Goyal** was warm and enthusiastic. We discussed a number of issues before turning to our bilateral economic relationship, including the agreement on Implementing Provision relating to the Port of Entry Inspection and Expedited Border Clearance Processes, the Global Research Alliance <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup> <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>; New Zealand's candidate for the International Organisation of Vine and Wine; and the WTO.

<sup>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</sup>

7 My meeting with **Minister Rupala** also included Minister of State of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Sanjeev Kumar Balyan. Both Ministers were enthusiastic about opportunities for deeper agricultural cooperation with New Zealand. This followed on from Minister Whaitiri's conversations in the margins of the World Dairy Summit the week prior. I connected with Minister Balyan on our personal farming backgrounds, and the success of Indian farmers in New Zealand resonated with the Ministers.

8 s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

s6(b)(i), s9(2)(g)(i)

I explained that the focus of my visit was on identifying new opportunities for cooperation in agriculture to build the partnership between our two countries.

9 During my meeting with **Minister Tomar**, we agreed the shared ambition of both countries to lift the economic relationship. I noted that the objective of my visit was to identify opportunities for partnership between our two countries. s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

I noted that Apple & Pears' work in Himachal Pradesh over the last ten years was a good example of New Zealand agricultural exporters partnering in India to help Indian orchardists meet their productivity ambitions.

10 I participated in a **panel discussion** at the FICCI annual conference, on the *Future of Food: Farm to Fork* session alongside Minister Tomar, Sunny Verghese Group CEO of Olam International, Dr Anish Shah Managing Director and CEO Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd, and Sanjiv Mehta CEO and Managing Director Hindustan Unilever Ltd. My speech profiled New Zealand's policy and technical strengths around food production to assist with global food security challenges. I spoke about our efforts to reduce agricultural greenhouse emissions, and our Roadmap for growing the primary sector, "Fit for a Better World". I noted the opportunities for collaboration between our two countries in these areas.

11 I also sat on the panel of a 40-person **economic roundtable event** hosted at the New Zealand High Commission. The purpose was to discuss the future of the India-New Zealand economic relationship, and ways to enable us to partner more effectively. The panel included Amita Batra, Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, Ms Priya Rawat CEO Invest India, and Mr Amitabh Kant India's G20 Sherpa and recent CEO of NITI Aayog and was facilitated by J Curve CEO Bharat Joshi. The conversation covered an overview of the direction of India's trade policy, and what India was looking for from its partners, what New Zealand has to offer, and mechanisms for marrying New Zealand's value proposition with India's economic development ambitions.

12

s6(a) INZBC Chair and head of the delegation Earl Rattray had noted the need for government and business to be joined at the hip in its economic strategy with India. Joshi concluded there was clear need for a regularised dialogue mechanism to enable business to help lead building the deeper relationship that was sought with India.

s6(a), s9(2)(b)(ii)

### *Indonesia*

14 Following my visit to New Delhi, I travelled to Bali to attend the G20 Trade, Investment and Industry Ministerial Meeting (TIIMM) as an invited guest. Under Indonesia's Presidency, the TIIMM was designed to address key international concerns including WTO Reform, pandemic preparedness, sustainability, and digital trade and value chains.

15 New Zealand's **primary objective** for the meeting was to gain insights into the world's largest economies' thinking on key issues in trade and economic reform, and to demonstrate how New Zealand could add value and offer creative solutions in these discussions.

16 The meeting was unsuccessful in securing a consensus **statement**, due to a standoff between G7+ and Russia over inclusion of language condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the statement. Instead, a Chair's statement was published on 11 October 2022 (three weeks after the meeting).

17 In addition to the formal TIIMM programme, I also held bilateral meetings with France, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the United Kingdom. I also had short pull-asides with Canada and the EU.

18 My meeting with **French Minister** Delegate for Foreign Trade, Economic Attractiveness and French Nations Abroad, Olivier Becht, centred around the NZ-EU FTA, France's views on food security and the Ukraine crisis, potential opportunities to work together in the Indo-Pacific, WTO reform, and COP27.

19 The main focus of my meeting with the **Saudi Arabian Minister** of Commerce, Majib bin Abdullah Al Qasabi, was the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) FTA. s6(a) <sup>9(2)(j)</sup>

s9(2)(j)

20 Similarly, my meeting with **UAE Minister** of State for Foreign Trade, Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, also focussed on the GCC FTA. <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

s9(2)(j)

s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

21 My final bilateral was with **UK Minister of State** for International Trade, James Duddridge. On the NZ-UK FTA, <sup>s6(b)(i)</sup>  
s6(b)(i)

s6(b)(i)

I emphasised the importance of timely ratification, and that this was a priority for New Zealand <sup>s6(a)</sup>  
s6(a)

### **Proactive release**

22 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**

23 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth