

Proactive Release

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – July 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0253
<i>Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - July 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 Todd McClay – July 2024

Portfolio Trade

On 8 July 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, subject to leave from Parliament being secured, from 10 to 26 July 2024 to travel to:
 - 1.1 Italy to attend the G7 Trade Ministers' Summit;
 - 1.2 United Arab Emirates for Ministerial Trade negotiations;
 - 1.3 India to meet with the Indian Trade Minister;
- 2 **noted** that he will not be accompanied by a staff member;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$24,200 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Member 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 the Ministry;
- 5 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by his partner in Italy, and take personal leave, at no expense to the taxpayer;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade;
 - 6.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry from 10 to 20 July 2024;
 - 6.3 Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister of Forestry from 20 to 26 July 2024;
 - 6.4 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 10 to 11 July 2024;
 - 6.5 Hon Nicole McKee act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 12 to 26 July 2024;
- 7 **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 - July 2024

- 1 I seek approval to travel to Italy, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as well as meet with the Indian Trade Minister, from 14 July to 26 July 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle and leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of my visit to Italy is to attend the G7 Trade Minister's Summit. This is the first time that New Zealand will have participated in the prestigious high-level trade event and is a result of our leadership in negotiating a successful e-commerce outcome during this year's WTO Ministerial meeting in UAE. I will look to hold bilateral meetings with other G7 Trade Ministers to further New Zealand's trade agenda.
- 4 While in Italy I intend to seek bilateral meetings with Italian Government representatives at the FAO in Rome.
- 5 My travel to the UAE is for ministerial trade negotiation following negotiating rounds in June and early July. This will help further progress to achieve high quality outcomes for trade agreements with the UAE.
- 6 Additionally, I have agreed to meet with my newly appointed Indian counterpart for a bilateral discussion, following their recent elections.
- 7 If travel is approved, I will depart New Zealand on 10 July and will undertake personal travel at my own cost around the G7 meeting. I will return to New Zealand on or before 26 July.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I will not be accompanied by a staff member from my office. Travel expenses for the Ministerial portions of this trip will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
- 9 I will be supported by Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade when attending Ministerial events. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

- 10 I note that my partner will accompany me on the Italian part of my Ministerial visit and confirm that there will be no cost to the taxpayer for this.

Travel Costs

- 11 Indicative costs for my Ministerial travel are:

Item	Cost
Airfares x 1 – From Europe to NZ (inc internal EU, Middle East and India related flights)	\$18,000
Accommodation and meals – Italy, Middle East and India	\$ 4,000
Transport and other costs	\$ 1,000
Contingency 5%	\$ 1,200
TOTAL	\$24,200

Acting Ministers

- 12 If my travel is approved, I propose the following Acting Ministers for my portfolios whilst I am out of the country:
- 12.1 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister Agriculture;
 - 12.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry;
 - 12.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 10-11 July;
 - 12.4 Hon Nicole McKee will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 12-16 July
 - 12.5 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade

Recommendations

- 13 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 13.1 **authorise** my absence from New Zealand from 10 July – 26 July 2024 for Ministerial related travel to Italy, Middle East and India, as well as some personal European travel;
 - 13.2 **note** that I will not be accompanied by a staff member from my office;

- 13.3 **note** that I will be supported by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade while on Ministerial business, whose costs will be met by the Ministry;
- 13.4 **note** that I will be accompanied by my partner for the Italian portion of the trip at no expense to the taxpayer;
- 13.5 **agree** that in my absence:
- 13.5.1 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister Agriculture
 - 13.5.2 Hon Simon Watts will be Acting Minister of Forestry
 - 13.5.3 Hon Tama Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 10-11 July
 - 13.5.4 Hon Nicole McKee will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing from 12-26 July
 - 13.5.5 Hon Nicola Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 13.6 **approve** the estimated expenditure of \$24,200 for the travel expenses, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs: Member of the Executive – Travel;
- 13.7 **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