

Proactive Release

Date: 21 May 2024

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

Title	Reference
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – 13 to 19 April 2024	CAB-24-SUB-0113
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – April 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0113

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

- 6(a): to avoid prejudicing the international relations of the New Zealand Government;

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)



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 - April 2024

Portfolios **Agriculture / Trade**

On 8 April 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 13 to 19 April 2024, to travel to Beijing and Shanghai, China for a bilateral visit;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$40,160 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 also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their department;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 5.2 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 5.3 Hon Nicole McKee act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 5.4 Hon Melissa Lee act as Minister for Trade on 13 April 2024;
 - 5.5 Rt Hon Winston Peters act as Minister for Trade from 14 to 19 April 2024;
- 6 **noted** that the House is not sitting during his absence.

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

In Confidence

Office of the Minister for Trade

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – 13 to 19 April 2024

- 1 I write to seek your approval to travel to China from 13 to 19 April 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Minister of Agriculture.
- 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 China is to support exporters in our largest offshore market and to better understand the opportunities and risks for New Zealand in China. The visit also supports engagement with, and management of, one of our most significant and complex bilateral relationships.
- 4 The central component of my visit will be counterpart talks in Beijing with China's Commerce Minister Wang Wentao, covering the full breadth of New Zealand's trade and economic relationship with China. I am also seeking counterpart calls with China's Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs Tang Renjian, ^{s6(a)} and the Director General of the National Forestry & Grasslands Administration Guan Zhi'ou.
- 5 I will also travel to Shanghai, the hub for New Zealand business in China, to engage with and support New Zealand businesses in-market. In Shanghai, officials will also seek a courtesy call with the Mayor of Shanghai Gong Zheng.
- 6 An agriculture focussed programme for engagements/calls is also being arranged in a rural area.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied:
 - one staff member from my office, my Press Secretary. Travel expenses of the Ministerial party will be a charge to Vote Internal Affairs: Members of the Executive – Travel.
 - officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Their costs will be covered by the Ministry.

Acting Ministers

8 If my travel is approved, I note that the house is not sitting during my absence. I propose that the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.

- Hon Hoggard – Agriculture
- Hon Jones – Forestry
- Hon McKee - Hunting and Fishing
- Rt Hon Peters - Trade

Travel Costs

9 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$28,500.00
Accommodation and meals:	\$ 4,378.00
Gifts:	\$ 1,200.00
Transport and other costs:	\$ 931.00
Interpretation:	\$ 1,500.00
Contingency [10%]:	\$ 3,651.00
Total:	\$40,160.00

Recommendations

12 I recommend that Cabinet:

12.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from 13 April 2024 to 19 April to travel to China in my capacity as Minister for Trade and Minister of Agriculture.

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

12.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$40,160.00 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 agree that in my absence:

12.5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard will be Acting Minister of Agriculture

12.5.2 Hon Shane Jones will be Acting Minister of Forestry

12.5.3 Hon Nicole McKee will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing

12.5.4 Rt Hon Winston Peters will be Acting Minister for Trade

12.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from the Party Whip,

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Released by the Minister for Trade