

Proactive Release

Published on or before: 24/01/2025

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 – October/November 2024</i>	CAB-24-MIN-0448
<i>Report on Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - October-November 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 Todd McClay – October/November 2024

Portfolio

Trade

On 18 November 2024, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon Todd McClay under CAB-24-SUB-0448 on his travel, from 30 October to 1 November 2024, to Doha, Qatar, to meet Gulf Cooperation Council Ministers during their October Trade Ministerial meeting.

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 - October-November 2024

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Doha, Qatar from 30 October to 1 November.

Report

- 1 The primary purpose of this travel was to announce the conclusion of the New Zealand-GCC trade agreement during the Gulf Cooperation Council's Trade Minister's Meeting being hosted by current Chair Qatar.
- 2 Qatar's Minister of Commerce and Industry, His Excellency Sheikh Mohammed Bin Hamad Bin Qassim Al-Abdullah Al-Thani opened the session by underlining the significance of the FTA's conclusion to all negotiating parties. I was then invited to make a statement before signing the FTA conclusion memorandum along with the GCC's Secretary-General His Excellency Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi.
- 3 The GCC Secretary-General emphasised that the FTA reflected a shared commitment to further strengthen and enhancing the longstanding relationship between New Zealand and the GCC. He expressed optimism that, once implemented, the FTA would bolster trade and economic cooperation, attract greater investment, and expand collaboration in areas of mutual interest.
- 4 New Zealand joins an exclusive club as the GCC has only concluded FTAs with three other entities – Singapore, EFTA, and Korea. The GCC region is poised for significant economic growth, with GDP projected to reach US\$3 trillion by 2030 and US\$6 trillion by 2050. New Zealand now has the formal trade architecture in place to really take advantage of these economic opportunities.

Proactive release

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

Recommendation

- 6 I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay
Minister for Trade

Proactively released by the Minister for Trade