

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 25 June 2024

The following Cabinet paper has been proactively released by the Minister for Trade

Title	Reference
Minute of Decision Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - April 2024	CAB-24-MIN-0164
Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - April 2024	

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 security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the New Zealand Government; and
- 9(2)(f)(iv): to protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials.



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 - April 2024

Portfolio

Trade

On 13 May 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-24-SUB-0164 on his travel, from 13 to 19 April 2024, to Beijing, Harbin, and Shanghai, China for a bilateral visit.

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 – April 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to China from 13 April to 19 April 2024 in my capacity as Minister for Trade, Minister of Agriculture, and Minister of Forestry. The purpose of this trip was: to support New Zealand exporters to thrive in our largest offshore market; to promote primary sector trade as an area where New Zealand and China's interests converge; to underscore the importance of intellectual property rights and of positive cooperation in this area; ^{s6(a)}

Report

1 In Beijing I had a busy programme of political meetings with Minister of Commerce, Wang Wentao; Minister of Agriculture and Rural Affairs, Tang Renjian; and, Administrator of the National Forestry and Grasslands Administration, Guan Zhi'ou Further paragraphs should discuss other significant events and/or key meetings attended, and the key achievements and outcomes of each.

2 Building on my first bilateral with China's Commerce Minister at the World Trade Organisation Ministerial meeting in Abu Dhabi (WTO MC13), I had direct but positive discussions with Minister Wang Wentao, including on China's requests for New Zealand to support its accessions to CPTPP and DEPA. I established strong initial connections with my agriculture and forestry portfolio counterparts identifying many areas of increased collaboration and trade.

3 In Harbin I visited three sites: Grand Farm meat processing, Sayyas Windows, and DEWO Agritech, these gave a sense of developments in China's food processing, agriculture and forestry sectors and opportunities for New Zealand's primary sector exporters. I also meet with the Governor of Heilongjiang province, Liang Huiling where we discussed the growing use of technology in agriculture, energy sustainability, and the further agriculture, forestry, and education cooperation possible between New Zealand and Heilongjiang.

4 My business-focused programme in Shanghai centred around three themes: promoting New Zealand business, gaining insights from China-based business leaders, and affirming the government-to-government connection with Shanghai city.

5 I was able to promote New Zealand business and gain insights from those operating in Shanghai through several partnership events and business receptions that brought together key New Zealand and Chinese partners. My visits to Silverfern Farms, and VX Logistics facilities allowed me to highlight New Zealand's red meat and horticulture industries; and my discussion with members of Primary Collaboration New Zealand included the value of localised branding, non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and the impact of China's changing demographics on New Zealand trade.

6 In my meeting with Shanghai Mayor, Gong Zheng we discussed issues in Shanghai's business environment for New Zealand businesses, increased New Zealand business investment into Shanghai, ^{s9(2)(f)(iv)}

7 The visit provided a valuable and positive opportunity to signal that the Government remains committed to growing bilateral trade relations with China, which is part of our broader strategy of trade diversification and of doubling exports by value in 10 years. ^{s6(a)}

Proactive release

8 I propose to release the paper proactively in part.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade