

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 26/11/2024

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

Title	Reference
<i>Cabinet Minute of Decision – Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg - September 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0392
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – 19-24 September 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.

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg - September 2024

Portfolio

Trade

On 14 October 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Nicola Grigg under CAB-24-SUB-0392 on her travel, from 19 to 24 September 2024, to Lao PDR to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively Released by the Minister of State for Trade

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

Office of the Minister of State for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Nicola Grigg – 19-24 September 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Lao PDR from 19 September 2024 to 24 September 2024 to attend the ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade.

Report

- 1 The primary purpose of the travel to Lao PDR was to attend, in my capacity as Minister of State for Trade, the annual ASEAN Economic Ministers' Meetings, involving members of ASEAN and dialogue partners.
- 2 New Zealand's attendance at a ministerial level reinforced our commitment to our partnership with ASEAN in line with the Government's increased focus on our relationships in Southeast Asia. Ministerial representation, and building relationships face to face, is essential to protect and promote New Zealand's interests and values in the region.
- 3 The visit highlighted the importance of our trade and economic relationship with ASEAN and supported progress on our two ASEAN-led regional free trade agreements – the ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). It was an important opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to, and helped influence, the ASEAN-led regional economic architecture.
- 4 The ASEAN meetings that I attended were the ASEAN Closer Economic Relations Partners (Australia and New Zealand) Consultation, East Asia Summit (EAS) Economic Ministers' Meeting and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Ministerial Meeting.
- 5 Ahead of these meetings, I attended the AANZFTA Regional Business Roundtable where I discussed how the AANZFTA Upgrade will benefit businesses around the region.
- 6 I also conducted bilateral meetings with my Ministerial counterparts from Australia, Lao PDR and the ASEAN Secretariat Secretary-General relating to the ASEAN Economic Ministers' meetings and my trade delegations. I had informal engagements with counterparts from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Viet Nam to establish relationships and reaffirm New Zealand's commitment to the region.

Proactive release

- 7 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4 on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be

subject to redactions as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

8 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Nicola Grigg

Minister of State for Trade

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