

Proactive Release

Date: 8 May 2019

The following Cabinet paper/s and related Cabinet minute/s have been proactively released by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade:

Title of paper(s):

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker [Mexico]

(CAB-19-SUB-0044)

Report on Overseas Travel Hon David Parker [Mexico]

(CAB-19-SUB-0149 refers)

Title of minute(s):

Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker (CAB-19-MIN-0044 refers)

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker (CAB-19-MIN- 0149 refers)

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;
- 6(b): to protect the passing of information from another government on a confidential basis;
- 9(2)(b)(ii): to avoid prejudice to the commercial position of another party;
- 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 David Parker

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 18 February 2019, Cabinet:

- 1 **authorised** the absence of Hon David Parker from New Zealand, from 3 to 8 March 2019, to travel to Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico for a bilateral visit centred around establishing key relationships with the newly elected Mexican administration and promoting trade opportunities for New Zealand;
- 2 **agreed** that he be accompanied by one member of staff;
- 3 **approved** the estimated expenditure of up to \$37,714 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 the Ministry;
- 5 **agreed** that in his absence:
 - 5.1 Hon Andrew Little act as Attorney-General;
 - 5.2 Hon Shane Jones act as Minister for Economic Development;
 - 5.3 Hon Nanaia Mahuta act as Minister for the Environment;
 - 5.4 Hon Damien O'Connor act as Minister for Trade and Export Growth;
- 6 **noted** that leave from Parliament has been approved.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon David Parker

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Proposed Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

- 1 I seek Cabinet approval to travel to Mexico from 3 to 8 March for a bilateral visit centred around establishing key relationships with the newly elected Mexican administration and promoting trade opportunities for New Zealand.
- 2 The Prime Minister has approved the travel in-principle, and House leave has been approved by the Party Whip.

Purpose of Travel

- 3 The primary purpose of my proposed visit is to establish and develop key relationships at ministerial level with the new Mexican administration headed by President López Obrador. A visit early in the administration will ensure that we develop the high-level relationship and high profile needed to bank on the commercial opportunities presented by CPTPP and reinforce New Zealand's strong interest in concluding a high quality free trade agreement with the Pacific Alliance grouping.
- 4 Proposed bilateral engagements with Mexican ministers will be an opportunity to sell Mexico on the merits of working with New Zealand on areas of common interest. This would include exploring high-level interest in cooperation related to Mexico's agriculture and rural development agenda, including vocational training, livestock emissions, and indigenous economic development. I will also sign a bilateral agricultural cooperation arrangement with Mexico.
- 5 In addition to bilateral meetings I will host a breakfast event with the Mexican Foreign Trade Council along with New Zealand and Mexican companies. This event will formally launch a study examining market opportunities under CPTPP and thereby promote the new commercial opportunities presented by the agreement, particularly New Zealand interest in the food and beverage sector.
- 6 I will also travel to Guadalajara, Jalisco where the Food and Beverage Fair 'Expo ANTAD Alimentaria' is taking place. This trip will allow me to meet with agricultural representatives from the Jalisco region which is a key agricultural state in Mexico and is the site of a number of existing and emerging commercial interests for New Zealand business. I will host an event with the CNA (the major Mexican agribusiness federation) alongside the Expo, targeting Mexican buyers for New Zealand's food and beverage and agritech products and exploring opportunities for applying New Zealand systems and technology in the region and other parts of the country.

Ministerial Party

- 7 I will be accompanied by one staff member. Final costs will be determined once the itinerary is confirmed but the estimated cost of travel for me and my staff member is \$37,714.
- 8 Two officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will accompany me in Mexico. Their travel costs will be met by their departmental budget.

Travel Costs

- 9 The estimated costs of travel for me and my staff member are:

Airfares:	\$32,400
Accommodation:	\$2,402
Per Diem	\$550
Incidentals	\$176
Interpretation	\$390
Contingency (5%)	\$1,795.90
Total:	\$37,714

Acting Ministers

- 10 In my absence, Acting Ministers in my portfolios will be:
- Attorney-General: Hon Andrew Little;
- Economic Development: Hon Shane Jones;
- Environment: Hon Nanaia Mahuta;
- Trade and Export Growth: Hon Damien O'Connor.

