

Proactive Release

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

Title	Reference
Cabinet Minute of Decision: Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2025	CAB-24-MIN-0511
Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon Todd McClay – January 2025	

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)(j): to avoid prejudice to negotiations.



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 – January 2025

Portfolio Trade

On 16 December 2024, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon Todd McClay from New Zealand from, 10 to 17 January 2025, to travel to:
 - 1.1 the United Arab Emirates with the Prime Minister to sign the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty, and to undertake bilateral engagements;
s6(a), s9(2)(j)
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$45,161 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 his partner, whose costs will be met by him personally;
- 5 **noted** that he will also be accompanied by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, whose costs will be met by their agency;
- 6 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 6.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard act as Minister of Agriculture;
 - 6.2 Hon Simon Watts act as Minister of Forestry;
 - 6.3 Hon Tama Potaka act as Minister for Hunting and Fishing;
 - 6.4 Hon Nicola Grigg act as Minister for Trade;
- 7 **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 the United Arab Emirates^{s6(a), s9(2)(j)} from 10 January to 17 January 2025, in my capacity as Minister for Trade.
- 2 The Chief of Staff has approved the travel in-principle, and leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of this visit is to sign the UAE-New Zealand Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) and UAE-New Zealand Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT). I will accompany the Prime Minister in these engagements, demonstrating the value New Zealand places on the bilateral relationship with our closest partner in the Middle East region through meetings with the UAE President and other leaders.
- 4 I intend to arrive ahead of the Prime Minister on 10 January 2025 to undertake a short bilateral programme to prepare for the signing, including with my trade counterpart H.E. Dr Thani Bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi.
- 5 There will also be opportunities to use the visit to leverage New Zealand's trade and economic relations with the Middle East's most dynamic and internationalised economy, in particular to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) including into New Zealand's renewable energy and infrastructure sectors.
- 6 ^{s6(a), s9(2)(j)}
- 7 I request that my partner travel to UAE with me and confirm that there will be no additional cost to the taxpayer.

Ministerial Party

- 8 I will be accompanied by one staff member from my office, and 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

9 Total estimated costs are comprised of:

Airfares	\$ 36,600
Accommodation	\$ 3,810
Hospitality & misc	\$ 2,600.00
Contingency (5%)	\$ 2,151.00
Total:	\$ 45,161.00

Acting Ministers

10 If my travel is approved, I note that the House is sitting during my absence. I propose the following colleagues act in my portfolios. This is subject to final confirmation.

- 10.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard – Agriculture
- 10.2 Hon Simon Watts – Forestry
- 10.3 Hon Tama Potaka – Hunting and Fishing
- 10.4 Hon Nicola Grigg – Trade

Recommendations

1 I recommend that Cabinet:

- 1.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 10 to 17 January 2025 to travel to the UAE ^{s6(a), s9(2)(j)}
- 1.2 agree that I be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 1.3 approve the estimated expenditure of \$45,161 for the travel expenses of the Ministerial party, as a charge to Vote: Internal Affairs - Members of the Executive – Travel;
- 1.4 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;
- 1.5 agree that in my absence:
 - 1.5.1 Hon Andrew Hoggard – Agriculture
 - 1.5.2 Hon Simon Watts – Forestry
 - 1.5.3 Hon Tama Potaka – Hunting and Fishing

1.5.4 Hon Nicola Grigg – Trade

1.6 note that the House is not sitting during my absence;

1.7 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Todd McClay

Minister for Trade

Proactively Released by the Minister for Trade and Investment