

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 23/09/2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – July 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0297
<i>Cabinet External Relations and Security Committee – Minute of Decision –</i>	

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 OIA). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the OIA 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 OIA redaction codes:

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and,
- 6(e)(vi) to avoid damage to the New Zealand economy by the premature disclosure of decisions relating to entering into of overseas trade agreements.



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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - July 2024

Portfolio

Trade

On 12 August 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-24-SUB-0297 on his travel, from 14 to 26 July 2024, to:

- 1 Italy to attend the G7 Trade Ministers' Summit;
- 2 United Arab Emirates and India for bilateral meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the
Minister for Trade

RESTRICTED

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – July 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Rome, Calabria (Italy), Dubai (United Arab Emirates) and New Delhi (India) from 14 to 26 July in my capacity as Minister for Trade.

Report

- 1 My visit to Italy began with a bilateral programme in Rome where I met with Italy's Undersecretary of State responsible for bilateral relations with New Zealand and the Deputy Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).
- 2 The invitation to attend the G7 Ministerial meeting was a first for New Zealand and is indicative of the respect with which we are held in trade circles. During this meeting, I participated in an outreach session focussed on "Strengthening the resilience of supply chains" and undertook a programme of substantive bilateral engagement on the rules-based trading system and trade architecture.
- 3 In addition to meeting with by counterparts from Vietnam, Italy, Canada and the European Commission, I engaged with the new UK Trade Minister – his first bilateral meeting since assuming office – and with India's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal.
- 4 My discussions with Minister Goyal centred on efforts to reinforce the New Zealand-India relationship including opportunities to expand trade. Following our meeting, Minister Goyal invited me to stop off in Delhi en route back to New Zealand for a working dinner which occurred on 24 July (see below)
- 5 On 22 July I travelled to Dubai to meet with UAE Minister of State for Foreign Trade Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi to discuss the New Zealand – United Arab Emirates economic relationship and to further advance negotiations on the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA). Of note was the UAE's satisfaction that bilateral trade was growing strongly, up 22% in the last 12 months, comprising a 21% increase in UAE imports from New Zealand, and a 39% increase in UAE exports to New Zealand.
- 6 Dr Thani and I agreed that CEPA negotiations are progressing very well and s6(e)(vi)

- 7 My dinner with Minister Goyal in Delhi on 24 July provided a valuable opportunity to build on the discussions from our previous meetings and to continue to develop personal rapport. Minister Goyal shared useful insights into India's approach to FTA negotiations, emphasising the importance of regular one on one contact between trade ministers.
- 8 I underscored that New Zealand was delivering on its ambition to build a broad-based mutually beneficial relationship with India. This included our efforts to increase the tempo of high-level contacts (including through recent ministerial visits and ^{s6(a)} our work on defence cooperation, our ambition to increase dialogue on Indo-Pacific matters, and our focus on growing educational, cultural and sporting links with India.
- 9 This brief visit was successful in terms of continued rapport-building with Minister Goyal. The tone of the dinner was relaxed, informal and warm. Minister Goyal was deeply appreciative of my effort to travel to New Delhi solely for the occasion.

Proactive release

- 10 I propose to release this paper proactively in part.

Recommendation

- 11 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade