

Proactive Release

Date: 22 February 2022

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

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision for Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-22-MIN-0578
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor, 7-10 October 2022, Singapore Paper	

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



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor

Portfolio Trade and Export Growth

On 12 December 2022, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Damien O'Connor under CAB-22-SUB-0578 on his travel, from 7 to 10 October 2022, to Singapore to attend the 6th Commission Meeting for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Released under the Official Information Act

[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 Singapore from 7-10 October 2022.

Report

2 The focus of my visit was the 6th Commission Meeting for the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

3 The Commission meeting was the centrepiece of Singapore's hosting year and the first opportunity for CPTPP ministers to meet in person since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The discussion focused on accession matters, CPTPP implementation (including Singapore's green economy and digital economy initiatives) and the global and regional economic context. These issues were canvassed in a publicly-released Joint Ministerial Statement and Chair's Report.

4 Ministers reviewed the progress made over the last year on the implementation of CPTPP against the backdrop of the COVID-19 economic recovery. There was consistent acknowledgement that CPTPP is an important part of the region's economic trade architecture, and on the importance of maintaining its high standards going forward. ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

5 My own interventions during the meeting highlighted the inclusive trade benefits of CPTPP, and provided an update on New Zealand's work to consider the effectiveness of CPTPP in fostering progressive and inclusive trade through a review, conducted under the auspices of the Inclusive Trade Action Group (ITAG). ITAG (New Zealand, Canada, Chile and Mexico) is committed to reviewing the effectiveness of CPTPP in relation to sustainable development, gender, indigenous peoples, domestic regional economic development, small and medium enterprises, labour rights, the environment and climate change, within three years of entry into force. New Zealand is in the process of finalising its review and I reported to the Commission on its preliminary findings – most notably, that inclusive themes need to be better integrated in to CPTPP committee-level work programmes.

6 ^{s6(a), s6(b)(i)}

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

7 I also held formal bilateral meetings with Japan's then-Minister in Charge of Economic Revitalisation Daishiro Yamagiwa, Canadian Minister of International Trade Mary Ng, and Australian Assistant Minister for Trade Tim Ayres.

s6(a), s6(b)(i)

I also had the opportunity to connect informally with a range of counterparts from CPTPP Parties, including a good discussion with Chilean Vice-Minister José Miguel Ahumada on s6(a), s6(b)(i)

8 The meeting was a timely opportunity to begin to socialise New Zealand's priorities for our year as CPTPP Chair and Commission host in 2023. These will include the following objectives:

- i. Advancing ratifications and accessions;
- ii. Effective and improved implementation of CPTPP;
- iii. Promoting inclusive and sustainable trade; and
- iv. Developing a high-quality and authentic host year.

9 The value of bringing together the CPTPP Ministers in-person for the Commission meeting was borne out in the political direction provided on the UK's accession, the opportunity to share views on the wider accession process, and the reaffirming of the value of CPTPP to members (particularly the inclusive element of the Agreement). s6(a), s6(b)(i)

begin socialising New Zealand's priorities as Chair in 2023 with members.

10 s6(a), s6(b)(i)

11 In addition to the CPTPP-related aspects of the visit, I took part in a closed roundtable event with the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and visited a vertical farm. These events provided an opportunity to engage with New Zealand businesses and key opinion leaders on the regional outlook for business, showcase the Trade Recovery Strategy, and gain an understanding of how industry can contribute to Singapore's food security goals.

Proactive release

12 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

13 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Released under the Official Information Act