

# Proactive Release

Date: 21 February 2024

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay	CAB-23-MIN-0489
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd – Monday 18 December Thursday 21 December 2023	

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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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay

Portfolio                      Trade

On 11 December 2023, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 18 to 21 December 2023, to travel to New Delhi, India and Singapore for bilateral meetings, and to strengthen New Zealand's economic partnerships with India and Singapore;
- 2        **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$26,486 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 4        **noted** that he will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their department;
- 5        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 5.1      Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade;
  - 5.2      Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
  - 5.3      Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
- 6        **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Rachel Hayward  
Secretary of the Cabinet

~~In Confidence~~

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

**Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - Monday 18 December – Thursday 21 December 2023**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to New Delhi, India and Singapore from Monday 18 December to Thursday 21 December 2023 to establish a relationship and build rapport with my Ministerial counterparts, and to strengthen New Zealand's economic partnerships with India and Singapore.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

**Purpose of Travel**

- 3 Lifting our relationship with **India** is a strategic priority for New Zealand. India's prominence in regional and global affairs is rising and this early engagement will send a clear and impactful message about the priority and commitment that we ascribe to this relationship. My visit will build connections and relationship capital which will help inform a NZ Inc. approach to strengthening and deepening relations with India. Bilateral visits are particularly important for establishing the political connections s6(a) foundational to developing the bilateral relationship.
- 4 The main objective of the visit will be to meet Indian Commerce Minister Goyal to underline New Zealand's commitment to progress the bilateral relationship and lay the foundations for future trade and economic opportunities, s6(a)  
I will also engage with key industry leaders who have vested interest in growing the New Zealand-India trade and economic partnership. This will present an opportunity to signal our desire for a step-change in the relationship to both India and to our respective business communities.
- 5 To maximise my time in the region, I also plan to spend one day in **Singapore**, on the way back to New Zealand. Singapore is our most significant trading partner in South East Asia and a critical hub for New Zealand's supply lines. It is also a "pathfinder" for international trade initiatives and a key partner in protecting international trade rules. My visit will highlight importance of our trade policy priorities with Singapore, including cooperation on supply chain resilience and the transition to a green economy. The main objective of this visit would be to establish my relationship with Singapore's Minister for Trade and Industry Gan. I will also engage with key Singaporean trade stakeholders and connect with New Zealand businesses based in Singapore.

## Ministerial Party

- 6 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office, my Senior Trade Advisor. Travel expenses of the Ministerial party will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 7 I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

## Travel Costs

- 8 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$23,880.00
Other expenses:	\$ 1,345.00
Accommodation:	\$nil
Contingency (5%)	\$1,261.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 26,486.00</b>

## Acting Ministers

- 9 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am listed below:
  - 9.1 Agriculture – Hon Nicola Grigg
  - 9.2 Forestry – Hon Simon Watts
  - 9.3 Hunting and Fishing – Hon Tama Potaka
  - 9.4 Trade – Hon Nicola Grigg

## Recommendations

- 1 I recommend that Cabinet:
  - 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from Monday 18 December to Thursday 21 December 2023 to travel to New Delhi, India and Singapore to establish a relationship and build rapport with my Ministerial counterparts, and to strengthen New Zealand's economic partnerships with India and Singapore
  - 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff

- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$26,486 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs [Members of the Executive – Travel];
- 1.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by that agency;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:
  - 1.5.1 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
  - 1.5.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry
  - 1.5.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing
  - 1.5.4 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 1.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Proactively released by the  
Minister for Trade