

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 30/09/2024

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of State for Trade

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – September 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0308
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – September 2024</i>	



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 Nicola Grigg - September 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 19 August 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Nicola Grigg from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 19 to 24 September 2024, to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers meetings;
- 2 **agreed** that she be accompanied by one staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$30,706 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive);
- 4 **noted** that she will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 5 **agreed** that in her absence Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~[IN CONFIDENCE]~~

Office of the Minister of State for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – September 2024

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR from 19 – 24 September to attend the annual ASEAN Economic Ministers Meetings.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of the travel to Lao PDR is to attend, in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade, the annual ASEAN Economic Minister's Meetings, involving members of ASEAN and their dialogue partners.
- 4 New Zealand's attendance at ministerial level will reinforce our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN in line with the government's increased focus on our relationships in Southeast Asia. Ministerial representation, and building relationships face to face, is essential to protect and promote New Zealand's interests and values in the region.
- 5 The visit will highlight the importance of our trade and economic relationship with ASEAN and support progress on our two ASEAN-led regional free trade agreements - AANZFTA and RCEP. It will be an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to, and help influence, the ASEAN-led regional economic architecture.
- 6 The ASEAN meetings that I will attend are the ASEAN Closer Economic Relations Partners (Australia and New Zealand) Consultation, East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers Meeting and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Ministers Meeting.
- 7 I will also attend the AANZFTA Regional Business Roundtable and conduct bilateral meetings with my Ministerial counterparts relating to the ASEAN Economic Ministers' meetings and my trade delegations.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I will be accompanied by my Ministerial Advisor.
- 9 I will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by departmental budgets.

Travel Costs

10 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$24,592
Accommodation:	\$1800
Other Expenses:	\$600
Transport:	\$300
Hospitality and Gifts:	\$1,000
Contingency (5%)	\$1,414
Total:	\$30,706

Acting Ministers

11 If my travel is approved, I propose that Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women and Hon Todd McClay as Associate Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State for Trade

Proactive release

12 Once the proposed travel has occurred, I will proactively release this paper in part, withholding any sections that are sensitive for budgetary reasons, or that could have an impact on New Zealand's bilateral relationships.

Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 2 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 19 September to 24 September to travel to Vientiane, Lao PDR to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers meetings;
 - 2.1 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff, and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- 3 approve the estimated expenditure of **\$30,706** for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs;
- 4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be by departmental budgets.
 - 4.1 agree that in my absence:
- 5 Hon Louise Upston act as Minister for Women

5.1.1 Hon Todd McClay as Associate Minister of Agriculture and
Minister of State for Trade

6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister of State for Trade

Proactively Released by the Minister of State for Trade