

Proactive Release

Date: 3 April 2024

The following Cabinet paper and related Cabinet minute have been proactively released by the Minister for Trade:

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - February 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0036
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - 23 February to 3 March 2024	

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - February 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 19 February 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 23 February to 3 March 2024, to travel to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to attend the World Trade Organization's 13th Ministerial Conference;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$33,600 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 travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by his partner, whose travel costs will be met by the Minister personally;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Mark Patterson act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 6.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 6.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 6.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade;
- 7 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been sought.

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - 23 February to 3 March 2024

- 1 I seek your approval to travel to Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from 23 February to 3 March 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade. The primary purpose is to attend the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13). The ministerial conference is the highest decision making body of the WTO and determines the Organization's priorities and work programme.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 My attendance at MC13 will enable me to advance the following core objectives in support of New Zealand's trade and economic interests
- 4 Firstly, I will advocate for New Zealand's interests and key priorities in the WTO context. These include:
 - 4.1 concluding the second stage of Fisheries Subsidies Agreement negotiations (called "Fish 2"), while advocating for the prompt entry into force of the first-phase Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies;
 - 4.2 advocating for a substantive outcome on agriculture that includes progress towards strengthened disciplines on trade and production distorting, and environmentally harmful, agricultural subsidies;
 - 4.3 securing a package of reforms at MC13 that can help restore a fully functioning dispute settlement system; and
 - 4.4 facilitating a substantive outcome for the Work Programme on E-commerce and the E-commerce Moratorium at MC13.
- 5 Secondly, as a Vice Chair, I will work with the Chair (UAE) and other Vice Chairs (Panama and Cameroon) to ensure a successful meeting and substantive outcomes across the negotiating agenda. In addition, I will be a facilitator of the Work Programme on e-commerce. These roles provide a tangible demonstration of New Zealand's support for the WTO system.

6 Thirdly, I will use the opportunity at MC13 to meet with a range of ministerial counterparts to advance New Zealand's bilateral trade and economic interests.

Ministerial Party

7 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.

8 I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

9 My partner will also be travelling and confirm there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Travel Costs

10 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$22,544.00
Other expenses:	\$ 2,906.00
Accommodation:	\$ 6,550.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,600.00
Total:	\$ 33,600.00

Acting Ministers

11 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios as listed below:

11.1 Agriculture – Hon Mark Patterson;

11.2 Forestry – Hon Simon Watts;

11.3 Hunting and Fishing – Hon Tama Potaka; and

11.4 Trade – Rt Hon Winston Peters

Recommendations

12 I recommend that Cabinet:

12.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Friday, 23 February to Sunday, 3 March 2024 to travel to Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, to attend the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Thirteenth Ministerial Conference (MC13);

12.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;

- 12.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$33,600 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 12.4 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by that Ministry;
- 12.5 note that I will be accompanied by my partner and confirm there will be no additional costs to the taxpayer
- 12.6 agree that in my absence:
- 12.6.1 Hon Mark Patterson will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
 - 12.6.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry
 - 12.6.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing
 - 12.6.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 12.7 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip,

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade