

# Proactive Release

Date: 24 May 2023

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

Title	Reference
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	CAB-23-MIN-0134
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Damien O'Connor	

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.



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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*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.*

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

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

On 11 April 2023, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Damien O'Connor under CAB-23-SUB-0134 on his travel, from 23 to 27 February 2023, to Japan to discuss the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership.

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 Japan from 23-25 February.

#### Report

2 The focus of my visit was to meet with Japan's CPTPP and Trade Ministers, Shigeyuki Goto and Yasutoshi Nishimura, to discuss outstanding issues with the United Kingdom's (UK) accession to the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP).

3 <sup>s6(a)</sup>

4 The visit provided an important opportunity for political-level discussions with Japan as the Chair of the UK Accession Working Group <sup>s6(a)</sup>

5 Discussions with Japan have remained ongoing since then. <sup>s6(a)</sup>

A decision on substantial conclusion of the UK's accession to CPTPP was announced by Ministers on Friday 31 March.

6 <sup>s6(a)</sup>



7 Alongside my CPTPP-focussed engagements, I met with New Zealand business leaders and NZTE customers in Japan (including FreshCo, ANZCO, Tātua, Comvita, Fonterra, Cookie Time, K9 Natural and Wholesum) to talk about opportunities and challenges in the Japanese market and the Government's response to Cyclone Gabrielle.

8 Some of the challenges and opportunities canvassed included:

- Crop losses from Cyclone Gabrielle
- Demand in the food service sector starting to improve
- A consumer preference for grain fed over grass fed beef
- Inflation impacting consumers trading down from premium products
- Transport infrastructure challenges
- Market trends around animal welfare
- Issues around true to label (eg Manuka), and a need for increased controls and standards

9 This was a timely opportunity to connect with New Zealand exporters in-market about the impacts of CPTPP, the ongoing COVID-19 and supply chain recovery, and the compounding impacts of Cyclone Gabrielle on pre-existing challenges.

#### **Proactive release**

19 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**

20 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Damien O'Connor

Minister for Trade and Export Growth