

# Proactive Release

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

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reference</b>
Cabinet Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - January 2025	CAB-24-MIN-0482
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - January 2025	



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay - January 2025

Portfolio                      Trade

On 9 December 2024, Cabinet:

- 1        **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand, from 22 to 26 January 2025, to travel to Zurich, Switzerland to attend a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministers;
- 2        **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$21,315 for the travel expenses of the ministerial party as a charge to Vote Internal Affairs (Members of the Executive – Travel);
- 3        **noted** that he will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 4        **agreed** that in his absence:
  - 4.1      Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister of Agriculture and Minister for Trade;
  - 4.2      Hon Penny Simmonds act as Minister of Forestry;
  - 4.3      Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
- 5        **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 - January 2025**

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Zurich, Switzerland from Wednesday 22 January to Sunday, 26 January 2025, in my capacity as Minister for Trade to attend a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministers.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and leave has been sought from the Party Whip.

### **Purpose of Travel**

- 3 I propose to participate in the annual Swiss-hosted Ministerial meeting of World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministers. The WTO is a cornerstone of New Zealand trade policy as it deals with the global rules of trade.
- 4 This Swiss-hosted meeting is a small gathering of the prominent players on WTO matters (roughly 20 of over 160 members). Attendance is by invitation only and my participation would reflect New Zealand's active voice in ongoing negotiations on issues important to us and our Pacific region, including on agriculture and fisheries subsidies.
- 5 The meeting will serve as an opportunity for political engagement in the build up to the next WTO Ministerial Conference (scheduled for March 2026).

### **Ministerial Party**

- 6 I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). All costs for MFAT staff will be covered from within the Ministry's baseline budget.

### **Travel Costs**

- 7 List the estimated costs of the travel:

Airfares:	\$18,500.00
Accommodation:	\$ 800.00
Gifts & miscellaneous	\$ 1,000.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 1,015.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 21,315.00</b>

## Acting Ministers

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

- 8.1 Hon Grigg – Agriculture
- 8.2 Hon Simmonds – Forestry
- 8.3 Hon Potaka – Hunting and Fishing
- 8.4 Hon Grigg - Trade

## Recommendations

9 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 9.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand, from Wednesday 22 January to Sunday, 26 January 2025 to travel to Zurich, Switzerland to attend a meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministers;
- 9.2 approve the estimated expenditure of \$21,315 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 9.3 note that I will be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whose travel costs will be met by within the Ministry's baseline budget;
- 9.4 agree that in my absence:
  - 9.4.1 Hon Grigg will be Acting Minister of Agriculture
  - 9.4.2 Hon Simmonds will be Acting Minister of Forestry
  - 9.4.3 Hon Potaka will be Acting Minister for Hunting and Fishing
  - 9.4.4 Hon Grigg will be Acting Minister for Trade
- 9.5 note that the House is not sitting during my absence
- 9.6 note that leave from Parliament has been sought from by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade