

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 20 September 2024

The following Cabinet papers and related Cabinet minutes have been proactively released by the Minister of Climate Change

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – July 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0309
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts – July 2024</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;
- 6(b)(i): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis; and
- 9(2)(ba): to protect the supply of confidential information by another party.



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 Simon Watts - July 2024

Portfolio **Climate Change**

On 19 August 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Simon Watts under CAB-24-SUB-0309 on his travel, from 20 July to 24 July 2024 to travel to Wuhan and Shanghai, China to attend the 8th Ministerial meeting on Climate Action, and to host an event at the New Zealand Consulate with New Zealand and Chinese business leaders.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released by the Minister of Climate Change

[Restricted]

Office of the Minister of Climate Change

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Simon Watts Visit to Wuhan and Shanghai, China – Saturday 20 July – Wednesday 24 July 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to attend the 8th Ministerial meeting on Climate Action (MoCA) in Wuhan, China from Saturday 20 July to Wednesday 24 July. I utilised my stopover in Shanghai on Tuesday 23 July to engage with New Zealand businesses on sustainability trends in China.

Report

- 1 I attended the 'Ministerial on Climate Action' (MoCA) held in Wuhan, China. This is considered a major meeting in the lead up to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29).
- 2 The meeting served as an important opportunity for me to advocate for New Zealand's climate priorities, as countries work toward a landing zone on key issues ahead of COP29 in November. I had the opportunity to engage with like-minded countries and with the current and future COP Presidencies on their priorities. Discussions focused on upcoming milestones, such as the new collective climate finance goal, and delivery of individual Paris Agreement responsibilities, such as setting new emissions reduction targets, and tracking of progress.
- 3 MoCA reinforced the value of New Zealand's engagement on climate change, and continued expectations from like-minded. New Zealand has specific strengths that are valued^{s6(a)} and on carbon markets and implementation. I delivered opening remarks for the session on Adaptation, Climate Resilience & Loss and Damage, and an intervention on nature and climate change. This drew, in particular, on New Zealand experience with conservation and market-based instruments to incentivise afforestation.

4 ^{s6(a)}

5 ^{s6(a)}

s6(a)

Bilateral messages

6 MoCA provided opportunities for significant engagement with key countries – either from formal bilaterals or pull asides. Key takeaways are below.

7 **China:** Climate relations with China^{s6(b)(i)}

8 **Australia:** Australia discussed the outlook for its bid to co-host COP31 with our Pacific Island neighbours in 2026^{s6(b)(i)}

9 **Singapore:** The bilateral with Singapore built upon earlier discussions,^{s6(b)(i)}

10 **Samoa:** Samoa, which is currently the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States,^{s6(b)(i)}

11 **Others:** MoCA offered the opportunity to have initial conversations with a range of partners^{s6(b)(i)}

Business engagements in Shanghai

- 12 The delegation's stopover in Shanghai on 23 July provided an opportunity to engage with New Zealand businesses and local commentators on the impact of sustainability trends in China, and to hear from the New Zealand Business Roundtable in China (NZBRIC) on the results of its latest business sentiment survey.
- 13 The business-focused engagements in Shanghai included a panel discussion and dinner hosted by the Consulate-General that allowed me to signal the New Zealand Government's support to business and gain insights on China's sustainability trends. New Zealand businesses appreciated the opportunity for Ministerial engagement. ^{s9(2)(ba)(i), s9(2)(ba)(ii)}

Proactive release

- 14 I propose to proactively release this paper within 30 business days in accordance with Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4. Proactive release is subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Simon Watts

Minister of Climate Change