Proactive release

- 11 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. Proactive release is subject to redaction as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

- 12 I recommend that Cabinet:
- 12.1 authorise my absence from New Zealand from 3 to 8 March 2019 to travel to Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico for a bilateral visit centred around establishing key relationships with the newly elected

Mexican administration and promoting trade opportunities for New Zealand;

- 12.2 agree that I be accompanied by a member of staff;
- 12.3 approve the estimated expenditure of **\$37,714** for the travel expenses of me and my staff member, 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 and Trade, whose travel costs will be met by their departmental budget;
- 12.5 agree that Hon Andrew Little (Attorney-General); Hon Shane Jones (Economic Development); Hon Nanaia Mahuta (Environment); Hon Damien O'Connor (Trade and Export Growth) will be Acting Ministers in my absence;
- 12.6 note that leave from Parliament has been approved by the Party Whip.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report on Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

Portfolio **Trade and Export Growth**

On 8 April 2019, Cabinet **noted** the report from Hon David Parker under CAB-19-SUB-0149 on his travel, from 3 to 8 March 2019, to Mexico City and Guadalajara, Mexico, for a bilateral visit with the newly elected Mexican administration and to promote trade opportunities for New Zealand.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon David Parker

Office of the Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Chair, Cabinet

Report on Overseas Travel: Hon David Parker

I recommend that Cabinet note this report on my travel to Mexico from 3 to 8 March for a bilateral visit centred around establishing key relationships with the newly elected Mexican administration and promoting trade opportunities for New Zealand.

Report

- 1 The primary purpose of my visit to Mexico was to establish connections with senior members of the new Mexican administration and, in so doing, reinforce New Zealand's interest in concluding a high-quality Pacific Alliance free trade agreement and agree to a bilateral work programme in areas where interests and policies align. It was also a chance to highlight opportunities in a large new CPTPP market and to help develop the trade and investment relationship more broadly.
- 2 In meetings with the new Secretaries for Economy, Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, I established a firm foundation for New Zealand's relationship with the new administration. s6(a); s9(2)(j)
- 3 s6(a); s6(b); s9(2)(j)
- 4 In my meeting with Foreign Secretary Marcelo Ebrard – s6(a)
– I was able to secure a political blessing for the concept of a bilateral work programme in areas of shared interest.
- 5 s6(a)

s6(a)

Our meeting was also an opportunity to sign a long-planned agriculture cooperation arrangement which will help to increase New Zealand's currently low profile in the Mexican agriculture sector in comparison with Chile and some other markets.

6 s6(a); s9(2)(b)(ii)

7 My visit was also an opportunity to promote new commercial opportunities under CPTPP. In a breakfast event co-hosted by the Mexican Business Council for Foreign Trade I delivered a keynote address to an audience of New Zealand and Mexican companies. In addition to highlighting the importance of CPTPP and other plurilateral initiatives as backstops against the possibility of further weakening of the multilateral rules-based system, I introduced an NZTE study on market opportunities under CPTPP.

8 In my visit to the state of Jalisco I participated in an event co-hosted by NZTE, the Embassy and the Jalisco Agriculture Council that included four New Zealand agritech companies. I presented to around fifty agriculture and agribusiness stakeholders from Jalisco and surrounding states on the opportunities under CPTPP and the New Zealand technology and innovation story with a particular focus on agriculture. In a bilateral meeting, the Governor of Jalisco highlighted interest in a number of areas where Mexico could tap into New Zealand expertise, including dairy genetics and farming systems, kiwifruit production and honey.

Proactive release

9 This paper will be proactively released as per Cabinet Office Circular CO (18) 4, on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's website. The paper will be subject to redaction as appropriate on the grounds set out under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet note this report.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon David Parker

Minister for Trade and Export Growth

Proactively released by the Minister for Trade and Export Growth